

Where Two or Three Are Gathered: Worship for Small Assemblies

July 7 – Aug. 25, 2024

Year B

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Worship in the Summer is a unique time. Often there are many people away on vacation and the people who regularly take certain roles (like reading the supplied sermon, or playing the musical instruments, or praying the prayers) are not available.

It's a great time to read those 'rubrics' closely (those red words in the hymnal that give direction.) For example on pg. 211 of the Evangelical Lutheran worship we can read at the top of the page "*The service may begin with confession and forgiveness or with thanksgiving for baptism. Otherwise, the service begins with gathering song OR with the prayer of the day, preceded by the greeting.*"

Keep Learning! This one rubric does not contain the full understanding of what's going on nor does it emphasize the deeper meaning behind why choices are made. If you want to dig deeper then perhaps now would be a good time to plug:

The Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon's "LIFT" program (Leading in Faith Today) <https://layacademylift.ca>

AND

Join us at the National Worship Conference: The Stones Cry Out: Praying with the Land" July 18-21, 2024 in Regina, Saskatchewan. <http://www.worship.ca/event/worship-conference/>
So many great opportunities to learn more!

BUT BE FREE THIS SUMMER. Adapt! I've given the Prayer of the Day that goes with the readings of the day down below. Maybe keep it simple? Read those rubrics in your worship book and see what else can happen.

For example: The opening song every Sunday could be Nate Hogue's "Gather us in" <https://lutheransoutdoors.bandcamp.com/track/gather-us-in>
You could play the music and sing along or once everyone knows it it's great to just sing with your voice.

Or Thanksgiving for Baptism: Gather everyone around the font... splash in the water... take a moment to pause as the rubric below suggests... and name all the water that is important for giving you life (Slip and slide? Cold drinking water? A vacation river or lake? We pray:

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty,

you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring,
you are the fire of rebirth.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams.

Here particular bodies or sources of water may be named.

Honour to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow.

Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you.

You are the fountain of resurrection.

Praise to you for your saving waters:

Noah and the animals survive the flood,

Hagar discovers your well.

The Israelites escape through the sea, and they drink from your gushing rock.

Naaman washes his leprosy away,

and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.

Praise to you for the water of baptism

and for your Word that saves us in this sacrament.

Breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here and into all creation.

Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears.

Wash away the sin within us, and drown the evil around us.

Satisfy all our thirst with your living water, Jesus Christ, our Savior,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Prayer of the People:

If you don't have a paid source for Prayer of Intercession like (SundaysandSeasons.com) you can also offer space for people to pray out loud or in their hearts. This works well in smaller gatherings because trust is quickly established and it likely won't run super long. Again, the rubrics are our friends where it says on ELW pg. 218: *Prayers reflect the wideness of God's mercy for the whole world—*

for the church universal, its ministry, and the mission of the gospel;

for the well-being of creation;

for peace and justice in the world, the nations and those in authority, the community;

for the poor, oppressed, sick, bereaved, lonely;

for all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit;

for the congregation, and for special concerns.

Additional prayers may come from the assembly.

Prayers of thanksgiving for the faithful departed may include those who recently have died and those commemorated on the church's calendar.

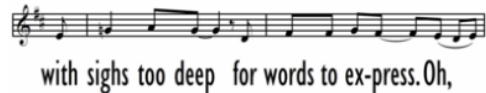
So open the prayers say "With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's Creation.

Then SING a refrain (Maybe the same one all summer... or change it... depending on ability and time):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yh9ivThjOz4> (Lord Listen to Your Children Praying)

OR

ELW: 180



It might look like this:

Leader: “With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God’s Creation.

SONG

Leader: We pray *for the church universal, its ministry, and the mission of the gospel; for the well-being of creation; (PAUSE TO PRAY)*

Hear us O’ God:

SONG

Leader: We pray *for peace and justice in the world, the nations and those in authority, the community; for the poor, oppressed, sick, bereaved, lonely; (PAUSE TO PRAY)*

Hear us O’ God:

SONG

Leader: We pray *for all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; for the congregation, and for special concerns. Prayers of thanksgiving for the faithful departed may include those who recently have died (PAUSE TO PRAY)*

Hear us O’ God:

SONG

Leader: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Saviour. **AMEN.**

Peace to all who gather, and plan, and worship!

Rev. Sean Bell – Resurrection Lutheran Church – Saskatoon Saskatchewan
ELCIC Program Committee for Worship

Sunday, July 7, 2024

Lectionary 14, Year B

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.
Amen.

Readings and Psalm

Semicontinuous First Reading and Psalm

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10

The reign of David

Psalm 48

Great is the Lord, and highly to be praised, in the city of our God. (Ps. 48:1)

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

God's power made perfect in weakness

Mark 6:1-13

Sending of the Twelve to preach and heal

Sunday, July 14, 2024

Lectionary 15, Year B

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.
Amen.

Readings and Psalm

2 Samuel 7:1-14a

The promise of the Lord to David

Psalm 89:20-37

Your love, O Lord, forever will I sing. (Ps. 89:1)

Ephesians 1:3-14

Chosen in Christ to live to the praise of God's glory

Mark 6:14-29

The death of John the Baptist

Sunday, July 21, 2024

Lectionary 16, Year B

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.

Amen.

Readings and Psalm

2 Samuel 11:1-15

Bathsheba and Uriah wronged by David

Psalm 14

God is in the company of the righteous. (*Ps. 14:5*)

Ephesians 2:11-22

Reconciled to God through Christ, our peace

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Christ healing the multitudes

Sunday, July 28, 2024

Lectionary 17, Year B

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.

Amen.

Readings and Psalm

2 Samuel 11:1-15

Bathsheba and Uriah wronged by David

Psalm 14

God is in the company of the righteous. (*Ps. 14:5*)

Ephesians 3:14-21

Prayer for wisdom, strength, and Christ's indwelling

John 6:1-21

Christ feeding the five thousand

Sunday, August 4, 2024
Lectionary 18, Year B

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.

Amen.

Readings and Psalm

2 Samuel 11:26—12:13a

David rebuked by the prophet Nathan

Psalm 51:1-12

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

Ephesians 4:1-16

Maintain the unity of the faith

John 6:24-35

Christ the bread of life

Sunday, August 11, 2024
Lectionary 19, Year B

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.

Amen.

Readings and Psalm

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

David laments Absalom's death

Psalm 130

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. (*Ps. 130:1*)

Ephesians 4:25—5:2

Put away evil, live in love

John 6:35, 41-51

Christ, the bread of life

Sunday, August 18, 2024
Lectionary 20, Year B

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.

Amen.

Readings and Psalm

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

Solomon's prayer for wisdom

Psalm 111

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. (*Ps. 111:10*)

Ephesians 5:15-20

Filled with the Spirit, sing thanks to God

John 6:51-58

Christ the true food and drink

Sunday, August 25, 2024
Lectionary 21, Year B

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.

Amen.

Readings and Psalm

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

Solomon's prayer at the temple dedication

Psalm 84

How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord. (*Ps. 84:1*)

Ephesians 6:10-20

Put on the armor of God

John 6:56-69

The bread of eternal life