

**Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Kelowna – “Worship at Home”
Order of Service**

(Choose a comfortable place in your home, on your deck or balcony, or in the garden. The following is the general outline for your worship, and the respective comments, readings and prayers for each specific Sunday are on the following pages.)

Introduction

Confession and Forgiveness or Thanksgiving for Baptism (optional)

Prayer of the Day

Readings and Psalm

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel

Sermon/Reflection– choose one of the texts for today...read it over...notice your reaction...read it a second time...ask yourself, “How is God speaking to me today?” “Where is God leading me?”

Apostles’ Creed (optional)

Prayers – We offer prayers for the world, for creation, for those in leadership and authority, for community and faith, for those who are ill and troubled in any way, for those we name before God either silently or aloud.

The Lord’s Prayer - pray either one

Offering Prayer - Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. You give us gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing - Mothering God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. **Amen.**

Dismissal - Go in peace. Remember the poor. **Thanks be to God.**

Prayer for Spiritual Communion (when actual communion is not possible or available)

My Jesus, I love you above all things. How I long to receive you with my brothers and sisters at the table you have prepared. Since I cannot at this moment (time) receive you in bread and wine according to your promise in the sacrament of Holy Communion, I ask you to feed me with the manna of your Holy Spirit and nourish me with your Holy presence. I unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from your love. Amen.
(Mitchell Lewis, United Methodist Church)

Confession and Forgiveness

(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, before beginning)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

Faithful God, have mercy on us.

We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways.

We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves.

We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.

We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.

Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,

and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own.

Hear the truth that God proclaims: our sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.

Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,

we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

**We give you thanks, O God, O Living One,
for you have created all, and you water the earth abundantly.
Oceans and aquifers praise you. Rivers and streams – the Okanagan, the
Similkameen, Mission and Mill Creeks, bless you.**

All life is sustained by you, our Source.

We praise you for Christ, the firstborn from the dead,

who frees us from sin and raises us up to new life.

**Here at this font we touch the river of the water of life,
bright as crystal, flowing through the city of God.
Here, death is washed away forever.
Here, we are grafted into the tree of life,
with leaves for the healing of the world.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on this assembly,
into this community, and throughout all creation.
Cleanse us from our fears and drown our divisions.

Grant that all may drink of your mercy and peace,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. **Amen.**

Sunday, August 2, 2020 – 9th Sunday after Pentecost, Year A

Introduction

In today's first reading God invites all who are hungry or thirsty to receive food and drink without cost. Jesus feeds the hungry multitude and reveals the abundance of God. At the Eucharistic table we remember all who are hungry or poor in our world today. As we share the bread of life, we are sent forth to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry.

Prayer of the Day - Glorious God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 55:1-5 - *Eat and drink that which truly satisfies*

Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21 - *You open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. (Ps. 145:16)*

Romans 9:1-5 - *The glory of God's people Israel*

Gospel Acclamation - *Alleluia.* One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. *Alleluia. (Matt. 4:4)*

Gospel - Matthew 14:13-21 - *Christ feeding five thousand*

Sunday, August 9, 2020 – 10^h Sunday after Pentecost Year A

Introduction - Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing bread and cup of the Eucharist, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God's presence to others.

Prayer of the Day - O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Readings and Psalm

1 Kings 19:9-18 - *The Lord speaks to Elijah on Mount Horeb*

Psalm 85:8-13 - *I will listen to what the Lord God is saying. (Ps. 85:8)*

Romans 10:5-15 - *Hearing and confessing the word of faith*

Gospel Acclamation - *Alleluia. I wait for you, O Lord; in your word is my hope. Alleluia. (Ps. 130:5)*

Matthew 14:22-33 - *Jesus walking on the sea*

Sunday, August 16, 2020 - 11th Sunday after Pentecost Year A

Introduction - In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

Prayer of the Day - God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 - *A house of prayer for all peoples*

Psalm 67 - *Let all the peoples praise you, O God. (Ps. 67:3)*

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 - *God's mercy to all, Jew and Gentile*

Gospel Acclamation - *Alleluia. Jesus preached the good news | of the kingdom and cured every sickness among the people. Alleluia. (Matt. 4:23)*

Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28 - *The healing of the Canaanite woman's daughter*

Sunday, August 23, 2020 – 12th Sunday after Pentecost, Year A

Introduction - In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

Prayer of the Day - O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 51:1-6 - *The enduring foundation of God's salvation*

Psalm 138 - *O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever. (Ps. 138:8)*

Romans 12:1-8 - *One body in Christ, with gifts that differ*

Gospel Acclamation - *Alleluia. You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Alleluia. (Matt. 16:16)*

Matthew 16:13-20 - *The profession of Peter's faith*

Sunday, August 30, 2020 – 13th Sunday after Pentecost, Year A

Introduction - The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

Prayer of the Day - O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Readings and Psalm

Jeremiah 15:15-21 - *God fortifies the prophet against opposition*

Psalm 26:1-8 - *Your love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you. (Ps. 26:3)*

Romans 12:9-21 - *Live in harmony*

Gospel Acclamation - *Alleluia. May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our hearts so that we may know the hope to which God has called us. Alleluia. (Eph. 1:17, 18)*

Gospel - Matthew 16:21-28 - *The passion prediction and rebuke to Peter*

Sunday, September 6, 2020 – 14th Sunday after Pentecost, Year A

Introduction - Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

Prayer of the Day - O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Readings and Psalm

Ezekiel 33:7-11 - *The prophet's responsibility to warn the people*

Psalm 119:33-40 - *I desire the path of your commandments. (Ps. 119:35)*

Romans 13:8-14 - *Live honorably as in the day*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. Alleluia. (2 Cor. 5:19)

Gospel - Matthew 18:15-20 - *Reconciliation in the community of faith*

Sunday, September 13, 2020 – 15th Sunday after Pentecost, Year A

Introduction - In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

Prayer of the Day - O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Readings and Psalm

Genesis 50:15-21 - *Joseph reconciles with his brothers*

Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13 *Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy. (Ps. 103:8)*

Romans 14:1-12 - *Accepting diversity in the community of faith*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. We have an advocate, Jesus Christ the righteous; your sins are forgiven on account of his name. Alleluia. (1 John 2:1, 12)*

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35 - *A parable of forgiveness in the community of faith*

Sunday, September 20, 2020 – 16th Sunday after Pentecost, Year A

Introduction - Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

Prayer of the Day - Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Readings and Psalm

Jonah 3:10--4:11 - *God's concern for the city of Nineveh*

Psalm 145:1-8 *The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. (Ps. 145:8)*

Philippians 1:21-30 - *Standing firm in the gospel*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. Open our hearts, O Lord, to give heed to what is said by your Son. Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16 - *The parable of the vineyard workers*

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