

HEARTS @ HOME



A Worship Service for Your Household

Sunday November 8, 2020

23rd Sunday After Pentecost

RCL: Matthew 25:1-13

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 +

Gathered in the name of God – Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. **AMEN.**

+ CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS +

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

We convince ourselves that we are prepared to follow you, but we discover that we have fallen short;

You give us your word, your guidance, your example, and your mercy, yet we behave as though we don't need you;

Our selfishness and greed distract us from the generosity you share with the world;

Sometimes, we ignore the needs and voices of others when we act with only ourselves in mind;

Other times we refuse to accept help because it may make us look helpless or weak;

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 justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

+ SCRIPTURE +

+ **Matthew 25:1-13**

+ **Spark Story Bible:** Ten Bridesmaids (Pages 314-315)

+ **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

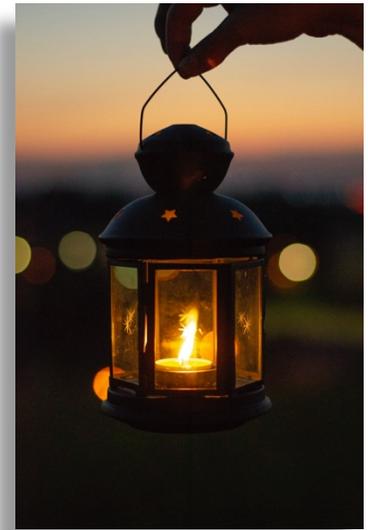
Option 3: Use questions for reflection + Coloring Sheet (page 5)

Questions:

+ What do you think it means to be prepared in your life of faith? What tools do we need to be prepared? Why is it important to be prepared?

+ The women in the gospel were divided – five prepared and five unprepared to meet the bridegroom; think of a time when you were one of unprepared in a group – how did that feel? How about when you were one of the prepared? What about that felt different?

+ What's an example of how we show grace to one another when we have the advantage? What impact does our reaction have on others?



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.

+ Abiding in the echo of this week's election, we rest our hope in you, God of grace, and we pray for your continued guidance and peace. Grant our elected leaders wisdom to make sound decisions, compassion to see and hear the stories of the most vulnerable, and integrity so they might be an example of healthy leadership and trust. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

+ We are thankful, Creator, for the gift of this earth, for the daily needs that you meet with food, shelter, clothing, and relationships; remind us of our responsibility to care for these things, so that generations to come can praise you for these good things and for all the ways you continue to love us. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

+ Lord God, we ask you to help us carry the burdens we cannot carry ourselves, and grant all who are weary the strength and support they need during difficult times. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

+ The struggles of your children are complex and we pray: for those who feel fear and uncertainty about the future, for those who are ill or grieving, for our neighbors and family whose identity is questioned or ridiculed, for those who face daily oppression, violence, or injustice, for those who don't have access to clean water or food, for those who are denied education, religion, or medical care, and for those who battle addiction, God of mercy, we ask for you to surround them with comfort and love. 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.

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.**

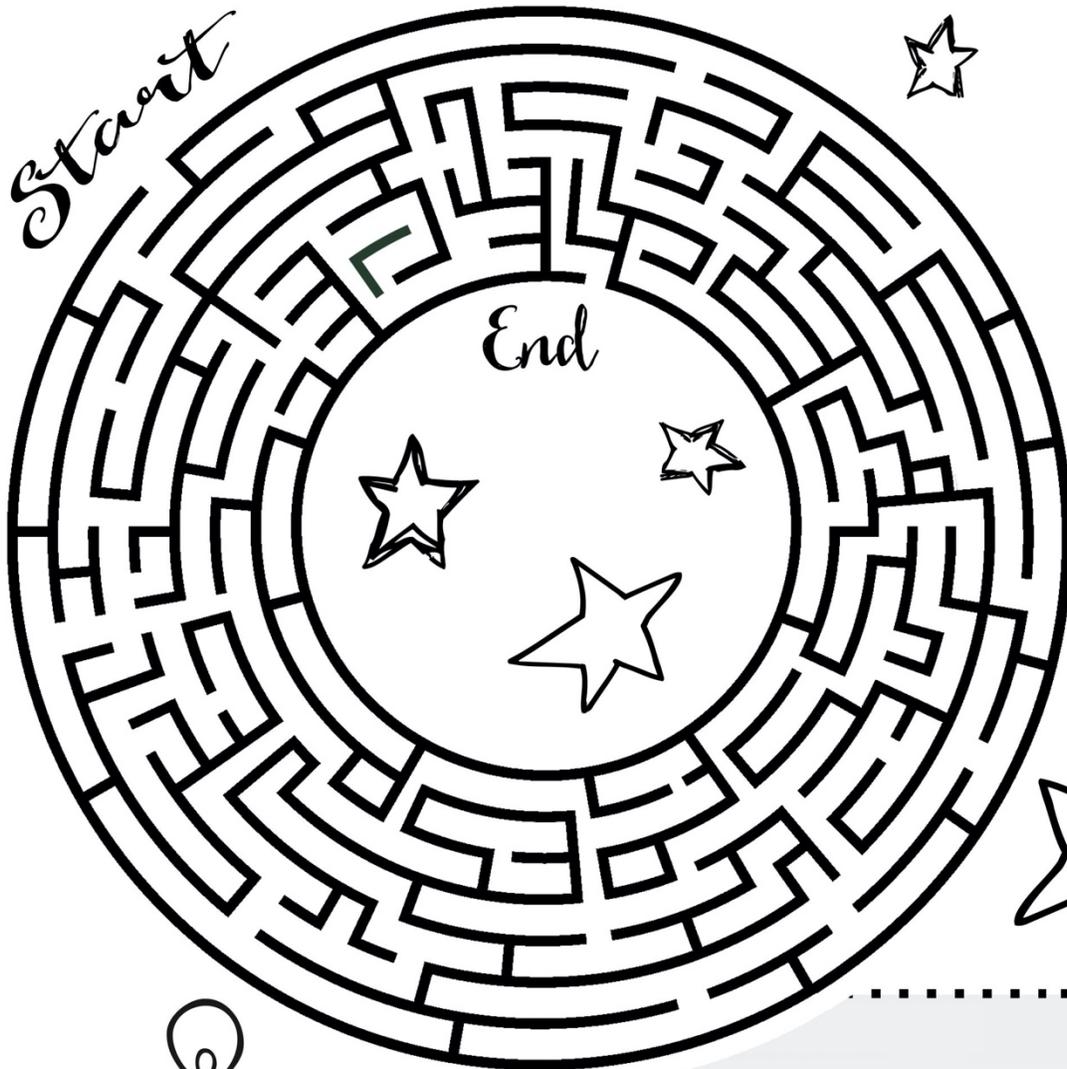


+ BLESSING EACH OTHER +

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

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Start



Thy word is a
lamp unto my
feet, and a light
unto my path.
Psalm 119:105

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