

Where Two or Three are Gathered: Worship for Small Assemblies

Ordinary Time:

Lectionary 10 to Lectionary 17 Year A

The 2nd Sunday after Pentecost to the 9th Sunday after Pentecost

June 11th to July 30th, 2023

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Planning Notes for Leaders

Season and Lectionary

On Sunday June 11th, we transition to a new season of the Church Year, that long season of green that arrives with summer each year. Often this long season is called the second half of the liturgical calendar. The first half beginning with Advent and takes us all the way to Pentecost Sunday. Throughout the first half of the year we tell the story of Jesus' life and ministry. From Mary's pregnancy in Advent through Jesus' baptism, journey to Jerusalem, and passion. In Easter we hear resurrection stories and by the end of the season we transition to focusing on the community of disciples preparing to be the Body of Christ in the world. It is a whirlwind of movement and narrative!

In the second half of the calendar comes the long season of Green where we slow down the pace of the action. Rather than an over-arching story of Jesus' life, we focus on Jesus' teaching, parables, miracles and other vignettes from his years of ministry.

Green Sundays are often colloquially referred to as Pentecost Sundays, though this is technically incorrect. They are Sundays AFTER Pentecost, which is a season that lasts just one day - the 50th day after Easter Sunday. The long season of green doesn't have a proper name, but the most accurate term is 'Ordinary Time.' The season is not ordinary as in boring or average, but rather ordinary refers to 'ordinal time' or counting time. We literally count the Sundays after Pentecost and we begin with the second Sunday after Pentecost on June 11th. We will continue counting until the final green Sunday on November 19th, the twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost. Almost half a calendar year!

In Lectionary Year A our focus is the Gospel of Matthew, beginning with Jesus' call to the first disciples. Matthew's gospel was written to the Hebrew community living in Jerusalem, contending with how to be followers of Jesus living in heart and holy city of the Hebrew faith. Throughout the Gospel, Matthew is often trying to demonstrate how Jesus fulfills the messianic prophecies of the Torah and Tanakh (Old Testament).

Another feature of the readings for Ordinary Time is that there is a choice for the First reading and Psalm to be made between the Thematic set of readings and the Semi-Continuous. The official lectionary of the ELCIC is the Semi-Continuous option, but our sibling church to the south the ELCA uses the Thematic readings. Thus the Thematic set is often the default when using Sundays and Seasons planning tools. The Thematic first reading and Psalm are chosen to

fit the theme of the Gospel reading thus might jump around from book to book in the Old Testament. The Semi-Continuous usually follows readings connected to one other (this year beginning with the story of the call of Abram and Sarai, and following with the stories of their descendants) but might not obviously fit the themes of the Gospel reading.

Seasonal visuals and music

The colour for Ordinary Time is Green. Given the length of the season, a possible variation throughout would be to begin with light shades of green for vestments, paraments and other fabric decor. Throughout the season or part-way through changes to darker and darker greens can mark the passage of time. Potted plants and flowers may also feature prominently in the seasonal decorations.

Given the variety and open nature of the season, Ordinary Time is the chance to choose all the music that isn't particularly connected to other seasons. Often there are hymns and songs that speak to particular Gospel texts or other readings. There also might be other music that connects with the green theme of growing and nature during this time.

Seasonal variations on the liturgy

Ordinary Time is usually a chance to simplify the liturgy, particularly during the summer months.

Ordinary Time can be a time to play with omitting the Kyrie or Hymn of Praise or both. Other hymns may be substituted in their place, or a simpler service that moves from Apostolic Greeting to the Prayer of the Day is also possible.

In the season of Ordinary Time the Apostle's Creed is normally used.

Other liturgies may be acceptable on Sunday mornings such as Morning Prayer.

Special hymn choices for a set time might be advisable, such as the same call to worship or offertory during a period of 4 or 6 weeks, or even through all the summer months.

The seasonal prayer options provided by Sundays and Seasons for Confession and Forgiveness, the Offering Prayer, the Thanksgiving at the Table and the Blessing will often contain themes related to the Gospel stories of the season and/or related to growing and new life.

Suggested Orders for Holy Communion and Service of the Word

Order for Holy Communion

Gathering

Greeting
Kyrie (Option to Omit)
Hymn of Praise (Option to Omit)
Prayer of the Day

Word

First Reading (Choose between Thematic and Semi-Continuous)
Psalm (Choose between Thematic and Semi-Continuous)
Second Reading
Gospel Acclamation
Gospel Readings
Sermon
Hymn of the Day
Nicene Creed
Prayers of Intercession
 ELW p. 105 offers helpful guidelines for crafting prayers from the assembly
Peace
Offering

Meal

Eucharistic Prayer
(ELW p. 65-70, choose between forms V-XI)

Lord's Prayer
Communion
Prayer after Communion

Sending

Blessing
The God who calls across the cosmos
and speaks in the smallest seed
✠ bless, keep, and sustain you
now and to the end of the age.
Amen.
(From SundaysandSeasons.com)
Sending Hymn
Dismissal

Order for Service of the Word

Gathering

Greeting

Kyrie (Option to Omit)

Hymn of Praise (Option to Omit)

Prayer of the Day

Word

First Reading (Choose between Thematic and Semi-Continuous)

Psalm (Choose between Thematic and Semi-Continuous)

Second Reading

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel Readings

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Nicene Creed

Prayers of Intercession

ELW p. 105 offers helpful guidelines for crafting prayers from the assembly

Peace

Offering

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD for Ordinary Time Summer A - adapted by Rev. Erik from ELW Service of the Word

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you holy God of creation and life: even though she laughed you spoke life into Sarah's womb, you called Hagar to return to her son Ishmael and you stilled Abraham's hand on the mountain top.

For your life giving Word, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

By your covenant you called your people Israel to follow your commandments: the blessing of love found at the water well, the promise descendants given to wrestling nations, and salvation discovered anew in Egypt. For your life giving Word, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

Through Christ your Word incarnate, you speak to us and inspire us to faith: hope and promise given in parable and story, abundance found in loaves and fish, calm found on stormy waters.

For your life giving Word, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

Through the Spirit you call out to your people: taking up our heavy burdens, granting us yokes that are easy and light, and giving us visions of the kingdom. Trusting that you hear our prayers

and come near to those who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Sending

Blessing

Blessing

God the eternal Word,
who dwells with us in Jesus,
and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,
✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

(From SundaysandSeasons.com)

Sending Hymn

Dismissal

Communion Hymn Suggestions for the Season

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly ELW 461

Now We Join in Celebration ELW 462

As the Grains of Wheat ELW 465

By Your Hand You Feed Your People ELW 469

Let Us Break Bread Together ELW 471

Eat This Bread ELW 472

Bread of Life from Heaven ELW 474

We Come to the Hungry Feast ELW 479

Here is Bread ELW 483

Lord Jesus Christ, lover of all ACS 1019

Spirit, open my heart ACS 1043

Jesus Christ, our blessed Savior ACS 963

Lectionary 10 / 2nd Sunday After Pentecost June 11th, 2023

Lectionary:

Hosea 5:15—6:6; Genesis 12:1-9 (semicontinuous); Psalm 50:7-15; Psalm 33:1-12 (semicontinuous); Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26 (Green)

Hymn Suggestions:

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty ELW 859

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee ELW 836

There's a wideness in God's mercy ELW 588

Let us Ever Walk with Jesus ELW 802

Mercy, we abide in you ACS 1077

Lectionary 11 / 3rd Sunday After Pentecost June 18th, 2023

Lectionary:

Exodus 19:2-8a; Genesis 18:1-15 [21:1-7] (semicontinuous); Psalm 100; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 (semicontinuous); Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35—10:8 [10:9-23] (Green)

Hymn Suggestions:

God is here! ELW 526, WOV 719

Rise up, O saints of God! ELW 669

Lord, you give the great commission ELW 579

Hallelujah! We sing your praises/ Haleluya! Pelo tsa rona ELW 535

Hope of the world ACS 1085

Lectionary 12 / 4th Sunday After Pentecost June 25th, 2023

Lectionary:

Jeremiah 20:7-13; Genesis 21:8-21 (semicontinuous); Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18; Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17 (semicontinuous); Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39 (Green)

Hymn Suggestions:

How firm a foundation ELW 796

Lord of our life ELW 766

Day by Day ELW 790

If you but trust in God to guide you ELW 769

Before the waters nourished earth ACS 1049

Lectionary 13 / 5th Sunday After Pentecost July 2nd, 2023

Lectionary:

Jeremiah 28:5-9; Genesis 22:1-14 (semicontinuous); Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18; Psalm 13 (semicontinuous); Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42 (Green)

Hymn Suggestions:

Oh, praise the gracious power ELW 651

As we gather at your table ELW 522

Lord, speak to us, that we may speak ELW 676

The Spirit sends us forth to serve ELW 551

Build a longer table ACS 1062

Lectionary 14 / 6th Sunday After Pentecost July 9th, 2023

Lectionary:

Zechariah 9:9-12; Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 (semicontinuous); Psalm 145:8-14; Psalm 45:10-17 or Song of Solomon 2:8-13 (semicontinuous); Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 (Green)

Hymn Suggestions:

Jesus shall reign ELW 434

Give Me Jesus ELW 770

Come to me, all pilgrims thirsty ELW 777

Just a closer walk with thee ELW 697

Look who gathers at Christ's table ACS 977

Lecternary 15 / 7th Sunday After Pentecost July 16th, 2023

Lecternary:

Isaiah 55:10-13; Genesis 25:19-34 (semicontinuous); Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13; Psalm 119:105-112 (semicontinuous); Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (Green)

Hymn Suggestions:

Open now thy gates of beauty ELW 533, LBW 250

Lord, let my heart be good soil ELW 512

For the fruit of all creation ELW 679

Send me, Jesus ELW 549

As rivers flow from a distant spring ACS 1046

Lecternary 16 / 8th Sunday After Pentecost July 23rd, 2023

Lecternary:

Isaiah 44:6-8; Wisdom 12:13, 16-19 (alternate); Genesis 28:10-19a (semicontinuous); Psalm 86:11-17; Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24 (semicontinuous); Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 (Green)

Hymn Suggestions:

We plow the fields and scatter LBW 362

Oh, worship the King ELW 842

Come, ye thankful people, come ELW 693

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve ELW 551

Womb of life and source of being ACS 948

Lecternary 17 / 9th Sunday After Pentecost July 30th, 2023

Lecternary:

1 Kings 3:5-12; Genesis 29:15-28 (semicontinuous); Psalm 119:129-136; Psalm 105:1-11, 45b or Psalm 128 (semicontinuous); Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 (Green)

Hymn Suggestions:

Gather Us In ELW 532

Be thou my vision ELW 793

Jesus, priceless treasure ELW 775

In thee is gladness ELW 867

Many will come ACS 982