

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

(Choose a comfortable place in your home, perhaps a favourite chair by a window with a lovely view... The following is the general outline for your worship, followed by comments, readings and prayers for each specific Sunday.)

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 - Generous God, you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season.
Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing.
In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray. **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)

Thanksgiving for Baptism – Advent-Christmas

(All may make the sign of the cross on their forehead, the sign marked at 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.**

Just as God's work of creation never ends,
so the gifts received in baptism are renewed every day.
Let us give thanks together for the life given in baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life:
for water to bathe in, water to drink,
for waters to play in and waters that inspire wonder,
for water that gives life to our planet, water that gives habitat for fish and other life.
We give thanks for water that quenches fire, water that quenches the earth, snow that
clothes our mountains, ice that blankets the north.
We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life.

We give you thanks for your salvation through water:
for delivering Noah and his family through the floodwaters,
for leading your people Israel through the sea into freedom,
for preserving your prophet Elijah through the time of drought,
for guiding your people across the Jordan into a new land,
for quenching the Samaritan woman's thirst with living water.
We give you thanks for your salvation through water.

We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized,
and for all who gather here; for godparents and baptismal sponsors,
for children and grandchildren, for our brothers and sisters in Christ
some of whom we have never seen but to whom we are bound.
We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized.

We give you thanks for life in Christ through your Holy Spirit:
for our entry into Jesus' death through these waters,
for our new birth into a life of freedom and service,
for our calling to be your people, sent out for the life of the world.
**We give you thanks, God - Creator Redeemer and Sanctifier,
now and forever. Amen.**

Confession and Forgiveness

(All may make the sign of the cross on their forehead, the sign marked at baptism)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who was in the beginning, who makes a dwelling among us,
who covers us with justice and mercy. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
(*Silence is kept for reflection.*)

God of goodness and lovingkindness,
we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbours.
We have turned away from your invitation to new life.
We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden.
In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins,
those we know and those known only to you,
for the sake of the one who came to live among us,
Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Amen.

Hear the good news of peace and salvation!
God forgives us all our sins, not through our own work,
but through † Jesus Christ, made known to all people.
With all who come to the manger,
rejoice in this amazing gift of grace. **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.

The New Zealand Anglican Lord's Prayer

*Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer,
Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through
the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the
peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created
beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and
freedom sustain our hope and come on
earth.*

*With the bread we need for today, feed
us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another,
forgive us.
In times of temptation and test,
strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power
that is love, now and for ever.
Amen.*

*(The New Zealand Book of Prayer | He
Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa)*

November 22, 2020 – Reign of Christ, Year A

Introduction - On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet we await the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

Prayer of the Day - O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, 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 - Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 - God will shepherd Israel
Psalm 95:1-7a - We are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.
Ephesians 1:15-23 - The reign of Christ

Gospel Acclamation - *Alleluia. Blessed is the one who comes in the name | of the Lord.*
Blessed is the coming kingdom of our an- | cestor David. Alleluia. (Mark 11:9)*

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46, The coming of the Son of Man; the separation of sheep and goats

November 29, 2020 – 1st Sunday of Advent, Year B

Introduction - Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

Prayer of the Day - Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Readings and Psalm - Isaiah 64:1-9 - Prayer that God would come with power and compassion
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 - Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. (Ps. 80:7)
1 Corinthians 1:3-9 - Gifts of grace sustain those who wait for the end

Gospel Acclamation - *Alleluia. Show us your steadfast | love, O Lord,* and grant us | your salvation. Alleluia. (Ps. 85:7)*

Gospel - Mark 13:24-37 - The sudden coming of the Son of Man

December 6, 2020 – 2nd Sunday of Advent, Year B

Introduction - John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

Prayer of the Day - Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; 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 - Isaiah 40:1-11 - Good news of God's coming to a people in exile
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 - Righteousness shall prepare a pathway for God. (Ps. 85:13)
2 Peter 3:8-15a - Waiting for and hastening the day of God

Gospel Acclamation - *Alleluia. Prepare the way | of the Lord.* All flesh shall see the salva- | tion of God. Alleluia. (Luke 3:4, 6)*

Gospel - Mark 1:1-8- John appears from the wilderness

December 13, 2020 – 3rd Sunday of Advent, Year B

Introduction - "Rejoice always," begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.

Prayer of the Day - Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; 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 - Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 - Righteousness and praise flourish like a garden
Psalm 126 - The Lord has done great things for us. (Ps. 126:3)
Luke 1:46b-55 (alternate) - You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly. (Lk. 1:52)
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 - Kept in faith until the coming of Christ

Gospel Acclamation - *Alleluia. I am sending my messen- | ger before you,* who will prepare your | way before you. Alleluia. (Matt. 11:10)*

Gospel – John 1:6-8, 19-28 - A witness to the light

December 20, 2020 – 3rd Sunday of Advent, Year B

Introduction - God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

Prayer of the Day - Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Readings and Psalm - 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 - The Lord's promise to David
Luke 1:46b-55 - You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly. (Lk. 1:52)
Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 (alternate) - Your love, O Lord, forever will I sing. (Ps. 89:1)
Romans 16:25-27 - The mystery of God revealed in Jesus Christ

Gospel Acclamation - *Alleluia. Here I am, the servant | of the Lord;* let it be with me according | to your word. Alleluia. (Luke 1:38)*

Gospel - Luke 1:26-38 - The angel appears to Mary

December 24, 2020 – Christmas Eve, Year B

Introduction - In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

Prayer of the Day - Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 9:2-7 - Light shines: a child is born for us
Psalm 96 - Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad. (Ps. 96:11)
Titus 2:11-14 - The grace of God has appeared

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. I am bringing you good news of great joy for | all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messi- | ah, the Lord. Alleluia. (Luke 2:10-11)*

Gospel - Luke 2:1-14 [15-20] - God with us

December 25, 2020 – Christmas Day, Year B

Introduction - As on the first day of creation, on this Christmas Day the Word illumines the world, shining forth to bring all things into being. Today we celebrate the incarnate Word, God becoming flesh to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ then and now. Emboldened by the good news of Christ's birth, along with the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and all witnesses to the light of Christ, we declare to the world that we have indeed seen and been transformed by the arrival of "the salvation of our God." O come, let us adore!

Prayer of the Day - All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, 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 - Isaiah 52:7-10 - Heralds announce God's salvation
Psalm 98 - All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God. (Ps. 98:3)
Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12] - God has spoken by a Son

Gospel Acclamation - *Alleluia. A holy day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, and adore the Lord.* For today a great light has come up- | on the earth. Alleluia.*

Gospel: John 1:1-14 - The Word became flesh

December 27, 2020 – 1st Sunday of Christmas, Year B

Introduction - The psalmist calls on the natural world, celestial bodies, fire and earth, creatures, and all humanity, to praise God. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we tell of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.

Prayer of the Day - Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Readings and Psalm - Isaiah 61:10--62:3 - Clothed in garments of salvation
Psalm 148 - The splendor of the Lord is over earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13)
Galatians 4:4-7 - Children and heirs of God

Gospel Acclamation - *Alleluia. Let the peace of Christ rule | in your hearts,* and let the word of Christ dwell | in you richly. Alleluia. (Col. 3:15, 16)*

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40 - The presentation of the child

January 3, 2020 – 2nd Sunday of Christmas, Year B

Introduction - Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

Prayer of the Day - O God our redeemer, you created light that we might live, and you illumine our world with your beloved Son. By your Spirit comfort us in all darkness, and turn us toward the light of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Readings and Psalm - Jeremiah 31:7-14 - Joy at the gathering of God's scattered flock
Sirach 24:1-12 (alternate) Wisdom lives among God's people
Psalm 147:12-20 - Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion. (Ps. 147:12)
Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-21 (alternate) - We sing, O Lord, to your holy name.
Ephesians 1:3-14 - The will of God made known in Christ

Gospel Acclamation - *Alleluia. All the ends | of the earth* have seen the victory | of our God. Alleluia. (Ps. 98:3)*

Gospel: John 1:[1-9] 10-18 - God with us: the incarnation of the Word

January 6, 2020 – The Epiphany of Our Lord, Year B

Introduction - The feast of Epiphany ("manifestation") concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God's glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God's love to all people.

Prayer of the Day - Everlasting God, the radiance of all faithful people, you brought the nations to the brightness of your rising. Fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all the world through him who is the true light and the bright morning star, your Son, 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 - Isaiah 60:1-6 Nations come to the light
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 - All kings shall bow down before him. (Ps. 72:11)
Ephesians 3:1-12 - The gospel's promise extends to all

Gospel Acclamation - *Alleluia. We have observed his star | at its rising,* and have come to | worship him. Alleluia. (Matt. 2:2)*

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12 - Revelation of Christ to the nations of the earth

(Source: *Sundays and Seasons, Augsburg-Fortress, Minneapolis* - Used with permission: OneLicense.net#A-724061, CCLI289442)