

# Where Two or Three Are Gathered; Worship for Small Assemblies

Time After Pentecost - SUMMER - Year B

May 27 – Sept. 2

Notes for Planners

## **Greetings Worship Planners**

What follows are some worship helps to outline what is possible with your summer worship preparation. Included is the date, reading sets, Prayer of the Day for easy copy and paste. All of this is found on pg. 37 of your ELW. Before those details are listed, here are some thoughts and some prayers that might travel with you through the summer.

## **Seasonal Thoughts**

It's unfortunate that the summer season is also the season where many people find themselves missing some Sundays, because this year we follow along with one of the great stories of the bible – the life of King David. If you follow the Semi-Continuous readings, as the bulletin covers that woship.ca produces and follows, you will find an amazing story that begins with the call of David by the prophet Samuel, his anointing as King David, the battle with Goliath, the Bathsheba scandal/murder of Uriah, through to the death of King David years later (all this before the end of August!). So this season you may consider asking your pastor/supply people to preach on this story. You could build a timeline so you can watch the story unfold. It is a nice juxtaposition to the regular Gospel stories that are read and serves to show how this messy story matches the messiness of real life. AND YET... here is God with us.

## **Music to try from “Music that Makes Community”**

“Music that Makes Community” is a movement that gives us another tool in congregational singing. The leader calls out the singing from the group so the singing is all community centred and often has no accompanying instrument or words on paper. Some people call it “Paperless Worship”. The idea is that we are present to ourselves, one another, and God when we aren't holding paper and reading. Instead, we are more fully aware of everything else around us. Perhaps on a Sunday where you do not have accompaniment, or where you want to try something different, you could choose some of these songs. This requires some singing leadership and courage until the songs become known. Here are two of my favourites:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZiOrh9naWlc> – What We Need is Here.

<https://vimeo.com/30474032> - God Welcomes All

## Optional Omissions / Making Choices in the Liturgy

It is important to read all those red lettered instructions (Rubrics) in the order of service. These rubrics provide guidance to the “WHY we do this” question.

Here are some suggestions.

1. Before anything else happens, the Worship leader could invite the congregation into worship with these words from the “This Far by Faith” supplement – Available at Augsburg Fortress: <https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/5702/This-Far-By-Faith>

### **CALL TO WORSHIP (TFF p. 72)**

Gracious Spirit, heed our pleading.

**Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

It's your leading that we're needing.

**Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

Guide our thinking and our speaking.

**Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

Motivate all in their seeking.

**Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

Keep us fervent in our witness.

**Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

Ever grant us zealous fitness.

**Come, Holy Spirit, come!**

2. In place of the optional ‘Confession and Forgiveness’ you might consider the Thanksgiving for Baptism found on Pg. 97 in the ELW. There are also other lesser known OPTIONS:
  - a. Pg. 70 “Thanksgiving at the Font” – four optional prayers of thanksgiving are provided.
  - b. Invite people to turn to this page as a way of better learning what is in their ELW.
  - c. Have a member of the congregation, perhaps a child, pour the water while the prayer is read. Great participation right up front.
3. OMIT the Kyrie and Hymn of Praise for this regular season
  - a. EG: On Pg. 98 it says “A Kyrie MAY be sung...” So it is entirely appropriate to remove these for a season.
  - b. This leaves a space for another hymn, perhaps one of praise to the Triune God. Or you could simply continue with the Greeting, so your service would look like this.
    - i. Thanksgiving for Baptism
    - ii. Greeting
    - iii. Prayer of the Day
    - iv. WORD

- c. If you omit the Kyrie and Hymn of Praise you may want to add something later in the service. This brings me to my next suggestion – a book to guide you.

**4. Book Recommendation:**

*“in these or similar words; crafting language for Worship”* published by Augsburg Fortress.

I like this book because it guides the process of using those little red letters (Rubrics). Importantly it tells you “What is going on...” but it also, and perhaps more importantly, tells you “what is NOT going on.” On the next page I have included an excerpt from the book for the Thanksgiving for Baptism. The book also offers some exercises to write your own prayer for this optional part of the liturgy.

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God be with you as you plan your summer worship! I hope that this gives you enough direction to be inspired and supported in your work.

Rev. Sean Bell – Program Committee for Worship ELCIC

2018 – Pentecost - Summer

## Thanksgiving for Baptism

### *What's Going On?*

The service may begin with confession and forgiveness, or with thanksgiving for baptism. Neither of these forms is an essential beginning to the service nor a prerequisite for participation in holy communion. However, many Christians express the desire to acknowledge sin on a fairly regular basis and to receive the assurance of God's forgiving word, or to be reminded again of the gift of baptism: forgiveness and new life. Thus this preparatory act may be pastorally advisable in many contexts. (LE, p. 17)

A thanksgiving for baptism makes the baptismal character of our coming together explicit. Here the assembly recalls how God has joined us to Christ through baptism and so clothed us with mercy and forgiveness. We are being clothed anew in this garment as the Holy Spirit draws us together. The very saving word of God spoken of here—and the very sustenance and renewal of life God promises—are also freely available to people in the assembly who are not baptized. The importance and beauty of this thanksgiving might be one of the things that could awaken their own calling to come into Christ through this water. (SA, p. 121)

### *What's Not Going On?*

Exclusion. The assembly is being spoken of as a whole, as a subject of "one baptism" (Ephesians 4:5) given to the world in Christ. The very saving word of God spoken of here—and the very sustenance and renewal of life God promises—are also freely available to people in the assembly who are not baptized. (SA, p. 121)

#### OTHER VISIBLE OR AUDIBLE SIGNS MAY ACCOMPANY THE THANKSGIVING

- An assisting minister might pour water into the font after the invitation to give thanks or during the prayer itself.
- The presiding minister may dip a hand into the font during the prayer, raising and releasing water again as thanks is given for the water.
- After the prayer of thanksgiving, the assembly may be sprinkled with water.
- Or, the assembly may approach and touch the water in the font, making the sign of the cross upon themselves. This might be calm and restrained or rousing and energetic, depending on the context. (SA, p. 122)

## List of Summer readings with Prayer of the Day.

### Sun. May 27 - The Holy Trinity, First Sunday after Pentecost

#### **Readings**

1 Samuel 1:1-18

Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18

Romans 8:12-17

John 3:1-17

#### **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.

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### Sun. June 3 - Second Sunday after Pentecost (Lectionary 9)

#### **Readings**

1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]

Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18

2 Corinthians 4:5-12

Mark 2:23—3:6

#### **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 Savior and Lord.

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### Sun. June 10 - Third Sunday after Pentecost (Lectionary 10)

#### **Readings**

1 Samuel 8:4-11 [12-15], 16-20 [11:14-15]

Psalms 138

2 Corinthians 4:13—5:1

Mark 3:20-35

**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 Savior and Lord.

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[Sun. June 17 - Fourth Sunday after Pentecost \(Lectionary 11\)](#)

**Readings**

1 Samuel 15:34 — 16:13

Psalms 20 (6)

2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-1

Mark 4:26-34

**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.

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[Sun. June 24 — Fifth Sunday after Pentecost \(Lectionary 12\)](#)

**Readings**

1 Samuel 17:[1a, 4-11, 19-23] 32-49

Psalms 9:9-20 (9) or 1 Samuel 17:57—18:5, 10-16

2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Mark 4:35-41

**Prayer of the Day**

O God of creation, eternal majesty, you preside over land and sea, sunshine and storm. By your strength pilot us, by your power preserve us, by your wisdom instruct us, and by your hand protect us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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Or

[Sun. June 24 - John, the Baptist](#)

**Readings**

Malachi 3:1-4

Psalms 141 (8)

Acts 13:13-26

Luke 1:57-67 [68-80]

### **Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God, by your gracious providence your servant John the Baptist was born to Elizabeth and Zechariah. Grant to your people the wisdom to see your purpose and the openness to hear your will, that the light of Christ may increase in us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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[Sun. July 1 — Sixth Sunday after Pentecost \(Lectionary 13\)](#)

### **Readings**

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27

Psalms 130 (1)

2 Corinthians 8:7-15

Mark 5:21-43

### **Prayer of the Day**

Almighty and merciful God, we implore you to hear the prayers of your people. Be our strong defense against all harm and danger, that we may live and grow in faith and hope, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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[Sun. July 8 — Seventh Sunday after Pentecost \(Lectionary 14\)](#)

### **Readings**

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10

Psalms 48 (1)

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

Mark 6:1-13

### **Prayer of the Day**

God of the covenant, in our baptism you call us to proclaim the coming of your kingdom. Give us the courage you gave the apostles, that we may faithfully witness to your love and peace in every circumstance of life, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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## Sun. July 15 — Eighth Sunday after Pentecost (Lectionary 15)

### Readings

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19

Psalms 24 (7)

Ephesians 1:3-14

Mark 6:14-29

### Prayer of the Day

O God, from you come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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## Sun. July 22 — Ninth Sunday after Pentecost (Lectionary 16)

### Readings

2 Samuel 7:1-14a

Psalms 89:20-37

Ephesians 2:11-22

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

### Prayer of the Day

O God, powerful and compassionate, you shepherd your people, faithfully feeding and protecting us. Heal each of us, and make us a whole people, that we may embody the justice and peace of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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## Sun. July 29 — Tenth Sunday after Pentecost (Lectionary 17)

### Readings

2 Samuel 11:1-15

Psalms 14 (5)

Ephesians 3:14-21

John 6:1-21

### Prayer of the Day



Gracious God, you have placed within the hearts of all your children a longing for your word and a hunger for your truth. Grant that we may know your Son to be the true bread of heaven and share this bread with all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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### [Sun. Aug. 5 — Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost \(Lectionary 18\)](#)

#### **Readings**

2 Samuel 11:26—12:13a

Psalms 51:1-12 (1)

Ephesians 4:1-16

John 6:24-35

#### **Prayer of the Day**

O God, eternal goodness, immeasurable love, you place your gifts before us; we eat and are satisfied. Fill us and this world in all its need with the life that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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### [Sun. Aug. 12 — Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost \(Lectionary 19\)](#)

#### **Readings**

2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33

Psalms 130 (1)

Ephesians 4:25—5:2

John 6:35, 41-51

#### **Prayer of the Day**

Gracious God, your blessed Son came down from heaven to be the true bread that gives life to the world. Give us this bread always, that he may live in us and we in him, and that, strengthened by this food, we may live as his body in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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### [Sun. Aug. 19 — Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost \(Lectionary 20\)](#)

#### **Readings**

1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14

Psalms 111 (10)

Ephesians 5:15-20

John 6:51-58

### **Prayer of the Day**

Ever-loving God, your Son gives himself as living bread for the life of the world. Fill us with such a knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life to serve you continually, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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[Sun. Aug. 26 — Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost \(Lectionary 21\)](#)

### **Readings**

1 Kings 8:[1, 6, 10-11] 22-30, 41-43

Psalms 84 (1)

Ephesians 6:10-20

John 6:56-69

### **Prayer of the Day**

Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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[Sun. Sep. 2 — Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost \(Lectionary 22\)](#)

### **Readings**

Song of Solomon 2:8-13

Psalms 45:1-2, 6-9

James 1:17-27

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

### **Prayer of the Day**

O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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