

HEARTS @ HOME



A Worship Service for Your Household

Sunday July 12, 2020

6th Sunday After Pentecost

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

CREATING AN ALTAR SPACE AT HOME

+ **Green is the color for Pentecost**

Find a scrap piece of green cloth, an old green shirt, a cloth napkin/towel, or even a piece of green paper and place it in the middle of your kitchen table or coffee table.

+ **Add a small bowl with water**

This is a reminder of our baptism.

+ **Add a small candle to light as you worship**

For households with little ones or apartments that don't allow wax candles, you could use a battery-operated candle, or a candle made from construction paper, if an open flame is not an option.

+ **Add a small cross to the space**

This could be a cross from your wall, a necklace charm, or one made from paper or scrap wood.

WHO IS THIS FOR?

+ **Everyone and anyone who lives in your household can gather together.**

Adults, children, college students, and even your pets!

SUGGESTIONS AS YOU PREPARE FOR WORSHIP AT YOUR TABLE

+ **Children/Youth could help lead different parts of your worship time.**

They can set up the altar space, read the Bible story, share their own prayers, sing, or color.

+ **You can invite grandparents, grandchildren, cousins, neighbors, friends, etc. to join you for worship using your phone, or Facetime/Skype or another video chat platform.**

Feel free to email them this worship order so they can follow along, too!

+ **If you are a 1-person household** and are unable to call or video chat family or friends, perhaps you could write in a journal as a part of these worship experiences.

+ **Prepare a space that is most comfortable for you.**

You can worship at your kitchen table, coffee table, on the rug in the kids' room, or in your sunroom surrounded by green plants and windows. Enjoy a cup of coffee or tea, or have a bowl of apple slices or snacks on hand! Worshipping at home gives you the opportunity to sit in your favorite chair or wrap up with your favorite blanket as you read God's word.

CREATIVE PRAYER IN YOUR HOME

+ **Create a prayer wall/box/basket for your weekly prayers**

Use a dry erase board, post-it notes on a wall or fridge door, a bulletin board, or scraps of paper

+ **Text prayers** and words of encouragement to loved ones. Snail mail notes & prayers are also great!

WORSHIP

+ GATHERING +

Tended by God our Sower, Jesus the Good Soil, and the Holy Spirit our sun and rain. **AMEN**

+ CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS +

God of goodness and mercy,
help us as we open our hearts and confess
our sins.

During this growing season it's difficult for us to wait;
We seek instant gratification, instead of patiently nurturing
the good things in our lives;

Our worries and fears hinder our ability to look forward with anticipation and hope;
Sometimes we forget during a growing season that we don't simply wait, there is work, preparation to be
done – faith practices like reading our Bibles, prayer, and worship that will encourage us in faith
and bear good fruit in our households and communities;

Other times we forget that Jesus continues to show us how to share the seed of God's word with others so
that all may know your love and grace.

We are truly sorry and ask for your forgiveness.
Help us to do what's right in the days to come;
Surround us and renew us with your grace.

AMEN

God is good, and loves us unconditionally, at all times and in all places.

By grace we have been saved.

In the name of Jesus our sins are forgiven.

AMEN.

+ PRAYER +

Nurturing God, you carefully and lovingly plant seeds, tend to us, and provide all that we need. Through your Son and the gift of the Spirit, we have also been given grace, so that, when we struggle in the rocks and weeds, we can be replanted in good soil – the truth of your Word - that allows us to freely be who we were planted to be. For these gifts, we praise you! In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

+ SCRIPTURE +

+ **Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

+ **Spark Story Bible:** The Sower (Pages 292-293)

+ **Northwest Synod of Wisconsin App:** Click the 'Bible' tab at the bottom.

+ REFLECTION ON GOD'S WORD +

Option 1: Click on your congregation's sermon video or live worship link

Option 2: Use the following questions for in-home conversation or personal reflection

Option 3: Use questions for reflection + Coloring Sheet (page 5)

Questions:

+ What are the rocks and weeds in your life right now (those things preventing you from growing in your faith)? What action can you take to remove those things from your life?

+ Even during a pandemic, we have the ability to share our faith and the good news of Jesus Christ with others – what's one way you or your household can do that in a new way?



WORSHIP

+ 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.



+ PRAYERS +

With all the people of God, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

- + Dear Creator, please grant us patience in action during this growing season, that we may be reminded, nurtured and inspired by the truth of your Word. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- + For all those who continue to work around the clock for answers, treatment, and effective solutions for Covid-19 in our communities and around the globe, that the wisdom, experience, and motivation of scientists and medical workers be appreciated and utilized for the well-being of all. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- + People are weary, Lord, and we hear the voices of those who are ill, grieving, lonely, hungry, scared or suffering. Grant them peace for their spirit, support from those who love them, and the assurance of Jesus' presence. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- + *Add your own prayers here...*

Loving God, we give all these prayers to you, trusting in your mercy and grace. **AMEN.**

+ OFFERING +

As people of faith we are called to continue strengthening the ministry of the church, even when we are physically distant. We invite you to prayerfully consider a gift to your congregation or the synod – as the body of Christ we work together to serve our neighbors.

WORSHIP

+ 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.**



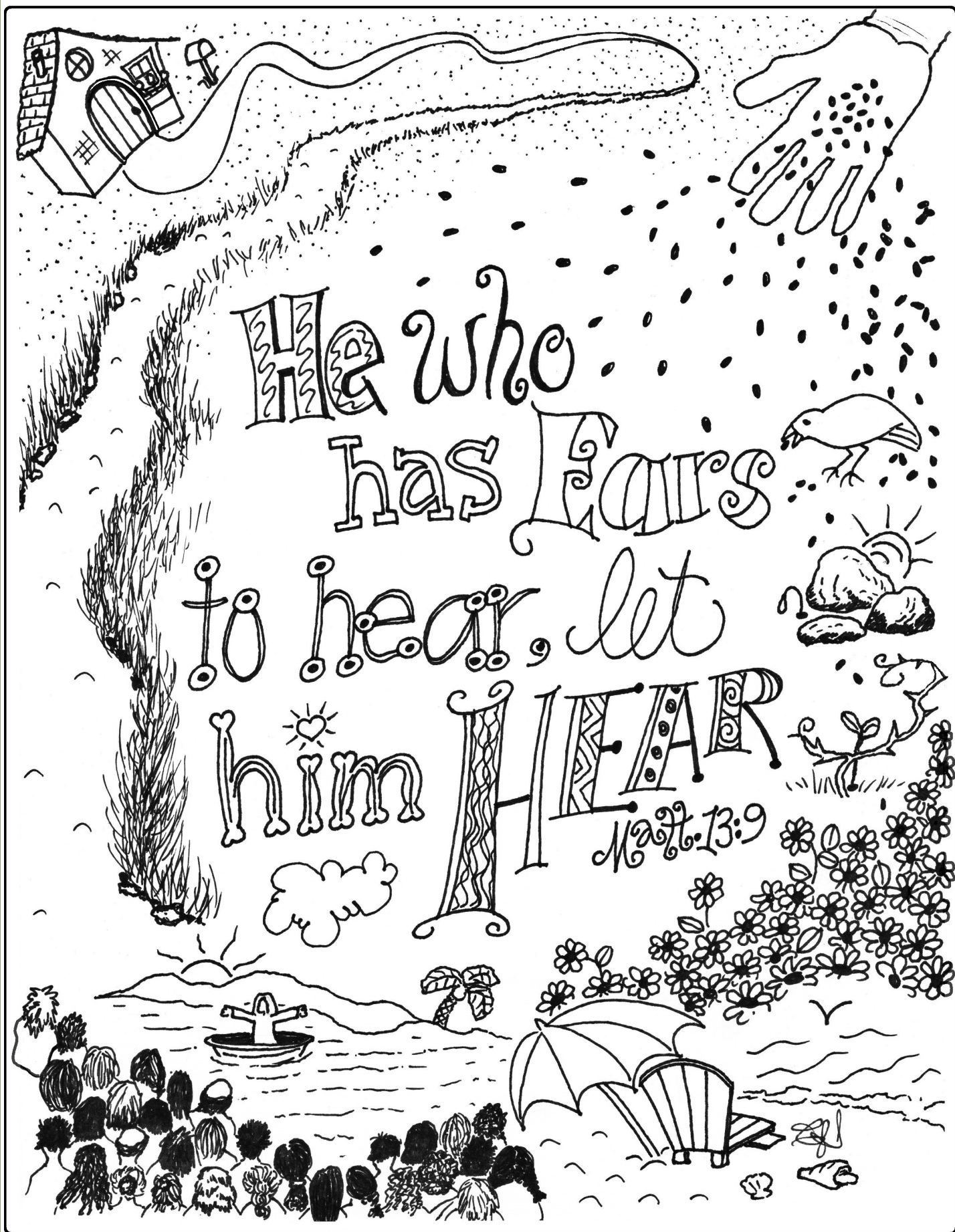
+ BLESSING EACH OTHER +

Using your pointer finger, dip it in the bowl of water and make the sign of the cross on another's forehead or the back of their hand saying, **"You are fearfully and wonderfully made."**
Take turns until all in the household have been blessed.

OTHER IDEAS FOR FAITH FORMATION DURING THE WEEK

- + Color the scripture page for reflection and relaxation (page 5).
- + Choose a faith formation activity from the Simple Summer resource:
<http://nswi.org/worship-faith-formation-at-home/summer-ministry>
- + Take some sabbath time including: a walk or hike outdoors, reading a book, calling a beloved relative or friend, listening to music, enjoying a nap, or tending to a garden.
- + Check in on someone else this week – what support do they need? How can you be a resource or source of joy for them right now?

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He who
has Ears
to hear, let
him HEAR
Matt. 13:9