

**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, 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** - O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. **Amen.**

**Blessing** - God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter ☩ keep you in peace. **Amen.**

**Dismissal** - Go in peace. Be the light of Christ. **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 – Epiphany

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

In the name of the Father,  
and of the ✙ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**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.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.*

We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters  
and by your Word you created the world,  
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.  
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.  
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
By water and your Word, you claim us as daughters and sons,  
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,  
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.  
Shower us with your Spirit,  
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, 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,  
whose voice is upon the waters,  
whose mercy is poured out upon all people,  
whose goodness cascades over all creation. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God, you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways.  
We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—  
our own sins and the broken systems that bind us.  
We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love.  
We distrust those who are not like us.  
We exploit the earth and its resources  
and fail to consider generations to come.  
Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone.  
Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them;  
receive them in your divine mercy. **Amen.**

How vast is God's grace!

Through the power and promise of † Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away  
and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven.  
In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community  
living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace. - **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 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.

*OR:*

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.

## January 1, 2021 – Name of Jesus, New Year's Day

**Introduction** - By Jewish law, every baby boy was circumcised and named on the eighth day of life, so on the eighth day of Christmas the church celebrates this event in Jesus' life. The keeping of the covenant as well as Jesus' name are signs of God's salvation given to us through him.

**Prayer of the Day** - Eternal Father, you gave your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be a sign of our salvation. Plant in every heart the love of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### Readings and Psalm

Numbers 6:22-27 - The Aaronic blessing

Psalm 8 - How majestic is your name in all the earth! (Ps. 8:1)

Galatians 4:4-7 - We are no longer slaves, but children

Philippians 2:5-11 (alternate) - God takes on human form

**Gospel Acclamation** - *Alleluia.* At the name of Jesus every | knee should bend,\* in heaven and on earth and un- | der the earth. *Alleluia. (Phil. 2:10)*

Gospel: Luke 2:15-21 - The child is circumcised and named Jesus

## January 3, 2021 – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, 2021 – 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

## January 10, 2021 – Baptism of Jesus, Year B

**Introduction** - Our re-creation in baptism is an image of the Genesis creation, where the Spirit of God moved over the waters. Both Mark’s gospel and the story in Acts make clear that it is the Spirit’s movement that distinguishes Jesus’ baptism from John’s. The Spirit has come upon us as upon Jesus and the Ephesians, calling us God’s beloved children and setting us on Jesus’ mission to re-create the world in the image of God’s vision of justice and peace.

**Prayer of the Day** - Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Gospel Acclamation** - *Alleluia. A voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, | the Beloved,\* with whom I | am well pleased.” Alleluia. (Matt. 3:17)*

### **Readings and Psalm**

Genesis 1:1-5 - God creates light  
Psalm 29 - The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. (Ps. 29:3)  
Acts 19:1-7 - Baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus

Gospel: Mark 1:4-11 - Revelation of Christ as God’s servant

## January 17, 2021 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany, Year B

### Introduction

All the baptized have a calling in God's world. God calls not just pastors and deacons but also the youngest child, like Samuel. The story of the calling of Nathanael plays with the idea of place. Nathanael initially dismisses Jesus because he comes from Nazareth. But where we come from isn't important; it's where—or rather whom—we come to. Jesus refers to Jacob, who had a vision in a place he called "*the house of God, and...the gate of heaven*" (Gen. 28:17). Jesus says he himself is the place where Nathanael will meet God.

**Prayer of the Day** - Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Readings and Psalm** 1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20] - The calling of Samuel  
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 - You have searched me out and known me. (Ps. 139:1)  
1 Corinthians 6:12-20 - Glorify God in your body

**Gospel Acclamation** - *Alleluia. We have found | the Messiah: Jesus Christ, who brings us | grace and truth. Alleluia. (John 1:41, 17)*

**Gospel** - John 1:43-51 - The calling of the first disciples

## January 24, 2021 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany, Year B

**Introduction** - As we continue through the time after Epiphany, stories of the call to discipleship show us the implications of our baptismal calling to show Christ to the world. Jesus begins proclaiming the good news and calling people to repentance right after John the Baptist is arrested for preaching in a similar way. Knowing that John was later executed, we see at the very outset the cost of discipleship. Still, the two sets of brothers leave everything they have known and worked for all their lives to follow Jesus and fish for people.

**Prayer of the Day** - Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**Readings and Psalm** - Jonah 3:1-5, 10 - Repentance at Nineveh  
Psalm 62:5-12 - God alone is my rock and my salvation. (Ps. 62:6)  
1 Corinthians 7:29-31 - Living in the end times

**Gospel Acclamation** - *Alleluia. The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God | has come near; repent, and believe in | the good news. Alleluia. (Mark 1:15)*

**Gospel** - Mark 1:14-20 - The calling of the disciples at the sea of Galilee

## January 31, 2021 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany, Year B

**Introduction** - In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. We encounter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.

**Prayer of the Day** - Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**Readings and Psalm** - Deuteronomy 18:15-20 - The prophet speaks with God's authority  
Psalm 111 - The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. (Ps. 111:10)  
1 Corinthians 8:1-13 - Limits to liberty: the case of food offered to idols

**Gospel Acclamation** - *The people who sat in darkness have seen | a great light; for those who sat in the shadow of death | light has dawned. Alleluia. (Matt. 4:16)*

**Gospel** – Mark 1:21-28 - The healing of one with an unclean spirit

## February 7, 2021 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany, Year B

**Introduction** - In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (*diakonia*). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

**Prayer of the Day** - Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**Readings and Psalm** - Isaiah 40:21-31 - The creator of all cares for the powerless  
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c - The Lord heals the broken-hearted. (Ps. 147:3)  
1 Corinthians 9:16-23 - A servant for the sake of the gospel

**Gospel Acclamation** - *Alleluia. The servant of God took | our infirmities and bore | our diseases. Alleluia. (Matt. 8:17)*

**Gospel** - Mark 1:29-39 - The healing of Peter's mother-in-law

## February 14, 2021 – Transfiguration of Our Lord/Last Sunday after Epiphany, Year B

**Introduction** - The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' baptism and end with three disciples' vision of his transfiguration. In Mark's story of Jesus' baptism, apparently only Jesus sees the Spirit descending and hears the words from heaven. But now Jesus' three closest friends hear the same words naming him God's Beloved. As believers, Paul writes, we are enabled to see the God-light in Jesus' face, because the same God who created light in the first place has shone in our hearts to give us that vision. The light of God's glory in Jesus has enlightened us through baptism and shines in us also for others to see.

**Prayer of the Day** - Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, 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** - 2 Kings 2:1-12 - Elijah taken up to heaven and succeeded by Elisha

Psalm 50:1-6 - Out of Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth in glory. (Ps. 50:2)

2 Corinthians 4:3-6 - God's light seen clearly in the face of Christ

**Gospel Acclamation** - *Alleluia. This is my | Son, my Chosen, listen to him!*  
*Alleluia. (Luke 9:35)*

**Gospel** - Mark 9:2-9 - Revelation of Christ as God's beloved Son

## February 17, 2021 – Ash Wednesday

**Introduction** - On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that "now is the day of salvation." Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

**Prayer of the Day** - Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy 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** - Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 - Return to the Lord, your God

Isaiah 58:1-12 (alternate) - The fast that God chooses

Psalm 51:1-17 - Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love. (Ps. 51:1)

2 Corinthians 5:20b--6:10 - Now is the day of salvation

**Gospel Acclamation** - *Return to the | Lord, your God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in | steadfast love. (Joel 2:13)*

**Gospel** - Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 - The practice of faith

## February 21, 2021 – First Sunday in Lent, Year B

**Introduction** - On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, we are lead to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

**Prayer of the Day** - Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, 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** - Genesis 9:8-17 - The rainbow, sign of God's covenant  
Psalm 25:1-10 - Your paths, O Lord, are steadfast love and faithfulness. (Ps. 25:10)  
1 Peter 3:18-22 - Saved through water

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

**Gospel:** Mark 1:9-15 - The temptation of Jesus in the wilderness for forty days

## February 28, 2021 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent, Year B

**Introduction** - The second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God's promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.

**Prayer of the Day** - O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake 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** - Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 - God blesses Abraham and Sarah  
Psalm 22:23-31 - All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord. (Ps. 22:27)  
Romans 4:13-25 - The promise to those who share Abraham's faith

**Gospel Acclamation** - *May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord | Jesus Christ, by which the world is crucified to me, and I | to the world. (Gal. 6:14)*

**Gospel:** Mark 8:31-38 - The passion prediction

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