

# HEARTS @ HOME



A Worship Service for Your Household

Sunday November 22, 2020

Christ the King Sunday

RCL: Matthew 25:31-46

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## CREATING AN ALTAR SPACE AT HOME

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+ **White or Green can be used for Christ the King Sunday**

Find a scrap piece of white/green cloth, an old shirt, a cloth napkin/towel, or even a piece of white/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.

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## WHO IS THIS FOR?

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

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

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## SUGGESTIONS AS YOU PREPARE FOR WORSHIP AT YOUR TABLE

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+ **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.

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## CREATIVE PRAYER IN YOUR HOME

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+ **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!

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## WORSHIP

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### + GATHERING +

In unity with the triune God, our Parent, Savior, Holy Spirit. **AMEN.**

### + CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS +

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

You teach us how to treat one another with compassion and love, to see Jesus in each and every person we encounter, yet it becomes all too easy for us to dismiss or criticize the situations of others;

The stories we read in the Bible that guide us and light our paths of faith in God are clear, yet, like the early listeners, we often don't completely comprehend what Jesus is saying about living faithfully for one another;

We become complacent toward poverty, hunger, homelessness, discrimination, abuse, and other injustices instead of seeing Jesus in everyone;

Our thoughts become clouded by our judgement, and suffering continues because we don't take actions;

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 +

O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### + SCRIPTURE +

+ **Matthew 25:31-46**

+ **Spark Story Bible:** Sheep and Goats (Pages 318 - 319)

+ **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:

- + When is a time when you felt judged about something? What were the circumstances? How did that make you feel? How might others feel when they receive judgement from us?
- + Jesus is quite clear in this week's gospel that living faithfully means actively working toward justice for those in need...what makes this difficult for us sometimes? In what way is your congregation or household engaged in this work?
- + How can we see Jesus in each and every person we meet? What might change if we begin to see others as children of God before anything else?

# 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.

- + Merciful God, much like dividing sheep and goats we are tempted to encourage division and judgement among other people; please change our hearts to see the value of each and every human life that you have created and guide us toward reconciliation with one another through Jesus Christ. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- + Exhausted spirits and weary bodies and minds are all too common, gracious Lord; grant us the patience and strength we need to continue adapting to this new "normal" and surround us with your presence so that we know you are with us no matter how challenging things may become. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- + God of creation you have given us all that we need – we thank you for your generosity and we celebrate the gifts that we have been blessed with. During this week of thanks, make us mindful that we have also been called to be a blessing to others, sharing what we have so that no one goes without. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- + For all those who are ill, grieving, hungry, lonely, those facing addiction, pain, warfare, or abuse, and for all others who are suffering in any way, we ask for the comfort only you can provide, loving Jesus. Lord in your mercy, **AMEN.**
- + *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.

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## WORSHIP

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### + 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 a beloved child of God."**  
Take turns until all in the household have been blessed.

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In everything give thanks, for this is  
1 Thessalonians 5:18

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