

# Worship Plan - Church Year C

## 2021-2022



7/10/2022 - Proper 10

### **SERIES THEME**

#### ***FOCUSED***

A unique feature of Luke's Gospel is the section in the middle often called "the travel narrative." This lengthy section began in chapter 9 when Luke told us that Jesus "resolutely set out for Jerusalem" (v51). While there are many events and side trips that occur during this travel narrative, Luke regularly stresses that nothing is going to dissuade Jesus from going to Jerusalem where he will fulfill his life's mission. Jesus was very focused.

Jesus' mission and the purpose of this journey was not to gain an earthly crown. Throughout this travel narrative, Jesus makes clear that this world was not his real home. He teaches that this world is not our real home either. Jesus is focused on heaven. His mission is to get us there by going to Jerusalem and making the ultimate sacrifice to pay for our sin. Nothing would stop him. "He set his face like flint," Isaiah tells us (50:7). Jesus was focused.

As we watch the focused actions of our Savior... as we focus carefully on his words... something wonderful happens. Jesus gives focus to our lives. We finally see things clearly: how to love our neighbor, the true purpose of worship, the blessing of prayer, what is treasure (and what is not). In this series, as Christ speaks to us through his Word, may he make us properly focused.

### **THEME OF THE DAY**

#### ***FOCUSED LOVE FINDS A NEIGHBOR RATHER THAN AVOIDING ONE***

We tend to think of distraction and focus as opposites. If someone is focused, they are not easily distracted by random events and encounters. If someone is focused, every decision about how to spend time and resources is calculated. Apart from Christ that type of focus spells disaster for our neighbor. We may dismiss the needs of our neighbor, thinking, "If I spend time helping him, that will distract me from other things I should be focused on." Today, Jesus teaches us that he has set us free to live a life of such distractions. No matter the neighbor and no matter his need, we are free to act in ways that seem senseless. We are free to actively seek out a neighbor in need. We are free to bear any cost and go any distance to serve them as Christ would serve them.

### **FIRST READING**

Ruth 1:1-19a – The LORD moves a Moabite woman named Ruth to care for her widowed mother-in-law, even though it meant leaving her people, her country, and her way of life behind.

### **SECOND READING**

Galatians 5:1,13-25 – Christ has freed us for a life of humble service and love.

### **GOSPEL**

\*\*\* Luke 10:25-37 – In a well-known parable, Jesus teaches us how one loves their neighbor.

## ORDER OF SERVICE

### **Conservative:**

Setting 4

### **Ambitious:**

Setting 2

### **Opening Hymn:**

599 - Come, Christians, Join to Sing

or

652 - Lord, Have Mercy

### **Psalm of the Day:**

Psalm 25A

### **Gospel Acclamation Proper Verse:**

Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. (1 John 4:11)

### **Gospel Acclamation setting:**

Setting 4

Setting 2

or

Additional Settings

Sets 1 or 2 for Propers 10-16

### **Hymn of the Day:**

768 - Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace

### **Third Hymn or Distribution Hymn:**

727 - Where Charity and Love Prevail

### **Closing Hymn:**

506 - For the Fruits of His Creation

### **Optional New Hymns, perhaps requiring advance preparation/cantors:**

727 - Where Charity and Love Prevail is a new tune, fairly straightforward chorale type setting

652 - Lord, Have Mercy was an option for Ash Wednesday; its text fits well with the gospel; if chosen, consider either the first option as the opening hymn, or not having an opening hymn, but either way, consider working 652 into the Confession section of the service

### **Notes for the conservative service:**

652 can be introduced with congregation singing refrain only

### **Notes for the ambitious service:**

# Worship Plan - Church Year C

## 2021-2022



7/17/2022 - Proper 11

### **SERIES THEME**

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### **THEME OF THE DAY**

#### ***FOCUSED WORSHIP SEEKS SERVICE FROM JESUS MORE THAN SERVICE FOR JESUS***

We call worship a "service." Which raises the question: who is serving whom? In answering that question, it is easy to focus on what we do in worship. "I set aside time in my week to come to church. I am singing praise to God. I brought him an offering. Clearly, I am serving him." True enough. However, as God speaks this week, he clarifies our focus, letting us see that worship is primarily about him serving us. Through Word and sacrament, he delivers every spiritual gift he wants us to receive. Our service to God is good. His service for us is perfect. Our service to God is important. His service for us is essential. God loves our service to him. But we desperately need his service for us. Receiving his service is actually the highest form of worship. "God wants to be worshipped through faith so that we receive from him those things he promises and offers" (Apology of the Augsburg Confession, Article IV).

### **FIRST READING**

Genesis 18:1-14 – With his gracious visit and his gracious words, the Lord serves Sarah with exactly what she needs—a strengthened faith.

### **SECOND READING**

Colossians 1:1-14 – Paul prays that God would serve the Colossians through the gospel, rescuing them from the dominion of darkness and empowering them to produce the fruit of good works.

### **GOSPEL**

\*\*\* Luke 10:38-42 – One sister served Jesus, which was lovely. The other sister wanted to be served by Jesus, which is the one thing needed.

## ORDER OF SERVICE

### **Conservative:**

Setting 4

### **Ambitious:**

Setting 2

### **Opening Hymn:**

919 - Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

or

913 - Come Away from Rush and Hurry

### **Psalm of the Day:**

Psalm 119:33-40

### **Gospel Acclamation Proper Verse:**

My word will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.  
(Isaiah 55:11)

### **Gospel Acclamation setting:**

Setting 4

Setting 2

or

Additional Settings

Sets 1 or 2 for Propers 10-16

### **Hymn of the Day:**

645 - One Thing's Needful

### **Third Hymn or Distribution Hymn:**

633 - Speak, O Lord

or

\*630 - Thy Strong Word

### **Closing Hymn:**

925 - On What Has Now Been Sown

### **Optional New Hymns, perhaps requiring advance preparation/cantors:**

913 - Come Away from Rush and Hurry requires introduction

### **Notes for the conservative service:**

### **Notes for the ambitious service:**

# Worship Plan - Church Year C

## 2021-2022



7/24/2022 - Proper 12

### **SERIES THEME**

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### **THEME OF THE DAY**

#### ***FOCUSED PRAYER CLAIMS WHAT GOD WANTS FOR US, NOT WHAT WE WANT FROM HIM***

In a sense, prayer comes naturally to us. We want so we ask. We hurt so we cry out. We are frustrated so we vent. We are blessed so we give thanks. So we sometimes define prayer as "speaking to God from the heart." Seems so easy. What does not come naturally, however, is the focused prayer God wants for us. We need focus when it comes to the basis of our prayers. Our prayers are based entirely on the unique and unearned relationship with have with God, our Father. We also need focus when it comes to the content of our prayers. Yes, we can speak from the heart and ask for anything we want. But our Father invites us to pray specifically for the things he wants to give us. Prayer is the opportunity to bring our will into conformity with God's will, not the other way around. We have much to learn about prayer. So, along with Jesus' disciples, we say, "Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1).

### **FIRST READING**

\*\*\* Genesis 18:20-32 – Abraham prays on the basis of what he knows about the LORD: that the LORD is a just judge, that the LORD shows mercy, and that the LORD invites us to be bold in our prayers.

### **SECOND READING**

1 Timothy 2:1-7 – Paul teaches us that the ultimate purpose for everything we ask is that God's will would be done.

### **GOSPEL**

Luke 11:1-13 – Jesus teaches us how to pray and how our Father will answer.

## ORDER OF SERVICE

### **Conservative:**

Setting 4

### **Ambitious:**

Setting 2

### **Opening Hymn:**

776 - With the Lord Begin Your Task

### **Psalm of the Day:**

Psalm 138A

### **Gospel Acclamation Proper Verse:**

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. (Luke 11:9)

### **Gospel Acclamation setting:**

Setting 4

Setting 2

or

Additional Settings

Sets 1 or 2 for Propers 10-16

### **Hymn of the Day:**

720 - Our Father, Throned in Heaven Above

725 - Hear Us, Father, When We Pray

### **Third Hymn or Distribution Hymn:**

722 - In Holy Conversation

### **Closing Hymn:**

721 - What a Friend We Have in Jesus

### **Optional New Hymns, perhaps requiring advance preparation/cantors:**

725 - Hear Us, Father, When We Pray is a TLH tune that was not in CW; should be okay without introduction

722 - In Holy Conversation may need introduction in some but not all congregations

### **Notes for the conservative service:**

Alternate settings of 721 (available in Accom for Hymns) may be appreciated by the assembly

### **Notes for the ambitious service:**

Alternate settings of 721 (available in Accom for Hymns) may be appreciated by the assembly

# Worship Plan - Church Year C

## 2021-2022



7/31/2022 - Proper 13

### **SERIES THEME**

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### **THEME OF THE DAY**

#### ***FOCUSED LIVING PROPERLY VALUES EARTHLY WEALTH***

Jesus wants focused followers. However, one of the things that can most easily get in the way of our focus is our earthly possessions. It is no surprise, therefore, that Jesus' words so frequently focus his followers on wealth. Jesus' followers don't reject earthly wealth or despise it. They can be grateful for every good gift that comes from the hand of God. However, Jesus' followers value earthly wealth correctly. They understand what earthly wealth can and cannot do. They don't give earthly wealth a role in their lives it will never be able to fill. This week we focus on the fact that the identity and security earthly wealth can never provide is found fully and freely in Christ.

### **FIRST READING**

Ecclesiastes 1:1-2,12-14; 2:18-26 – King Solomon, possibly the wealthiest man who ever lived, learned by experience the limited value of earthly possessions.

### **SECOND READING**

Colossians 3:1-11 – If life does not consist in the abundance of one's possessions, then of what does life consist? Paul tells us—the fact that in baptism we died and were raised with Christ.

### **GOSPEL**

\*\*\* Luke 12:13-21 – Greed's folly is felt in life and will be exposed in death. Through a parable, Jesus gives us a strong warning against greed.

## ORDER OF SERVICE

### **Conservative:**

Setting 4

### **Ambitious:**

Setting 2

### **Opening Hymn:**

753 - My Worth Is Not in What I Own

### **Psalm of the Day:**

Psalm 90A

### **Gospel Acclamation Proper Verse:**

Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6:20,21)

### **Gospel Acclamation setting:**

Setting 4

Setting 2

or

Additional Settings

Sets 1 or 2 for Propers 10-16

### **Hymn of the Day:**

820 - O God, Our Help in Ages Past

### **Third Hymn or Distribution Hymn:**

\*663 - Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

### **Closing Hymn:**

818 - My Soul Finds Rest in God Alone (Psalm 62)

### **Optional New Hymns, perhaps requiring advance preparation/cantors:**

753 - My Worth Is Not in What I Own - assembly begins with refrain only, joins as able starting at v. 3

818 - My Soul Finds Rest in God Alone (Psalm 62) - assembly begins with refrain only, joins as able starting at v. 2 or 3

### **Notes for the conservative service:**

Both opening and closing hymns would likely be new for most congregations; consider introducing only one of them and replacing the other

### **Notes for the ambitious service:**

Be careful to introduce both opening and closing hymns if not used previously



# Worship Plan - Church Year C

## 2021-2022



8/7/2022 - Proper 14

### **SERIES THEME**

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### **THEME OF THE DAY**

#### ***FOCUSED LIVING PROPERLY VALUES HEAVENLY TREASURE***

Last week Jesus warned us against overvaluing earthly wealth. This week Jesus warns against undervaluing heavenly treasure. Last week, Jesus exposed the folly of greed. This week, Jesus exposes the folly of worry, even when faced with the prospect of having a shortage of earthly wealth. This week might be the bigger challenge! When it seems we lack providence or protection for our daily lives, it can be hard to avoid worry. But Jesus focuses us. He points to creatures that do not labor or toil, yet are daily fed and clothed. Even more Jesus points to our Father who promises to give us the heavenly treasures of his kingdom. Jesus assures us that Father will throw in needed earthly possessions as well. We can pursue heavenly treasure wholeheartedly, confident that our Father knows all we need.

### **FIRST READING**

Genesis 15:1-6 – In faith, Abram treasured all the LORD's gracious promises.

### **SECOND READING**

\*\*\* Hebrews 11:1-3,8-16 – The gift of faith allows us to see that treasure that is found in the city whose architect and builder is God.

### **GOSPEL**

Luke 12:22-34 – Jesus assures us we have a Father in heaven who knows what we need better than we do.

## ORDER OF SERVICE

### **Conservative:**

Setting 3

### **Ambitious:**

Setting 2

### **Opening Hymn:**

828 - Where Your Treasure Is

### **Psalm of the Day:**

Psalm 121A

### **Gospel Acclamation Proper Verse:**

Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. (Luke 12:32)

### **Gospel Acclamation setting:**

Setting 3

Setting 2

or

Additional Settings

Sets 1 or 2 for Propers 10-16

### **Hymn of the Day:**

800 - How Firm a Foundation

### **Third Hymn or Distribution Hymn:**

868 - By Faith

### **Closing Hymn:**

835 - Precious Lord, Take My Hand

### **Optional New Hymns, perhaps requiring advance preparation/cantors:**

828 - Where Your Treasure Is was in CWS and should be familiar for many

868 - By Faith should be introduced in congregations that have not used it previously

### **Notes for the conservative service:**

Hymn of the Day has nice alternate settings for both organ and piano in Accompaniment for Hymns

### **Notes for the ambitious service:**

Hymn of the Day has nice alternate settings for both organ and piano in Accompaniment for Hymns