

Where Two or Three Are Gathered: Worship for Small Assemblies

October 16 – November 20, 2022 Season after Pentecost (Year C)

Order for Holy Communion Service

The Holy Communion liturgy is for use when an Ordained Pastor or Authorized Lay Minister is present to preside

Call to Worship (optional)
Confession & Forgiveness (ELW p.94-96, or as printed below)
Gathering Hymn
Prayer of the Day
Word - First Reading, Psalm, Second Reading, Gospel
Sermon/Reflection
Hymn of the Day
Apostles' Creed
Prayers of Intercession
Share the Peace
Offering
Great Thanksgiving / Lord's Prayer
Distribution of Communion
Blessing
Sending Hymn
Dismissal (ELW p.222)

Order for Service of the Word

Call to Worship (optional)
Confession & Forgiveness (ELW p.94-96 or as printed below)
Gathering Hymn
Prayer of the Day
Word - First Reading, Psalm, Second Reading, Gospel
Sermon/Reflection
Hymn

Apostles' Creed
Prayers of Intercession
Share the Peace

Canticle of Thanksgiving – ELW #208 *Praise to You, O God of Mercy*

Thanksgiving for the Word (ELW p.220)

OR

Thanksgiving for the Word (Psalm 25:1-2a, 4-5, 10)

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame.

Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.

Lord's Prayer (ELW p.221)

Blessing **Leader: Let us bless the Lord.** *All: Thanks be to God.*

Sending

Hymn / Dismissal

Confession and Forgiveness

Rev. Kathy Calkins

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins. In the name of God, who makes a way in the wilderness, walks with us, and guides us in our pilgrimage.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One, **we confess that we have wandered far from you: we have not trusted your promises, we have ignored your prophets in our own day, we have squandered our inheritance of grace, we have failed to recognize you in our midst.**

Have mercy on us!

Forgive us and turn us again to you. Teach us to follow in your ways, assure us again of your love, and help us to love our neighbor.

Amen.

Beloved in Christ, the Word draws near to you,
and all who call out to God shall be saved. In Jesus,
God comes to you again and again and gathers you
under wings of love.

In ✝ Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven.

God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving for Baptism

In the Lutheran tradition, we often start worship with either Confession and Forgiveness or Thanksgiving for Baptism. I think that any time we can acknowledge our messiness and imperfections in church is good. It is such a relief to start worship knowing I'm in a room full of imperfect people who are also sinners and have also made mistakes. Publicly sharing that together is a great way to start our time with God. It is great to understand how messy we are, how the world hurts us, and that we need God in our lives. Enjoy this liturgy. - Pastor Thom Johnson

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the
fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

C: Amen.

P: People of God, in the baptismal waters we travel with Christ from death to life. Our past, our sin, our failure, our doubt, and our shame are drowned and gone here.

C: You, O God, wash us clean.

P: Our fear, our confusion, our self-righteousness, our despair -- ALL are washed away by grace.

C: You, O God, wash us clean.

P: Our pride, our hypocrisy, and other people's opinions of us no longer have the power to define us.

C: You, O God, give us new life.

P: The Spirit lives and moves through us now, a great and joyful mystery, so we may bring love and mercy into the world as the body of Christ.

C: You, O God, give us new life.

P: Rejoice that God has claimed us in this baptismal grace, not by our own doing or believing but by God's mercy alone.

C: You, O God, give us new life.

P: And so, as we begin worship, we give thanks to God for the gracious gift of baptism that joins us together in Christ by the Spirit's power. Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. We praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer

Here at the table we see most clearly that we are part of the Body of Christ. We are no longer divided into people of different ages, different ideas, backgrounds, or gifts. Here we are made richer we share our many gifts. Here, we feast on one bread and one cup and become one body in service to the world.

(from SANTO – a Bilingual Communion Rite – Marty Haugen and Susan Briehl)

Blessed are you, Holy God, from the rising of the sun to it setting, we bless your holy name. You set creation's table with the bounty of your goodness and satisfy the needs of every living thing. You gather the peoples of the earth from east and west, north and south, to feast on your promise and your presence made known to us in your son, Jesus.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering therefore Christ's birth among us, his eating with sinners and outcasts, his death and resurrection, we await the feast that has no end. Pour out, we pray, your Holy Spirit upon these gifts of bread and wine (cup) and all who are nourished at your table, that we might become what we receive – Christ's body, blessed, broken and given for the sake of the life of the world.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. Amen

Our Father in heaven....

Eucharistic Prayer (IONA)

The table of bread and wine is now ready, the table of company with Jesus, and with all who love him. It's the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom Jesus identified. It's the table of communion with the earth, in which Christ became a human being like us.

So come to this table, you who have much faith, and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often, and you who have not been here for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus and feel like you have failed. Come, it is Jesus who invites us to meet him here. It is Jesus who is known to us in the breaking of the bread who on that night as he sat sharing a meal with his disciples, took the bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, *"This is my body, given for you. Do this as you remember me".*

In the same way, he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them to drink saying,

*"This cup is the new covenant in my blood that is shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of your sin."
Do this as you remember me.*

So now, as we gather around this table, may God's Spirit transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in this world to serve in his name. May we live into this new relationship gained from the gift of forgiveness and love shared. Then gathered into one by the Holy Spirit we pray together:

Our Father, who art in heaven....

Apostle's Creed – contemporary

revised by Pastors Rita and Darryl Roste, 2021

I believe in God, Father and Mother of us all, source of all life in the heavens and the earth.

And in Jesus Christ God's only Son who was given life by the Holy Spirit and born of a woman.

Who continued his life living in favor with God and humankind showing us a model we can follow of how to live with compassion for all people; healing the sick, feeding the hungry and teaching with authority the truth we need to live by.

He suffered under the oppression of the Roman authorities to the extent of being crucified, he died, and was buried.

He descended into hell showing his power over the forces of evil.

Then God raised him to life showing God's power over the forces of death.

He returned to God taking his place of rightful authority to judge between evil and love in the world.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the source and giver of Life, who calls us into relationship in the community of faith in the whole church in the world.

I believe in the communion with the saints who have gone before us, in the gift of forgiveness of sin, and of the resurrection making all things new in this world and in the life to come. AMEN

SUNDAY THEMES, LECTIONARY, HYMN SUGGESTIONS, & PRAYERS

October 16 - 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Never Give Up - In a story of a woman persistently seeking justice, we find the courage to persist through every adversity and marvel at how God never gives up on us.

Lectionary

Genesis 32:22-31 - *Jacob's struggle with the angel: I'll not let go until you bless me*

Psalms 121 - *My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.*

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 *In the presence of Christ the judge, proclaim the message*

Luke 18:1-8 *The widow begs for justice; God grants justice to those who cry to him*

Hymn Suggestions

Rise Up, O Saints of God! (ELW 669)

Day By Day (ELW 790)

If You But Trust in God to Guide You (ELW 769)

The Church of Christ, in Every Age (ELW 729).

God Is Here Today (ACS 993)

Prayers of Intercession

In gratitude and humility, let us join together in prayer on behalf of all of God's creation. *A brief silence.*

For all the baptized, that they become skilled in compassion and grace and equipped to share the good news with all. Grant your followers persistence in proclamation and prayer. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For air and sky, clouds and sun, that they provide rain to parched land and relief to flooded ground. Renew and restore our polluted atmosphere and empower us to be worthy stewards of creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For judges, juries, and all who work in the judicial system, that they desire wisdom, seek truth, rule with fairness, and have the courage to do what is right. Eliminate oppression and injustice in our criminal justice system. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For all who are lonely, especially those who have newly arrived in an unfamiliar city or country, political prisoners without recourse to justice, hospital patients without visitors, and any who are ill or grief-stricken. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For those in our congregation and community engaged in advocacy work (*local ministries may be named*), that with the persistence of the widow, they lift their voices in seeking justice on behalf of others. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

For those who have taught us faith and now rest in your heavenly peace (*especially*), that we remember and give thanks for these saints who shared the gospel through word and deed. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

With grateful hearts we commend our spoken and silent prayers to you, O God; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

October 23 - 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Other People - In a story of two prayers, we find new ways to practice humility rather than worrying so much about what other people might be doing.

Lectionary

Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22 *Jerusalem will be defeated*

Psalms 84:1-7 *Happy are the people whose strength is in you.*

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 *The good fight of faith*

Luke 18:9-14 *A Pharisee and tax collector pray together*

Hymn Suggestions

God, We Gather as Your People (ACS 1038)

God, When Human Bonds are Broken (ELW 603)

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy (ELW 588)

Guide My Feet (ACS 987)

Praise to you, O God of Mercy (ELW 208)

Prayers of Intercession

In gratitude and humility, let us join together in prayer on behalf of all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

God of mercy, you are in the midst of us and we are called by your name. Inspire your church to serve and love all people with the unceasing grace you extend to us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all creation, you formed a world where even the sparrow finds a home. Preserve the beauty and diversity of all creatures with whom we share the earth. Lead us to protect all living things. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of peace, you are an ever-present help in time of trouble. Rescue families and nations torn apart by violence and warfare (*especially*). Unite all people toward common goals of reconciliation and peace for every person. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of hope, you stand with the suffering and give strength. Comfort your people filled with fear or anger, anxiety or shame. Bring healing to all who are sick in body, mind, or spirit (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of restoration, you call us to trust in you and not ourselves alone. Make this congregation a community of humility and repentance, ready to encounter you in love and follow in your ways. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of eternal life, to you be the glory forever. We give you thanks for (*James of Jerusalem* and) all who have fought the good fight, finished the race, kept the faith, and now live with you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

With grateful hearts we commend our spoken and silent prayers to you, O God; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

October 30 – 21st Sunday after Pentecost

(These are the lessons for this Sunday, OR see link for Reformation Service below)

The Strength of our Witness - In the just call of a prophet, the patience of a psalmist, and a moment when one in a tree and one on the ground meet, we consider the many ways God's love is made visible in our daily lives, in the community, and the world.

Lectionary

Isaiah 1:10-18 *Learn to do good, seek justice, and rescue the oppressed*

Psalms 32:1-7 *All the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble*

2

Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12 *Faith and love amid persecution and adversity.*

Luke 19:1-10 *Zacchaeus climbs into a tree to see Jesus*

Hymn Suggestions

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (ELW 807)

Love Consecrates the Humblest Act (ELW 360)

Now is the Time of Grace (ACS 918)

I Come with Joy (ELW 482)

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (ELW 631)

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine (ELW 774)

Prayers of Intercession

In gratitude and humility, let us join together in prayer on behalf of all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

Keep your church steadfast in your word, reforming God. Deepen our faith and increase our love in Jesus' name. Further ecumenical dialogue and partnerships (*local partnerships may be named*) and equip us for unified witness and service in the world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Come to the aid of the poor, especially those suffering food and water shortages or loss of homes due to natural disasters. Halt the exploitation of the earth's resources and lead us to seek justice and rescue the oppressed. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Guide leaders of all nations, almighty God. Heal divisions, build trust, and remove barriers that prevent collaboration and cooperation. Bring neighborhoods, cities, and countries together to work for the common good. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Save from trouble those who struggle with hunger, homelessness, or addiction. Strengthen the overworked and give hope to those who do not have enough work. Console those who are burdened by illness or grief (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Reveal yourself to all who seek you. Empower the hospitality ministries of this congregation to welcome others to your feast of love. Foster generosity in our stewardship ministries to both our congregation and community. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Gather the faithful at the table of your eternal banquet. We give thanks for those who have witnessed to your gracious presence, especially Martin Luther and all who strive to reform and renew the church. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

With grateful hearts we commend our spoken and silent prayers to you, O God; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Oct.31 – Reformation Day (*can celebrate on Sun, Oct.30*)

The ABT synod has been providing synod-wide services twice a year through the pandemic, and has decided to continue this resource, as a way to draw congregations together, and give worship planners & pastors a bit of a pause. This next one will be livestreamed from Hosanna Lutheran Church in Edmonton, on Sunday, Oct.30, 10:00am. (See link below) However it will be available on their website, as well as on YouTube any time after that.

Columbia, South America and Alberta & the Territories are companion synods and so Bishop Atahualpa Hernandez from the IELCO has been asked to deliver the sermon (in Spanish, with English subtitles)

<https://wp172758.wpdns.ca/worship-with-us/>

You will also be able to find it on the albertasynod.ca website later in Oct.

Nov. 6 – 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

All Saints Sunday

We worship on the first day of the week because Jesus was raised on that day. Every Sunday is a little Easter. This Sunday feels more like Easter than many as the appointed texts celebrate the reality of the resurrection. Live it up this Lord's day. Our God is the God of the living.

Lectionary

Job 19:23-27a *I know that my Redeemer lives & I shall see God*

Psalms 17:1-9 *Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me under the shadow of your wings.*

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17 *The coming of the Lord Jesus*

Luke 20:27-38 *Jesus speaks of the resurrection; the God of the living*

Hymn Suggestions

For All the Saints (ELW 422)

Holy God, We Praise Your Name (ELW 414)

Shall We Gather at the River (ELW 423)

Death Be Never Last (ACS 1030)

Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In (ACS 950)

Prayers of Intercession

United with your saints across time and place, we pray for our shared world. **A**
brief silence.

God of time and space, our faith has been passed down through the generations. Bless new believers, catechumens, and any affirming their faith in you (*especially*), that they share what they have first received. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of tempest and tide, our world is full of dazzling beauty and brutal destruction. Protect us and all your creatures from hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, and fires. Restore what has been lost.

Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of truth, raise up leaders with integrity, honesty, and compassion. Unite our elected officials in shared goals that benefit and serve all people. Instill in them hearts of justice, mercy, and peace.

Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of tumult, you sustain and guide your people when the way forward is uncertain. Abide with all going through transitions at work, school, or in their personal lives. Bring healing to those who are sick (*especially*). Reassure us of your constancy in the midst of change. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of togetherness, deepen the relationships that are built in this place. Form us as a community where tears of sorrow and shouts of joy can both be shared. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of tenderness, we give thanks for all who have died in the faith. (*Here the names of those who have died in the previous year may be read.*) Console our mourning spirits with the promise of eternal life in your presence. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Accept these prayers, gracious God, and those known only to you; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Nov. 13 – 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Infinite Possibilities

As we move toward the end of the church year, we are greeted with a vision of a world healed of its brokenness and where the promise of God's love and justice are made real for all people and all Creation.

Lectionary

Malachi 4:1-2a *A day of blistering heat for the arrogant; a day of healing sun for the righteous*

Psalm 98 *In righteousness will the Lord judge the world.*

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 *Do not be idle, but do what is right for the sake of Christ.*

Luke 21:5-19 *Jesus speaks of wars, endurance, betrayal, and suffering for his sake*

Hymn Suggestions

If You But Trust in God to Guide You (ELW 769)

Lord of our Life (ELW 766).

Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me (ELW 767)

How Firm a Foundation (ELW 507)

God Alone Be Praised (ACS 1023)

Prayers of Intercession

United with your saints across time and place, we pray for our shared world.

A brief silence.

Reviving God, keep your church active in its mission and ministry. Encourage bishops, deacons, pastors, and lay leaders to risk boldly in their proclamation and fill them with wisdom and endurance for challenging times. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Renewing God, as the northern hemisphere prepares for winter, make us mindful of the ordered beauty of your creation. Teach us to treasure cycles of rest and new life. Help us care for what you have made. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Loving God, accompany all who make sacrifices for the sake of others. Safeguard first responders and active duty military personnel. Grant peace to veterans and heal any wounds in body, mind, or spirit. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Healing God, your people cry out to you. Sustain doctors, nurses, and hospital personnel in their tireless work. Uphold mental health professionals and those in their care. May the sun of righteousness rise on all who are sick (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Uniting God, unite this assembly in its shared mission and ministry for the sake of the gospel (*specific ministries or initiatives may be named*). Highlight ways we can better work together and give us patience to work through disagreement. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.** *Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Consoling God, abide with all who grieve for loved ones who have died (*especially*). Comfort us with the promise of resurrection and new life with you. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.** Accept these prayers, gracious God, and those known only to you; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Nov. 20 – Christ the King / Reign of Christ

On this last Sunday of the Church Year, we anticipate a renewed Creation, which God envisioned in the One sent to transform and save.

Lectionary

Jeremiah 23:1-6 *Coming of the shepherd and righteous Branch who will execute justice*

Psalms 46 *I will be exalted among the nations.* (Ps. 46:10)

Colossians 1:11-20 *Hymn to Christ, firstborn of all creation; peace through his blood*

Luke 23:33-43 *Jesus is crucified between two thieves: you will be with me in Paradise*

Hymn Suggestions

Shine Jesus Shine (671 ELW)

Crown Him with Many Crowns (ELW 855)

Beautiful Saviour (ELW 838)

The Reign of God, like Farmer's Field (ACS 952)

Soon and Very Soon (ELW 439)

Prayers of Intercession

United with your saints across time and place, we pray for our shared world.

A brief silence.

We pray for your church. Embolden denominations and faith-based organizations in creative and collaborative ministries and increase our work for the sake of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the earth. Protect waterways from pollution and animal habitats from destruction (*local water sources or protected lands may be named*). Guide us in careful stewardship of waters, plant life, and animals. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the nations of the world. Instill in every leader's heart a desire for justice and peace. Support the work of international collaborations that seek the goals of health and joy for all people (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for all who are undermined or oppressed. Amplify the voices of the unheard and break open stubborn systems of injustice. Bring about your righteousness and fill us all with your redeeming light. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for this assembly. Guide our pastor/s, deacon/s, and council members in discernment, and nurture new leaders with fresh ideas. Give this congregation a spirit of discipleship and service. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.** *Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give thanks for all who have died in the faith (*especially*). Console us who mourn and comfort us with the beautiful promise of life in your kingdom. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.** Accept these prayers, gracious God, and those known only to you; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Resources used by Permission from Sundays & Seasons

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These worship outlines have been prepared by Gail Berg, Synod of Alberta & the Territories