

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

Thanksgiving for Baptism or Confession and Forgiveness (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?”

Nicene Creed/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 – either one

Offering Prayer - God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Blessing - May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.
The God of life, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Dismissal - Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Thanksgiving for Baptism - *All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into a dish ...

We thank you, risen Christ,
for these waters where you make us new,
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.
We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth,
like streams that revive our souls,
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.
Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.
Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life.
To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Confession and Forgiveness - *All may make the sign of the cross*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure,
and whose love is endless. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God our comforter:

like lost sheep, we have gone astray.

We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity.

We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression.

We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed.

Free us from our sin, gracious God.

Listen when we call out to you for help.

Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

By the gift of grace in † Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous.

Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins. **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.

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. **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.

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

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)*

April 25, 2021 – 4th Sunday of Easter, Year B

Introduction -

The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.

Prayer of the Day - O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Readings and Psalm

Acts 4:5-12 - Salvation in the name of Jesus

Psalm 23 - The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)

1 John 3:16-24 - Love in truth and action

Gospel Acclamation - Alleluia. Jesus says, I am | the good shepherd.* I know my own and my | own know me. Alleluia. (John 10:14)

Gospel - John 10:11-18 - Christ the shepherd

May 2, 2021 – 5th Sunday of Easter, Year B

Introduction - This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

Prayer of the Day - O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, 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 - Acts 8:26-40 - Philip teaches and baptizes an Ethiopian

Psalm 22:25-31 - All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord. (Ps. 22:27)

1 John 4:7-21 - God's love perfected in love for one another

Gospel Acclamation - Alleluia. I am the vine, you | are the branches.* Those who abide in me and I in them | bear much fruit. Alleluia. (John 15:5)

Gospel - John 15:1-8 - Christ the vine

May 9, 2021 – 6^h Sunday of Easter, Year B – Mother’s Day

Introduction – This Sunday’s image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John’s gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

Prayer of the Day - O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Readings and Psalm

Acts 10:44-48 - The Spirit poured out on the Gentiles

Psalm 98 - Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands. (Ps. 98:4)

1 John 5:1-6 - The victory of faith

Gospel Acclamation - Alleluia. Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them,* and we will come to them and make our home with them. Alleluia. (John 14:23)

Gospel - John 15:9-17 - Christ the friend and lover

May 16, 2021 – 7^h Sunday of Easter/Ascension Sunday, Year B

Introduction – The gospel for Easter’s seventh Sunday is always taken from the long prayer Jesus prays for his followers in John’s gospel on the night before his death, and always includes Jesus’ desire that his followers will be one as he and the Father are one. This oneness is not mere doctrinal agreement or institutional unity, but mutual abiding, interpenetrating life, mutual love, and joy. This oneness is the work of the Spirit whom we have received but also await. Come, Holy Spirit!

Prayer of the Day - Gracious and glorious God, you have chosen us as your own, and by the powerful name of Christ you protect us from evil. By your Spirit transform us and your beloved world, that we may find our joy in 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

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 - Matthias added to the apostles

Psalm 1 - The Lord knows the way of the righteous. (Ps. 1:6)

1 John 5:9-13 - Life in the Son of God

Gospel Acclamation - *Alleluia.* I will not leave you orphaned, | says the Lord.* I am coming to you. *Alleluia.* (John 14:18)

Gospel - John 17:6-19 - Christ’s prayer for his disciples

May 23, 2021 – Pentecost Sunday, Year B

Introduction - Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Crossing all boundaries that would separate us, the Spirit brings the wideness of God's mercy to places we least expect it—to a crowd of strangers of different lands and tongues, to dry bones, to our weak hearts. Jesus promises his disciples that they will be accompanied by the Holy Spirit, and that this Spirit reveals the truth. We celebrate that we too have been visited with this same Spirit. Guided by the truth, we join together in worship, and then disperse to share the fullness of Christ's love with the world.

Prayer of the Day - Mighty God, you breathe life into our bones, and your Spirit brings truth to the world. Send us this Spirit, transform us by your truth, and give us language to proclaim your gospel, 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 - Acts 2:1-21 - Filled with the Spirit to tell God's deeds

Ezekiel 37:1-14 (alternate) - Life to dry bones

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b - Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth. (Ps. 104:30)

Romans 8:22-27 - Praying with the Spirit

Acts 2:1-21 (alternate) - Filled with the Spirit to tell God's deeds

Gospel Acclamation – *Alleluia. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts | of your faithful,* and kindle in us the fire | of your love. Alleluia.*

Gospel - John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15 - Christ sends the Spirit of truth

May 30, 2021 – Trinity Sunday, (1st Sunday after Pentecost), Year B

Introduction - When we say God is the triune God, we are saying something about who God is beyond, before, and after the universe: that there is community within God. Our experience of this is reflected in Paul's words today. When we pray to God as Jesus prayed to his Abba (an everyday, intimate parental address), the Spirit prays within us, creating between us and God the same relationship Jesus has with the one who sent him.

Prayer of the Day - Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Readings and Psalm - Isaiah 6:1-8 - Isaiah's vision and call

Psalm 29 - Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. (Ps. 29:2)

Romans 8:12-17 - Living by the Spirit

Gospel Acclamation – *Alleluia. Holy, holy, holy is the | Lord of hosts;* God's glory fills | the whole earth. Alleluia. (Isa. 6:3)*

Gospel: John 3:1-17 - Entering the reign of God through water and the Spirit

Sunday, June 6, 2021, 2nd Sunday after Pentecost, Year B

Introduction - A house divided against itself cannot stand. Jesus makes this observation in light of charges that he is possessed. He is possessed, not by a demon, but by the Holy Spirit. We who have received the Holy Spirit through baptism have been joined to Christ's death and resurrection and knit together in the body of Christ. Those with whom we sing and pray this day are Jesus' family. With them we go forth in peace to do the will of God.

Prayer of the Day - All-powerful God, in Jesus Christ you turned death into life and defeat into victory. Increase our faith and trust in him, that we may triumph over all evil in the strength of the same Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

Readings and Psalm

Genesis 3:8-15 - God confronts Adam and Eve in the garden

Psalm 130 - Wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is steadfast love. (Ps. 130:7)

2 Corinthians 4:13--5:1 - Renewed in the inner nature

Gospel Acclamation - Alleluia. The ruler of this world will be | driven out.* And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people | to myself. Alleluia. (John 12:31, 32)

Gospel - Mark 3:20-35 - Doing the work of God as brothers and sisters of Christ

Sunday, June 13, 2021, 3rd Sunday after Pentecost, Year B

Introduction - The mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We'd expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It's not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody's looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding.

Prayer of the Day - O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Readings and Psalm - Ezekiel 17:22-24 - The cedar, planted on the mountain of Israel

Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15 - The righteous shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon. (Ps. 92:12)

2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17 - In Christ, a new creation

Gospel Acclamation - *Alleluia. Welcome with meekness the implanted word* that has the power to save your souls. Alleluia.* (James 1:21)

Gospel - Mark 4:26-34 - The parable of the mustard seed

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