

# HEARTS @ HOME



A Worship Service for Your Household

Sunday, March 29, 2020

Lent Week 5

RCL: John 11:1-45

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## CREATING AN ALTAR SPACE AT HOME

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- + **Purple is the color for Lent, it suggests repentance** (humbling admitting our sins)  
Find a scrap piece of purple cloth, an old purple shirt, a cloth napkin/towel, or even a piece of purple construction 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
- + **Coloring sheets** done during in-home worship time can become visual prayers that you can display
- + **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 the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.  
**AMEN.**

## + CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS +

God our creator who gives us life,  
Help us as we open our hearts and confess our sins.

God of compassion,  
We know how easy it is to be bound by sin;  
We have let fear, anger, and selfishness get in the way of hope, love, and generosity;  
We worry about the unknown, instead of trusting what you have promised;  
We are tempted to do and say things that hurt relationships, instead of sharing the joy of Jesus' love for us.

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 +

God of boundless hope, your Son Jesus frees us from the weight of sin and death. Empower us with your Spirit, that we may be given new life in Christ, and freely serve our neighbors with love and compassion.

**AMEN.**

## + SCRIPTURE +

+ **John 11:1-45, Psalm 130**

+ **Spark Story Bible:** Lazarus (Page 440-443)

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

## + REFLECTION ON GOD'S WORD +

**Option 1: Click on your congregation's online weekly sermon video & watch it together**

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

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

### Questions:

- + In what way do you feel bound this week?
- + How has God transformed something in your life? What did that feel like?
- + Who in your life helps to cheer you up when you are sad?
- + What is something you love to do that gives you life?

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# WORSHIP

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## + 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.

+ We pray for our community, for the helpers, the farmers, the healers and comforters, those who provide support, and those who teach. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

+ For the leaders and decision makers, and for those who guide and serve the public, we pray that their work is grounded in compassion and wisdom. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

+ We pray for all who are struggling in mind, body and spirit, that they might experience and be strengthened by the life-giving presence of Jesus. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

+ For our friends, family, and colleagues who are living, working, and serving around the globe, we pray for their safety, health, and well-being. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

+ *Add your own prayers here...*

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

## + OFFERING +

*Although we may not be gathered for worship in a church building, as people of God we are called together to continue strengthening the mission of the church. As a household, here are some ideas for living and sharing generously.*

+ Gather a gift of money, or write a check, and send this monetary gift to your congregation in the mail; or if your congregation has online giving through an app or on their website, you can take a moment to send a gift digitally.

+ Write a card or letter to a grandparent, elder, shut-in or a resident at the care center.

+ Draw or color a picture to place at your home altar, or to give/mail to someone.

+ Share something you are grateful for or give/send a compliment to another person.

+ Help out with household tasks

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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 each household member has been blessed.

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## OTHER IDEAS FOR FAITH FORMATION DURING THE WEEK

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- + Look through photo albums or photo boxes, or swipe through your digital photos; share stories about the people in those photos; pray for those who you cannot be with right now; send them a text or letter, or give them a phone call to check in.
- + Make large signs with hopeful phrases or words and hang them in your front window or write them on your sidewalk with colorful chalk to share an encouraging message to your neighbors.
- + Invite the members of your congregation to make butterflies at home; display them somewhere special; bring them with you when worship resumes in your church building and fill the space with a communal sign of Jesus resurrection.
- + Take a walk around your neighborhood (perhaps with a pet or another member of your household); pray for your neighbors, your community, and creation as you walk.
- + Take some Sabbath time – including, but not limited to: a nap, reading a book, meditation/yoga, listening to music, doing a virtual tour of a museum, painting, taking a walk, or calling a trusted friend.
- + Perhaps some time for "holy creations":
  - + Make your own coloring book or doodle page with symbols of your faith
  - + Try Praying in Color (<https://prayingincolor.com/praying-in-color-praying-in-black-and-white>)
  - + Use Little People or other small figurines or puppets to tell a Bible story – video record it and share it with your pastor or youth director in a text or email.
  - + Make a resurrection garden (<https://walkingonsunshinerecipes.com/project-resurrection-garden-for-easter/>)

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