

SUGGESTED ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR 4-26-2020

- **Opening Psalm – Psalm 99:1-3**

- **Pray (or sing the prayer) for God’s presence and blessing:**

Come, thou almighty King, help us thy name to sing; help us to praise.
Father, all-glorious, o’er all victorious, come and reign over us, Ancient of Days.

Come, thou Incarnate Word, gird on thy mighty sword; scatter thy foes.
Let thine almighty aid our sure defense be made, and our souls on thee be stayed;
thy wonders show.

Come, holy Comforter, thy sacred witness bear in this glad hour.
Thou who almighty art, rule now in every heart, and ne’er from us depart,
Spirit of power.

To thee, great One in Three, eternal praises be hence evermore!
Thy sovereign majesty may we in glory see, and to eternity love and adore. ¹

- **Sing a song of praise – Some suggestions:**

- *Lord, Our Lord, Your Glorious Name*, (LUYH #500; Grey Psalter #8; Blue Psalter #13)
- *Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid* (LUYH #523; Grey #425; Blue #393)²

- **Confess your sins:** (sing or read³, or pray your own prayer of confession)

I cry out for your hand of mercy to heal me.
I am weak; I need your love to free me,
O Lord, my rock, my strength in weakness—
come rescue me, O Lord.
You are my hope; your promise never fails me.
And my desire is to follow you forever.
For you are good, for you are good to me.

- **Read a promise of forgiveness – 2 Corinthians 5:16-21**

- **Read God’s Law – Litany: The Ten Commandments w/ responses from the Epistles⁴**

¹ Notice, the Trinitarian structure of this hymn/prayer. Vs 1 (Father), vs 2 (Son), vs 3 (Spirit), vs 4 (Trinity). “Come, Thou Almighty King” (Public Domain) – LUYH #492; Grey #246; Blue #317.

² This hymn is based off a 9th Century Latin hymn. Some of the words it uses may be unfamiliar to us: “Paraclete”(vs. 2) = an advocate; like an attorney. Jesus calls the Holy Spirit ‘another Paraclete’ in John 14:16. “unction” (vs 2) = anointing. “sevenfold energy”(vs 3) = seven is the number of perfection and completion. The Spirit’s ‘sevenfold energy’ is his perfection and completeness by which he gives us his grace.

³ “Good to Me” (words by Craig Musseau) – LUYH #620

⁴ LUYH #722 or Grey Psalter p. 1014. You can have different members of your family read the leader/response. Or you can read the Ten Commandments from Deuteronomy 5:6-21 if you prefer not to do a litany.

You shall have no other gods before me.
**For from him and through him
and to him are all things.
To him be the glory forever!**

You shall not make for yourself an idol.
**In Christ we have redemption,
the forgiveness of sins.
He is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn over all creation.**

You shall not misuse the name
of the Lord your God,
for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless
who misuses his name.
**Let us continually offer to God
a sacrifice of praise—
the fruit of lips that confess his name.**

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
Six days you shall labor and do all your work,
but the seventh day is a Sabbath
to the Lord your God.
**Let the Word of Christ
dwell in you richly
as you teach and admonish
one another with all wisdom,
and as you sing psalms, hymns,
and spiritual songs
with gratitude in your hearts to God.**

Honor your father and your mother,
so that you may live long in the land
the Lord your God is giving you.

**Children, obey your parents
in everything,
for this pleases the Lord.**

You shall not murder.
**Be kind and compassionate
to one another,
forgiving each other,
just as in Christ God forgave you.**

You shall not commit adultery.
**You are not your own;
you were bought at a price.
Therefore honor God
with your body.**

You shall not steal.
**Those who have been stealing
must steal no longer,
but must work,
doing something useful with their hands,
so that they may have something
to share with those in need.**

You shall not give false testimony
against your neighbor.
**Instead, speaking the truth in love,
we will in all things grow up into him
who is the Head, that is, Christ.**

You shall not covet your neighbor's house
or anything that belongs to your neighbor.
**I have learned to be content whatever
the circumstances.**

- **Read or sing a song of thanksgiving:** Suggestions:
 - Psalm 136⁵
 - *Give Thanks* (LUYH #358)
 - *Give Thanks to God, for Good is He* (Grey #182; Blue #284)
 - *Forever* (LUYH #578)
- **Say a prayer of intercession.** Here are a couple of options:
 - One simple option for your prayer of intercession is to have each person mention 1-3 people from the church or community that you can pray for.
 - Use the prayer on pages 4-5 of this document which is an adaptation of a congregational prayer by Charles Spurgeon.
- **Read or Recite Psalm 119:9-16**

⁵ With its repeated refrain "His love endures forever", Psalm 136 is a great Psalm to include children or other family members. You can read it responsively with children speaking the refrain on each verse – or have one person lead and the others respond each time with the refrain.

- **Read (or sing) a prayer for the illumination of the Word:**
Holy Spirit, living Breath of God, breathe new life into my willing soul.
Bring the presence of the risen Lord to renew my heart and make me whole.
Cause your Word to come alive in me; give me faith for what I cannot see;
give me passion for your purity; Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.⁶
- **Watch the sermon on Facebook:** www.facebook.com/crclucas
- **Sing a Song of Response, Suggestions:**
 - *Dwell in me, O Blessed Spirit* (LUYH #745; Grey #427; Blue #397)
 - *Spirit of the Living God* (LUYH #749; Grey #424)
- **Close with a doxology, e.g.**
Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (LUYH #965; Grey #638; Blue #493)

⁶ *Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God* vs 1; Words by Keith Getty, Stuart Townend. You can find the song in LUYH #755.

PRAYER

Our Father, we come to you this morning in Christ Jesus. We can think back to the first time that we realized that the law was fulfilled in Christ, wrath appeased, death destroyed, sin forgiven, and our souls saved. What a blessed time that was! Never did the sun seem to shine so brightly as then, when we saw the Sun of Righteousness, and basked in His light.

Every day since then we have had proofs of your faithfulness and the good news of your Son. We have seen the power of Jesus' blood to every day make us clean; we have seen the power of the Holy Spirit for daily teaching, guidance and sanctification; and now we want no other rock to build upon than that which we have built upon; we desire no other hope than the hope which you have given us in the gospel, the hope to which we have fled for refuge, the hope that we still have as an anchor of our soul – a hope that is sure and steadfast.

But Lord, we come this morning again looking to Jesus as if it were the first time. Whatever our sin may be; whatever your pure and holy eye can see that is wrong in us, which we cannot see; we desire to come to Jesus as sinners, guilty, lost, ruined by nature, and again to look on him by faith, and to see Him hanging on the cross for us.

You know how sincerely we can say, "Lord, I believe, help my unbelief." We again declare that all our hope is centered in the atoning Sacrifice, and in the risen Savior, who has ascended into glory as a testimony of our justification, and of our acceptance in Him. Dear Savior, if we have, throughout our years, tried to add anything to this one foundation, if unconsciously we are relying now on the things that we know, or the things that we have experienced, or on the things that we have done, we want to run away from this heap of rags and get down on the one true foundation again. None but Jesus! None but Jesus! Our soul rests in none but Jesus; and we hate and loathe, with our inmost nature, the very idea of adding anything to what He has finished, or attempting to complete what is perfect in Him.

This morning, help us know and feel that there is no condemnation to us. Let us feel the completeness of the washing Christ has given us, the fullness of the righteousness which Christ has imputed to us, the eternal life that Christ has given to us, the unbreakable character of the union by which we are knit to Christ with ties that never can be broken; and may we today rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in ourselves.

And now, Lord we ask that you help all in our church, in our families, and in our community to look to Jesus Christ alone. We pray that they will come and embrace the Savior whom you, our great God, sent as the one mighty to save. Let the ones who are wandering cry out to you, and may they look to you; and as they look, let the eternal life pour into them again, by the energy of the Holy Spirit; and may they feel that whatever they have been or done in the past, they are restored like prodigal children to a feast of love, restored for ever to the Father's house.

And we pray, Lord, for those who are struggling mentally, or with temptation, those who feel like they are at the end of their rope. For those who feel like they have nothing left in themselves, give them enough to trust Christ; and when they can do nothing else, may they fall into the arms of the one who is Eternal Love. For those who are driven to the very edge of hope, and the cliff of despair is in front of them, grant them grace to fall into the arms of Jesus, there to find life from the dead.

We pray, Lord, that you will work this morning through your Word – that the sword of your Spirit will pierce us; and then show us the healing from your hands which were pierced for us. May we look to you, as the one who receives sinners, and may we come to you and live. We ask that this very morning,

while Jesus Christ is lifted up, many may look to Him and be cured of the serpent's bite for ever. You have promised to hear your people's prayer, and this is our prayer for the honor of your dear Son. You have promised that your Word would not return to you empty. Bring people to you and to your church by the preaching of the gospel this morning.

We ask for this blessing for all churches, and for all ministers of the gospel of Jesus. We ask for a revival of true godliness all over the world. We pray that you grant that these difficult times will drive your children nearer to you, and that it will deliver many from having a worldly spirit; and may it happen that as we might grow poor in one way, we will grow rich in another – by the sanctification of our losses and afflictions.

God be gracious to this country. Send your Holy Spirit more abundantly than ever; and we pray that in these times people will be reborn in Christ – more than we can count. Do this, we pray, in all nations, until all lands and peoples bow before you and all generations call you blessed.

We offer special prayers this morning for the next generations- for our children and young people. Bless our schools. Teach the teachers; guide the administrators. And may our homes, schools and churches be more than ever places where the lambs are cared for and tended, that they will grow up as sheep of the fold of Jesus. We pray that you hear all of our prayers and do for us abundantly more than what we can ask or even imagine, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.⁷

⁷ Adapted from a prayer by C.H. Spurgeon, which he prayed as the morning congregational prayer in his church on October 19, 1879; "The Life Look". *The Pastor in Prayer*; Banner of Truth Trust; Carlisle, PA, 2014; p. 89-94