

Church at Home

Second Sunday of Eastertide | April 19, 2020

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, we have suspended our regular Sunday worship services and are encouraging people to worship together in their homes. This resource is intended to be flexible and adaptable for a variety of settings, depending on the gifts and resources available. It is structured after our regular worship service, but you may do what works for your context. Some sections have recommendations for worshipping in families with small children.

Gathering & Greeting

<p style="text-align: center;">Call to Worship <i>(Psalm 28:6-7)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Praise be to the Lord, for he has heard my cry for mercy. The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The same God who calls us to worship greet us with these words:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“Grace and peace to you, from God our Father, and the Lord, Jesus Christ.”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Amen.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>*For families with small children*</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">We come to worship God today, because he has invited us to worship him.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">We worship God because we trust in him. He is our strength and our hope.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Let’s sing to him!</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Families may light a candle as they begin Sunday worship as a visual reminder that worship is a special time when we rest in God’s presence in a special way.</i></p>
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Song Suggestions:

Depending on your context and gifts, you may want to sing along with songs on YouTube, have someone lead with piano and guitar, or sing together a capella. Feel free to sing your family’s favourite church songs, or pick a few from these suggestions (check the [Church at Home page](#) for a YouTube playlist).

O Praise the Name (Anastasis)
Crown Him with Many Crowns
Build Your Kingdom Here

My Worth is Not in What I Own
All I Have is Christ
Who You Say I Am

Confession & Assurance

Read John 20:19-31.

Prayer of Confession:

**Mighty God, in raising Jesus from the dead,
you showed us your power
to defeat all that brings fear and sorrow
to our lives.**

**Yet we confess we are sometimes uncertain
about your victory.**

**Like Thomas, we are unsure if we can trust the
promise of resurrection for ourselves.**

**Forgive us when we struggle with doubt about
your presence with us.**

**Breathe your Spirit upon us and bring us the
peace Christ promised.
Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon:

Read I Peter 1:3-9.

Hear the good news: In Jesus, we are born into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Our sins are forgiven, and we are guaranteed an imperishable inheritance! **Thanks be to God!**

For families with small children

Read the story of "doubting Thomas" (John 20:19-31) from a children's Bible and talk with your children about faith and doubt.

Prayer:

Dear Jesus, you are bigger and stronger than anything that could ever make me afraid. But sometimes I still feel scared because it seems like you're not in control. Help me to remember that you are always in control.

Amen.

Families may talk about how baptism reminds us that God's promises are true, even when it seems like everything is going wrong. In baptism, God assures us of his promises by pouring out the gift of the Holy Spirit, God's presence in our hearts.

Responding to God's Word

Song of Response: Be Thou My Vision

Prayers of the People

<p>Given the reality that all of us are encouraged to stay at home, reflect together on what you “see” happening in this time. How has your perspective on this changed over the week? This can be a great time for parents to check-in with their kids, and to be honest with their kids about their own struggles and fears. Take a pulse of how each other are doing. What has been joy-filled about this past week? What has been challenging?</p> <p>Invite everyone to share what they would like to lift up to God, their joys and sorrows, hopes and fears.</p> <p>Review the “Church Family News” section of the bulletin on the church website.</p> <p>Close with the Lord’s Prayer.</p>	<p><i>*For families with small children*</i></p> <p><i>Memorizing the Lord's Prayer is a great way to equip your children with important worship language.</i></p> <p><i>Make a call list. Make a list of people from church or school to remember in prayer. Keep the list and have your kids phone or video chat with them sometime this week.</i></p>
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Offering

If you desire to give financially in this time, please check the bulletin for the most up-to-date options for giving.

Today's second offering is for GEMS Girls Club. GEMS is a nondenominational, nonprofit Christian organization that seeks to equip women and girls to live radically faithful lives for Christ. Clubs are established in churches and other Christian organizations and allow women to mentor girls as they develop a living, dynamic relationship with Jesus. Contribute online at gemsgc.org/give.

Blessing

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord smile upon you, and give you peace.

Amen.

Close by singing the Doxology or an appropriate song.