

WORSHIP GOALS FOR WELCOME HOME

Welcome Home Sunday is a fall festival that encourages every member to be in worship. The stated goal is to get every member of your congregation to arrange their schedule so they are able to attend *Welcome Home* Sunday. Due to the fact that in many WELS districts teachers have conferences in October, we have proposed two dates: October 20 and October 27. Simply pick the date *opposite* of the teachers' conference, so that your teachers are available to attend *Welcome Home* Sunday. Again, the goal is to have every member present.

There is an unstated goal of the *Welcome Home* program. Every congregation has members who, for whatever reason, have drifted away from church. In many cases, they might feel guilty. *Welcome Home* Sunday provides an easy opportunity to come back. Again, the request is for *every member* to make sure they are able to attend *Welcome Home* Sunday. Our prayer is that when these members return for *Welcome Home*, the encouragement they receive will keep them coming back. We want all our members to be connected to the means of grace regularly.

To help achieve this goal, the *Welcome Home* program includes a worship plan with the following components.

- **A worship series**—While *Welcome Home* Sunday can potentially stand alone, research has found that worship series provide some impetus for people to attend worship more regularly. The sense that each week is interconnected gives people additional reason to attend weekly. The *Welcome Home* series runs for five to six weeks (depending on if *Welcome Home* Sunday is October 20 or 27). It includes the four week season of End Time. *Welcome Home* Sunday stresses the importance of Christian community, i.e. believers need to be knit into a close, Christian family. The four weeks of End Time stress various benefits we receive from being part of that Christian family... from being connected to the spiritual blessings delivered and reinforced at our church “home.”
- **Customizable worship folders**—A survey conducted by the members of WELS *Hymnal Project* found that 33% of WELS congregations print the entire service in a worship folder. Another 28% use a combination of the hymnal and a worship folder. (A common practice is to have the liturgy in a worship folder but to sing hymns out of the hymnal.) Worship folders make it much easier to follow along, especially for the non-WELS worship guest. Worship folders also allow for greater variety within the framework of the liturgy. An exciting component of the new WELS hymnal project is software that will allow congregations easily to produce high-quality worship folders. *Welcome Home* attempts to achieve this goal by providing worship folder templates that congregations can edit to fit their context and local practices, e.g. communion frequency and musical setting. (NOTE: PDF and MSPublisher formats are available. Worship folder versions in

Word will be made available late August. Congregations relying on Word can still plan ahead based on the PDF versions.)

WELCOME HOME SCHEDULE

As mentioned, *Welcome Home* has two proposed schedules to accommodate congregations that have teachers attending a conference in late October. The options:

TEACHERS' CONFERENCE ON:	October 20 th	October 27 th
October 20 <i>19th Sunday after Pentecost</i>	<i>N/A — Welcome Home has not started</i>	WELCOME HOME: THE NEED FOR CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY
October 27 <i>20th Sunday after Pentecost</i>	WELCOME HOME: THE NEED FOR CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY	WELCOME HOME: THE LOST ARE NOW FOUND
November 3 <i>End Time 1 Reformation</i>	WELCOME HOME: WHERE YOU ARE FREE TO BE YOURSELF	WELCOME HOME: WHERE YOU ARE FREE TO BE YOURSELF
November 10 <i>End Time 2 Last Judgment</i>	WELCOME HOME: WHERE YOU ARE PERFECTLY SAFE	WELCOME HOME: WHERE YOU ARE PERFECTLY SAFE
November 17 <i>End Time 3 Saints Triumphant</i>	WELCOME HOME: TO AN EVERLASTING FAMILY	WELCOME HOME: TO AN EVERLASTING FAMILY
November 24 <i>End Time 4 Christ the King</i>	WELCOME HOME: TO CHRIST'S GLORIOUS KINGDOM	WELCOME HOME: TO CHRIST'S GLORIOUS KINGDOM

If your church does not need to worry about a teachers' conference, simply pick whichever date works best for you.

LESSON CHOICES

The lessons for *Welcome Home* Sunday, October 20 or 27, are free texts, though Hebrews 2 and Matthew 11 occur elsewhere in the lectionary. Ecclesiastes 4 does not occur in CW or CWS lectionaries.

The lessons for the optional week of *Welcome Home*—WELCOME HOME: THE LOST ARE NOW FOUND—are those designated for Pentecost 17, scheduled for October 6. The Sundays after Pentecost are somewhat interchangeable. Thus, if this optional week is needed, a solution is to use the lessons normally scheduled for Pentecost 20, Pentecost 21, Pentecost 22, or Pentecost 24 on October 6. That allows the standard lessons for October 6 to be used on October 27 if that optional week of *Welcome Home* is needed.

The lessons for the final four weeks of *Welcome Home* are all the standard lessons for the Season of End Time, Year C.

MODIFYING TEMPLATES TO INCLUDE HOLY COMMUNION

For the first week of the sermon series, we have provided two worship folder templates: one without Holy Communion, another that includes Holy Communion. That is meant to serve as an example so that congregations can alter the templates for subsequent weeks, which do not have Holy Communion, to fit the local communion practices.

Modifying the worship folder templates to include Holy Communion requires inserting four pages. Worship folders are printed on legal sized paper, front and back, in landscape mode. (The sheet of paper is 14 inches wide by 8.5 inches tall.) This yields four 8.5 by 7 inch pages per sheet of paper. Our worship folder templates are twelve pages long, i.e. three sheets of paper. Including Holy Communion adds one sheet of paper, which gives you four additional pages. In the *Welcome Home* worship resources, we have provided a four-page layout of both *Service of Word and Sacrament* and *The Common Service*. We have received reprint permission for the canticles of the former. The latter is in public domain. Thus, either liturgy may be inserted into the *Welcome Home* worship folders.

For communion Sundays, congregations may wish to follow the traditional practice of singing the *Gloria* at the start of the service. We have included a metrical version of the *Gloria* that may be used for free. It is set to the tune ELLACOMBE. On *Welcome Home* Sunday, a congregation might choose to insert that metrical *Gloria* in the place of *All People That on Earth Do Dwell* after the absolution.

COPYRIGHT COMPLIANCE

For songs that are printed within the worship folder, when possible, *Welcome Home* uses hymns that are in public domain. In some cases—certain hymns and the Psalm of the Day—congregations need to purchase music to use the worship folders as they are currently structured. Hyperlinks to publishers are provided in this document. If congregations do not wish to purchase the recommended music, they will need to modify the worship folder, deleting the copyrighted song. In the editable worship folder files, there is a semi-transparent box over copyrighted songs. When the music is purchased, these boxes may be deleted. Edit the “copyright information” box on the last page of the worship folder to match your congregation: your One License, CCLI license, etc.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

If your regular practice is to offer a Children’s Message, this is placed after the Psalm of the Day. Why there? It allows children to come forward during the final refrain of a psalm (or musical response to a psalm). If you do not offer a children’s message, simply delete it from the worship folder template.

PAGE 2 OPTIONS

The worship folder templates leave page 2 as a place to share congregation specific information. It is *not* really intended to be an announcements page. A “best practice” is to have announcements, notes, and news in a separate document—the weekly bulletin. Page 2 is to offer helpful instructions: church/clergy contact information, directions to the restrooms or nursery, etc.

STYLE GUIDE

The worship folders for *Welcome Home* use various Merriweather Sans fonts for titles, headings, and explanatory text. You will need it on your computer if you open the editable worship folder files. It is available for free from Google Fonts (<https://fonts.google.com/specimen/Merriweather+Sans>). The body text of the worship folders is in Times New Roman, the font used for *Christian Worship* music graphics. Typically, the worship folder font is 11 point with a 1.1 point spacing between lines. You might also use a 10.5 point font with a 1.25 point spacing as was used in C18 worship folder templates.

Welcome Home Worship Plan: Lessons and Music, Week by Week

Welcome Home Week #	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
Date	October 20 or 27	October 27 (if needed)	November 3	November 10	November 17	November 24
Church Year	Sundays after Pentecost	Sundays after Pentecost	Reformation	Last Judgment	Saints Triumphant	Christ the King
Theme of the Day	WELCOME HOME: THE NEED FOR CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY	WELCOME HOME: THE LOST ARE NOW FOUND	WELCOME HOME: WHERE YOU ARE FREE TO BE YOURSELF	WELCOME HOME: WHERE YOU ARE PERFECTLY SAFE	WELCOME HOME: TO AN EVERLASTING FAMILY	WELCOME HOME: TO CHRIST'S GLORIOUS KINGDOM
Lessons (boldface indicates recommended sermon)	Ecclesiastes 4:7-12 Hebrews 2:9-18 Matthew 11:25-30	Hosea 3:1-5 2 Corinthians 2:5-11 Luke 15:1-10	Jeremiah 31:31-34 Romans 3:19-28 John 8:31-36	Jeremiah 26:1-6 2 Thess 1:5-10 Luke 19:11-17	Isaiah 65:17-25 Revelation 22:1-5 Luke 20:27-38	Jeremiah 23:2-6 Colossians 1:13-20 Luke 23:35-43
Opening Hymn	CW365 <i>Love Divine, All Love Excelling</i>	CW379 <i>Amazing Grace</i>	Gathering Rite based on CW370	CW220:1&2 <i>O'er the Distant Mountains Breaking</i>	CW511:1-3 <i>For All the Saints</i>	CW579 <i>Lift High the Cross</i>
After Absolution	CW233:1,5 <i>All People That On Earth Do</i>	CW581 <i>Father, We Praise You</i>	All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name	CW570:4:1,2 <i>Lo, He Comes With</i>	CW551:4-6 <i>For All the Saints</i>	CW341:1,4 <i>Crown Him with Many</i>
Psalms of the Day	Psalms 133 (by Barbara Boertle and Dale Witte, permission granted to reprint)	Psalms 128 (by Marty Haugen — <u>Must purchase music</u> ; see plan for that week)	Psalms 46 (by J. William Greene — <u>Must purchase music</u> ; see plan for that week)	Psalms 90 (read) Sung response = CW570:4:3	Psalms 150 (read) Sung response = CW551:7	Psalms 45 <i>God of Love We Praise You</i> (by Hal Hopson — <u>Must purchase music</u> ; see plan for that week)
Verse of the Day	Hebrews 2:12 (spoken); Sung response = refrain from CW165	Hebrews 2:11 (spoken); Sung response = refrain from CW165	John 8:31,32 (spoken) Sung response = free text sung to SINE NOMINE	Matthew 24:42 (spoken) Sung response = CW570:4:4	Revelation 7:15 (spoken) Sung response = CW551:8	Revelation 22:14 (spoken) Sung response = CW157:2
Hymn of the Day	CW532 <i>God Is Here! As We His</i>	CW388 <i>Redeemed, Restored,</i>	CW200 <i>A Mighty Fortress</i>	CW337:1-4 <i>Delay Not! Delay Not</i>	CW5728 <i>Jerusalem the Golden</i>	CW351 <i>Hail, O Once-Despised</i>
Holy Communion?	The <i>Welcome Home</i> worship folders are designed so that four pages can be inserted, changing the layout from 12 to 16 pages. In those four new pages, congregations can paste the liturgical text and TIFF images of the <i>Sanctus</i> and <i>Agnus Dei</i> . Worship leaders will need to choose the desired distribution hymns.					
Closing Hymn	Oh, How Good It Is (Keith Getty, Stuart Townend — <u>Must purchase music</u> ; see plan for that week)	Oh, How Good It Is (Keith Getty, Stuart Townend — <u>Must purchase music</u> ; see plan for that week)	CW203 <i>Lord, Keep Us Steadfast In Your Word</i>	CW382 <i>My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less</i>	CW417 <i>I'm But a Stranger Here</i>	CW5727 <i>There is a Higher Throne</i> Purchase music if you don't have CW5.

Welcome Home Sunday

October 20 or 27

WELCOME HOME: THE NEED FOR CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Where to hold worship?

Your congregation gets 80% of members to attend on *Welcome Home* Sunday. What does that mean for seating with your normal worship schedule? Would everyone fit? Larger congregations might plan to add a service on this day. If the church has a school with a gymnasium, another option is to worship there.

Thematic Tie-In

This is the Sunday that introduces the concept of the entire series: God’s children need one another. Think of all the “one another” passages. “Be devoted to one another” (Romans 12:10). “Encourage one another” (2 Corinthians 13:11). “Serve one another” (Galatians 5:13).

Worship Welcome

The worship folder includes thematic comments under Our Worship Series and Our Theme for Today. In addition, a verbal worship welcome will help clearly set the day’s theme before worshipers—especially the first Sunday—and might cover some of the same themes as the sermon introduction. Some degree of redundancy is okay, even beneficial. Perhaps something like this:

Today’s worship has a special emphasis—Welcome Home. Some of you might agree that this place is “home” and those around you are brothers and sisters in Christ. Others might say it doesn’t feel that way to them. There are even negative feelings, hurt feelings about our life together. In worship today—in songs, readings, and sermon—we will hear God’s intent for our gathering, for our family. We will acknowledge our weaknesses and failures, and we will thank God for our strengths—praying for his blessing on us as family in Christ.

SERVICE NOTES

After the absolution: *All People That On Earth Do Dwell*

The text is a fine response to the absolution. OLD HUNDREDTH is a favorite tune to sing. There are dozens of settings available for organ, piano, and other instruments.

The Psalm of the Day: Psalm 133

WELS Congregational Services has received permission from the authors to share the setting of this psalm, as well as reprint it. Congregations may use this psalm in their worship folder without having to worry about any copyright compliance. This psalm setting is being considered by the WELS hymnal project for the full psalter.

The music for the psalm has a gospel swing. Two settings are provided in the *Welcome Home* worship resources. One setting is for SATB harmony. An option would be to have the choir sing the psalm. The other setting is in a unison voice with piano accompaniment. There, the

worship folder template calls for the refrain to be introduced by a cantor (the congregation joins in for subsequent refrains) and the verses sung by a cantor.

The correct attribution is on the final page of the worship folder template.

❑ An “old-school” approach to the Verse of the Day

In *Christian Worship* a “general verse” is provided, a sung version of John 20:31—“*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! These words are written...*” Some pastors read the Verse of the Day that actually ties in with the theme of the day, and then the congregation sings the general verse. Technically, this results in *two* Verses. What is offered in this worship folder template is a simple response. The pastor speaks the Verse of the Day that ties in with the theme of the day which focuses on God knitting us into a Christian family. The congregation sings the joyful Alleluia response using the final phrase from CW165, *O Sons and Daughters of the King*, a very familiar hymn. This approach to the Verse of the Day mimics what is done in *Christian Worship*’s “Common Service” and the old TLH: the pastor speaks the verse with the congregation responding “Alleluia!”

Another option is to have the choir sing a Verse of the Day or an anthem that focuses on the concept of Christian family, Christian community, etc.

❑ The closing hymn: *Oh, How Good It Is*

The closing hymn for *Welcome Home* Sunday (and the optional Sunday) is a beautiful new hymn slated for the new WELS hymnal. It is written by the same team that gave us *In Christ Alone*. The following are different options for using this hymn.

- Option 1: Purchase this hymn at <https://store.gettymusic.com/us/song/oh-how-good-it-is/>. Both hymnic (four-part block chord) and piano/vocal options are available. The worship folder template calls for the choir or soloist to sing the first verse. This is a “best practice” when introducing a new hymn.
- Option 2: Purchase a SATB choir arrangement from NPH: <https://online.nph.net/choral-satb-oh-how-good-it-is-hoelscher.html>. Then use either the pianistic or hymnic option from Getty Music (option 1) to accompany the congregation on verse three.
- Option 3: Use either the SATB version or one of the versions from Getty Music as a choir/solo piece on the kickoff Sunday. Then repeat the hymn on one or more Sundays during End Time with choir/solo on verse one, at least for the second usage.

The worship folder template can be used only if you purchase the music. If you choose not to, then delete the graphic and substitute another hymn. The correct copyright attribution for *Oh, How Good It Is* is found on the final page of the worship folder template. This is a special permission *only* for *Welcome Home*; usage does not need to be reported in the usual way.

If you celebrate Holy Communion...

For this week we have provided a worship folder template for a service that includes Holy Communion. It is meant to serve as an example so that congregations can alter the other templates to fit the local communion practice. Two things to note:

- **The metrical *Gloria* can be used for free.** Traditionally, the *Gloria in Excelsis* is sung during

the Divine Service. Thus, in this worship folder template, a two-verse metrical version of the *Gloria* has replaced *All People That on Earth Do Dwell*. A spoken *Kyrie* (“Lord, have mercy.”) is included in the confession of sins. Permission for use of this version of the *Gloria* has been granted the author. This two-verse *Gloria* is set to the tune ELLACOMBE (same as the hymn *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*). Correct attribution is found on the final page of the template.

- **The Service of Word and Sacrament may be printed in the worship folder.** We have received permission from the author of the *Sanctus* and *Agnus Dei*. Correct attribution is found on the final page of the template. If you choose to swap in the *Common Service* order, that is in public domain.

Final Sunday after Pentecost October 27 (if needed) **WELCOME HOME: THE LOST ARE NOW FOUND**

Do we need to use this week?

In some of our districts, teachers' conferences are scheduled in the days before October 27 and some teachers might not be back by Sunday. Since you want *every* member present on *Welcome Home* Sunday, you do NOT want to have *Welcome Home* Sunday on the same weekend. So if your district has a conference scheduled just before October 27, you DO need this week's service. It allows you to have *Welcome Home* Sunday on October 20. It gives you a "bridge" between that Sunday and the season of End Time, which begins on November 3. In summary:

If your church has teachers gone for a conference just before October 20: *Welcome Home* Sunday is October 27. The sermon series runs five weeks: October 27, November 3, 10, 17, and 24.

If your church has teachers gone for a conference just before October 27, *Welcome Home* Sunday is October 20. The sermon series runs six weeks: October 20, October 27, November 3, 10, 17, and 24. You would then need to use this service.

Thematic Tie-In

This Sunday addresses a common reason members drift away from church: guilt. They believe (falsely!) that the people who go to church tend to be very upright in their behavior. This can be perpetuated by the fact that some in the church may indeed have a self-righteous attitude. The aim of this service is to drive home the reality that a church is actually made up of individuals who are all wrestling with their sin, yet all are redeemed by grace. In fact, the mission of the church is to seek those who are lost in sin, and to pull them into the family of God. Welcome home!

SERVICE NOTES

After the absolution: *Father, We Praise You*

This hymn, found in the "Morning" section of the hymnal, is in public domain. It is a gem! It not only has a beautiful text, but the musical setting is easy and fun to sing. Want to make it special? CLICK HERE <https://hymndescants.org/> for free descants to many well-known hymns. The one for CHRISTE SANCTORUM is lovely and joyful.

The worship folder template illustrates a "best practice." It is wise, on occasion, to explain what happens in the liturgy. Worship folders allow you to do this without breaking up the flow of the service with verbal announcements. Thus, you have a footnote in the worship folder. It explains that *Father, We Praise You* is one of the oldest hymns in Christendom and was traditionally used in the Sundays after Pentecost. Thus, not only is it a hymn people enjoy singing, it communicates a connectedness that takes place in worship. We are joining with Christians who have sung *Father, We Praise You* for well over a millennia! Understanding that fact adds to one's joy as they sing.

❑ Psalm of the Day: Psalm 128

This version of Psalm 128 comes from the popular *Celebration Series* put out by GIA Publications. To use the worship folder template as it is, you will need to purchase the music. This setting, by Marty Haugen, can be purchased [HERE](#). The worship folder calls for a cantor or minister to introduce the refrain. The congregation then immediately sings the refrain. The cantor or minister sings the verses, with the congregation coming in on the refrain. The correct attribution for this psalm is found on the last page of the worship folder template.

If you do not wish to use this setting of the Psalm of the Day, simply delete it from the worship folder template. Substitute in the psalm and setting of your choice. Another option would be to have the choir sing a psalm or anthem that fit the theme of the day.

❑ Verse of the Day

The Verse of the Day follows the practice outlined in the previous week. The pastor speaks the verse. The congregation responds with the Alleluias from the final phrase of CW165.

❑ Closing hymn: *Oh, How Good It Is*

Oh, How Good It Is was the closing hymn on *Welcome Home* Sunday. Your people loved it! So sing it again. No need to have the cantor/choir introduce it this time.

❑ If you celebrate Holy Communion...

The Prayer of the Church and Lord's Prayer are found on page 10 in the worship folder template. If you want to modify this template to include Holy Communion, delete the Blessing from page 10. Then, insert four pages in between page 10 and page 11 of that template. In those four new pages, you can cut and paste the text and graphics for either *The Service of Word and Sacrament* or *The Common Service*. Select whatever distribution hymns you choose. The Blessing will now be on page 14. *Oh, How Good It Is* will be on page 15.

End Time 1 / Reformation

November 3

WELCOME HOME: WHERE YOU ARE FREE TO BE YOURSELF

Thematic Tie-In

Each set of lessons for Reformation stresses a slightly different aspect of the Reformation. In Year C, the concepts of truth and freedom are prevalent. Thus, the *Welcome Home* theme for this Sunday is “You are free to be yourself.” Freedom is often widely misunderstood, perhaps especially in America. Freedom is viewed as the ability to do whatever you want. But a scriptural understanding of freedom grasps that we are only free when we live according to our Creator’s intention. We think of St. Augustine’s illustration of the fish, taken out of the pond and thrown onto the bank. The fish has not been set free to live in a bigger world than the pond. The fish has been destroyed because it now lives contrary to its design. The Gospel, from John 8, teaches us that “The truth will set you free.” As we learn in Scripture what God is really like, how he views us in his grace, we are set free from the terror of God that gripped Martin Luther in the early part of his life. And we are set free to be what God has called us to be—part of his family. “A slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever.” Welcome home!

SERVICE NOTES

☐ Gathering Rite: dialogue, confession, and *All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name*

The worship folder template shares a Gathering Rite used on Reformation in a number of WELS congregations. It utilizes verses from *All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name*. Typically, a “best practice” is to always include music for the sung portions of the liturgy in a worship folder. However, because this is a very well-known hymn and for the sake of space, just the text is provided in the template.

NOTE: In some WELS congregations, this Gathering Rite is done as a cross processional. The pastor(s), a crucifer (the person carrying a processional cross), and acolytes (individuals to carry processional candles, if available) start at the back of the nave. At the beginning of worship, the congregation rises and turns to face the processional cross. The group would process in during the first two verses of *All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name*.

☐ The Psalm of the Day: Psalm 46

This festival setting of Psalm 46 can be purchased [HERE](#). There are multiple downloadable pieces of music for various types of instruments. The refrain is based on EIN FESTE BERG. The worship folder calls for a cantor or choir to introduce the refrain. The congregation then immediately repeats the refrain. The cantor/choir sings the verses, in unison or harmony, a cappella or accompanied. The congregation joins in on the refrains. The correct attribution for this psalm is on the final page of the worship folder template.

If you choose not to use this setting of Psalm 46, simply delete it from the template and substitute in a different psalm or choir anthem.

Verse of the Day with Response

The worship folder calls for the pastor to read the Verse of the Day. The congregation responds with a song that captures common Reformation themes. This response includes “Alleluias” which are typically part of a Verse of the Day. The song is set to the familiar tune SINE NOMINE (CW551, *For All the Saints*).

Prayer of the Church

A “best practice” is that the Prayer of the Church be a collection of petitions offered by the Church for fellow believers and the world in general, *not* a recollection of what was already said in the sermon or worship service. But for festive occasions, having a special Prayer of the Church can be edifying. Here is one such example.

If you celebrate Holy Communion...

To insert one of the communion liturgy templates (either *Service of Word and Sacrament* or *Common Service*), insert four pages between page 11 and 12. On page 11, cut the Blessing and Closing Hymn and paste those at the end of page 15. There is now room to add the communion liturgy and graphics on pages 12, 13, 14, and the top of 15.

Other special music?

In the *Welcome Home* series, this is the Sunday most likely to receive special musical treatment. Dream big! Portions of a concertato may be used for all or part of the opening hymn, giving some stanzas to a choir, or for the Hymn of the Day. Another setting of Psalm 46 from the choir library may be substituted for the one proposed.

End Time 2 / Last Judgment

November 10

WELCOME HOME: WHERE YOU ARE PERFECTLY SAFE

Thematic Tie-In

This is the day in the Church Year that drives home the fact that nothing in the world is “safe.” The world is tainted by sin, making it dangerous. For that very reason, Creation will be destroyed. But in our true “home”—the Church—we are safe. People can relate. They feel safest in their home. The reality is, no earthly home can *really* keep you safe. But within the Church, you are safe from everything, including condemnation and the fires of Judgment Day. Thus, this day really stresses another reason why we want to be in that “home.” Welcome home!

SERVICE NOTES

❑ Progression based on *Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending*

Though included in the Advent section, this hymn is perfect for this day. The worship folder template uses its traditional melody, HELMSLEY, as found in *Christian Worship Supplement* (704). Both text and tune are public domain. If your congregation does not own *Christian Worship Supplement* to provide the accompaniment, a setting of HELMSLEY is available with the *Welcome Home* resources.

Note the emotional progression:

- The first two verses are the response to the absolution. They should be played joyfully and at a good tempo.
- The third verse is sung in response to the Psalm of the Day, Psalm 90. Psalm 90 contains a heavy message. It recalls the fact that our sins arouse God’s consuming anger. This beautifully sets up the text for verse three. It reminds us that God’s consuming anger fell upon Jesus, evidenced by the fact that “those dear tokens of his passion still his dazzling body bears... those glorious scars.” Strip down the accompaniment on this verse. Play it softly and more slowly to carry the weight of what is being said.
- The fourth and final verse is sung as the response to the spoken Verse of the Day. This final verse includes a triple Alleluia, a traditional part of the Verse of the Day. The text is joyful. Let that be reflected in the accompaniment, with volume and tempo back up. Consider adding a descant. You can find a free one [HERE](#). If your choir or soloist can’t handle the descant, note that the organ part can provide the descant even without singers.

❑ Hymn of the Day: *Delay Not! Delay Not*

The worship folder template calls for the singing of only the first four verses of CW337. This is not done primarily for length. Instead, this suggestion is made because verse 4 ties in most closely with the day. “*The hour is at hand. The earth will dissolve, and the heavens will fade. The*

dead, small and great, in the Judgment must stand. What power, then, O sinner, can lend you its aid?" That question is well answered in the sermon!

❑ **If you celebrate Holy Communion...**

To insert one of the communion liturgy templates, insert four pages between page 11 and 12. On page 11, cut the Blessing and Closing Hymn and paste those at the end of page 15. There is now room to add the communion liturgy and graphics on pages 12, 13, 14, and the top of 15.

End Time 3 / Saints Triumphant

November 17

WELCOME HOME: TO AN EVERLASTING FAMILY

Thematic Tie-In

The goal of the *Welcome Home* series is to stress reasons it is beneficial to be within the Church. This week offers a very existential one: being part of God's family allows you to face the death of a loved one with hope and peace. You know they are not "lost." They are *triumphant*. On *Saints Triumphant*, we praise God that we have an extended family that is living in glory now. Moreover, we look forward to being reunited with them, when they will say to us, "Welcome home!"

Carnation memorials?

A practice that may be meaningful for this day is decorating your chancel with carnation memorials. Instead of having one or two large flower arrangements, the pulpit, font, altar, and other chancel furniture can be covered with carnations. Carnations can be purchased at your local florist typically for less than \$1. A congregation would need to make a one-time investment in enough small vases. Those too can be found for less than \$1. Some examples: white vases [HERE](#); clear vases [HERE](#).

This requires preparation weeks in advance. Members need to be given time to submit names. You can have a sheet in the entryway/narthex. You can call for names to be submitted by e-mail to the church secretary. You could hand out special cards which members can put in the collection plate.

It needs to be lovingly shared that the call is for names of *Christian* loved ones now deceased. Congregations can then list those names in the worship folder (insert as many pages as you need, two columns per page) or an bulletin insert. A "best practice" is to ask for members to give the formal first and last name of a deceased Christian loved one, and their relation to the church member. E.g. "John Doe, father of James Doe." (Not "John Doe, father of James Doe, father-in-law of Julie Doe, grandfather of Joshua and Jessica Doe.")

SERVICE NOTES

Progression based on *For All the Saints*

For All the Saints is an extremely popular hymn in public domain, making its use in the worship folder permissible. The one drawback of this hymn is the length—eight verses. The worship folder breaks this lovely hymn up into more manageable portions.

- The Opening Hymn consists of verses 1 to 3. There is a logical break in thought at the end of these verses.
- Verses 4 to 6 are a response to the absolution. These too group together thematically. *Christian Worship* also has these verses set to four-part harmony. Thus, there is a different "feel" from the opening hymn.

- Verse 7 is a response to Psalm 150, which is read responsively by the presiding minister and congregation.
- Verse 8 is a response to the Verse of the Day, which is read by the presiding minister. As these hymn verses end with “Alleluia,” they serve as a fitting response to the verse.

Consider using a special setting for the response to the Psalm and Verse. The free descant site referenced above has an option.

❑ **Hymn of the Day: *Jerusalem, the Golden***

The worship folder template calls for the version found in *Christian Worship Supplement* (728). The text and tune THAXTED are both in public domain. We have included two settings of THAXTED in the *Welcome Home* worship resources in case your congregation does not own *Christian Worship Supplement*.

❑ **Prayer of the Church: with commemoration for the faithfully departed**

The worship folder template suggests a special Prayer of the Church. After thanking God for all our loved ones who have died in Christ, we remember their names. A common practice is for the presiding minister to read the name, then a bell tolls once, then the deceased’s confirmation verse is read responsively.

If your congregation wishes to use this practice, you must consider what works best in your setting. In older or larger congregations, it is probably best to list *only* those Christians who died in the past year. In newer congregations, it may be possible to cover two or three years or to remember the names of *everyone* who has died since the founding of the congregation.

❑ **If you celebrate Holy Communion...**

This is the most challenging worship folder template for which to suggest modifications, since the Prayer of the Church may vary greatly from congregation to congregation. If the congregation decides to utilize memorial carnations and list memorialized individuals in the worship folder, that too will add pages. However, the process is the same as with previous weeks. Congregations will need to insert four blank pages into the worship folder. That would give enough space to cut and paste the communion liturgy and canticle graphics.

End Time 4 / Christ the King

November 24th

WELCOME HOME: TO CHRIST'S GLORIOUS KINGDOM

Thematic Tie-In

The entire *Welcome Home* series is an expansion on the biblical metaphor of believers as family. As we conclude the Church Year, we see that this is also a *royal* family. We are part of a glorious, everlasting Kingdom.

SERVICE NOTES

Response to the absolution: *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

This is one of the most popular hymns in the Christian Church. Both the text and tune are in public domain. Do you have a trumpeter to play the descant on the second verse?

Psalm of the Day: Psalm 45

This setting of Psalm 45 by Hal Hopson is part of a collection known as *The People's Psalter* that you can purchase [HERE](#). Yes, this is a book with over 100 different psalms. However, you will come to use many of them. Hopson's approach was to craft very simple, easy to learn refrains. Thus, they are quickly learned, even by children. Hopson also will paraphrase psalm texts to fit some popular, common melodies. These psalms can be played on organ or piano. Many include settings for other accompanying instruments as well. This resource includes a CD with TIFF graphics for other worship folders you may produce. It is a great resource!

If you don't wish to use this version of Psalm 45, delete it out of the worship folder and substitute in a different psalm or song. This would also be a fine place for a choir anthem.

Verse of the Day with response — CW157:2

We have followed this pattern for the Verse consistently throughout End Time: the presiding minister reads the verse and the congregation responds in song. For this Sunday, the response is verse 2 of CW157, *Jesus Christ is Risen Today*. That verse encourages believers: "Hymns of praise then let us sing... unto Christ, our heavenly King." It also includes multiple Alleluias, a traditional response to the Verse of the Day.

Closing Hymn: *There Is a Higher Throne*

This is hymn 727 in *Christian Worship Supplement*. To use the graphic in the worship folder template, your congregation needs a license allowing reprint rights for CWS.

If you don't have CWS, you can purchase the song [HERE](#). The copyright info in the worship template is for those who do not have CWS. Those using CWS digital files should report usage according to the CWS README file.