

**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,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved. **Amen.**

(take some time for silent reflection....)

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

Holy One,
we confess that we are not awake for you.
We are not faithful in using your gifts.
We forget the least of our siblings.
We do not see your beautiful image in one another.
We are infected by sin
that divides your beloved community.
Open our hearts to your coming,
open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,
open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.

Beloved, we are God's children,
and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.
Through † Jesus you are forgiven,
by Jesus you are welcome,
in Jesus you are called to rejoice!
Let us live in the promises prepared for us
from the foundation of 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. Lakes, 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, 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, September 27, 2020 – 17th Sunday after Pentecost, Year A

Introduction - Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

Prayer of the Day - God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Readings and Psalm

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 - The fairness of God's way
Psalm 25:1-9 - Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love. (Ps. 25:6)
Philippians 2:1-13 - Christ humbled to the point of death on a cross

Gospel Acclamation - *Alleluia. My sheep hear my voice, | says the Lord; I know them and they | follow me. Alleluia. (John 10:27)*

Gospel - Matthew 21:23-32 - A parable of doing God's will

October 4, 2020 – 18th Sunday after Pentecost Year A

Introduction - In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells a vineyard parable, which serves as an image of Israel, the prophets' mission, and Christ's death. For Christians, the vineyard also speaks of God's love poured out in the blood of Christ, given to us for the forgiveness of sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism, we are nourished with wine and bread so that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.

Prayer of the Day - Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 5:1-7 - The song of the vineyard
Psalm 80:7-15 - Look down from heaven, O God; behold and tend this vine. (Ps. 80:14, 15)
Philippians 3:4b-14 - Nothing surpasses the value of knowing Christ

Gospel Acclamation - *Alleluia. Jesus says, I chose you and ap- | pointed you to go and bear fruit | that will last. Alleluia. (John 15:16)*

Gospel - Matthew 21:33-46 - The parable of the vineyard owner's son

October 11, 2020 – 19th Sunday after Pentecost Year A, Thanksgiving Sunday

Introduction - At harvest time we join the psalmist in offering thanksgiving to God: “You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty.” We are grateful for the abundance of the good things of God’s creation. Paul reminds us that our thanksgiving overflows into generosity. As the body of Christ in the world, we give ourselves away as bread for the hungry.

Prayer of the Day - Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Readings and Psalm

Deuteronomy 8:7-18 - God will lead you into a land of flowing streams

Psalm 65 - You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty. (Ps. 65:11)

2 Corinthians 9:6-15 - God provides every blessing in abundance

Gospel Acclamation - *Alleluia. God is able to provide you with every blessing | in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. Alleluia. (2 Cor. 9:8)*

Gospel - Luke 17:11-19 - The healed leper returns to give thanks to Jesus

OR - Matthew 22:1-14 - The parable of the unwelcome guest at the wedding feast

October 18, 2020 – 20th Sunday after Pentecost, Year A

Introduction - In today’s first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.

Prayer of the Day - Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 45:1-7 - An earthly ruler as the instrument of God’s will

Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13] - Ascribe to the Lord honor and power. (Ps. 96:7)

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 - Thanksgiving for the church at Thessalonica

Gospel Acclamation - *Alleluia. Shine like stars in the world, holding fast to the word of life. Alleluia. (Phil. 2:15, 16)*

Gospel – Matthew 22:15-22 - A teaching on giving to the emperor and to God

October 25, 2020 – Reformation Sunday or 21st Sunday after Pentecost, Year A

Introduction - Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

Prayer of the Day - Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Readings and Psalm

Jeremiah 31:31-34 - I will write my law in their hearts, says the Lord

Psalm 46 - The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. (Ps. 46:7)

Romans 3:19-28 - Justified by God's grace as a gift

Gospel Acclamation - *Alleluia. If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will | make you free. Alleluia. (John 8:31-32)*

Gospel - John 8:31-36 - Jesus says, 'Continue in my word and you will know the truth.'

November 1, 2020 – 22nd Sunday after Pentecost, Year A

Introduction - Micah declares God's condemnation of those who abhor justice. Jesus warns against hypocrisy. Paul urges the Thessalonians to lead a life worthy of God. Called to be humble servants, we gather for worship, seeking justice and welcoming all people to share the banquet of life.

Prayer of the Day - O God, generous and supreme, your loving Son lived among us, instructing us in the ways of humility and justice. Continue to ease our burdens, and lead us to serve alongside of him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Readings and Psalm

Micah 3:5-12 - Judgment upon corrupt rulers

Psalm 43 - Send out your light and truth, that they may lead me. (Ps. 43:3)

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13 - The apostle's teaching accepted as God's word

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. You have one instructor, | the Messiah; the greatest among you will | be your servant. Alleluia. (Matt. 23:10, 11)

Gospel - Matthew 23:1-12

All who humble themselves will be exalted

November 8, 2020 – 23rd Sunday after Pentecost, Year A

Introduction - Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the lamb.

Prayer of the Day - O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Readings and Psalm - Amos 5:18-24 - Let justice roll down like waters
Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16 (alternate) - Wisdom makes herself known
Psalm 70 - You are my helper and my deliverer; O Lord, do not tarry. (Ps. 70:5)
Wisdom of Solomon 6:17-20 (alternate) - The beginning of wisdom is the most sincere desire for instruction. (Ws. 6:17)
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 - The promise of the resurrection

Gospel Acclamation - *Alleluia. Keep awake | and be ready, for you do not know on what day your | Lord is coming. Alleluia. (Matt. 24:42, 44)*

Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13 - The story of the wise and foolish bridesmaids

November 15, 2020 – 24th Sunday after Pentecost, Year A

Introduction - Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

Prayer of the Day - Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Readings and Psalm - Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 - The day of the Lord
Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12 - So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. (Ps. 90:12)
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 - Be alert for the day of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation - *Alleluia. Abide in me as I abide in you; those who abide in me | bear much fruit. Alleluia. (John 15:4, 5)*

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30 - The story of the slaves entrusted with talents

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