

Service for the Lord's Day

This order of worship has been excerpted from the Book of Common Worship (WJKP, 2018) and Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal (WJKP, 2013), and is designed to be compatible with those resources. It has been adapted for congregations gathering exclusively or primarily online in response to the Covid-19 coronavirus; therefore, the Lord's Supper is not included. Key to related resources: BCW = Book of Common Worship (WJKP, 2018); GTG = Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal (WJKP, 2013); PH = The Presbyterian Hymnal: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs (WJKP, 1990).

GATHERING

Instrumental music, congregational song, or contemplative silence may precede the service.

OPENING SENTENCES

All may stand as presider and people say one of the following, or another verse from scripture appropriate to the season or day (BCW 19, 54, 157–400).

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
maker of heaven and earth.

Ps. 124:8

The presider continues with this or another greeting (BCW 55):

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you all. **And also with you.**

2 Thess. 3:18

Let us worship God.

HYMN, PSALM, OR SPIRITUAL SONG

GATHERING PRAYER

The presider may lead an opening prayer (BCW 19, 55), such as the following, the prayer of the day (BCW 157–400), or a thanksgiving for Baptism (BCW 74).

This prayer may be said from the baptismal font.

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Water may be poured into the baptismal font.

The presider leads the call to confession (BCW 20, 56).

The grace of God overflows for us through Christ Jesus
who came into the world to save sinners.

1 Tim. 1:14–15

Trusting in God’s grace, let us confess our sin.

Following silent personal examination, all pray together the following or another prayer of confession (BCW 21, 57–62).

**Merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you
with our whole heart and mind and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
In your mercy, forgive what we have been,
help us amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be,
that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways
to the glory of your holy name.**

The Kyrie Eleison (“Lord, Have Mercy,” GTG 551–609; PH 565–605) may be sung; alternatively, the Trisagion (“Holy God, Holy and Mighty,” BCW 288) or Agnus Dei (“Lamb of God,” GTG 551–609; PH 565–605) may be sung.

**Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.**

The presider may lift water from the font, declaring the good news of God’s grace (BCW 21, 62).

The mercy of the Lord
is from everlasting to everlasting.

Ps. 103:17

I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ,
we are forgiven! **Amen. or Thanks be to God.**

A song of praise, such as Gloria in Excelsis (“Glory to God,” GTG 551–609; PH 565–605) or Gloria Patri (“Glory Be to the Father,” GTG 551–609; PH 565–605), may be sung.

A summary of the law of God (BCW 63) or a call to faithfulness (BCW 67) may also be included here:

Hear the teaching of Christ:
I give you a new commandment,
that you love one another as I have loved you.

John 13:34

Worshippers may share signs of Christ’s peace and reconciling love (BCW 67).

1 The peace of our Lord
Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

2 The peace of Christ
be with you all.
And also with you.

The people are then seated.

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

The reader leads a prayer for illumination (BCW 22, 68), such as the following.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, O God,
and prepare our hearts to accept your word.
Silence in us any voice but your own,
that, hearing, we may also obey your will;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The reader may then say these words or similar (BCW 70):

1 Hear the word of the Lord.

2 Hear what the Spirit
is saying to the church.

Rev. 2:7

SCRIPTURE

Readings from the Old and New Testaments are normally included. The Revised Common Lectionary (BCW 157–400) provides three readings and a psalm: (1) the first reading, from the Old Testament or Acts (in Easter); the psalm or canticle, sung as a response to the first reading; (2) the second reading, from a New Testament epistle; and (3) the Gospel reading. It is particularly appropriate for a deacon or elder to read the Gospel from the midst of the congregation.

Before each reading, the reader may say these words or similar (BCW 70):

A reading from _____.

After each reading, the reader and people may say:

1 The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

2 Holy wisdom, holy word.
Thanks be to God.

An anthem, a Gospel acclamation, or an alleluia (GTG 551–609; PH 565–605) may be sung before the reading of the Gospel. The people may stand.

The reading of the Gospel may be announced by saying:

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to _____.
Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading of the Gospel, the following may be said:

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The people may be seated. Silence for reflection may follow the readings from scripture.

SERMON

At the conclusion of the sermon, the preacher may speak the following or another ascription of praise (BCW 71).

Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might be to our God forever and ever! **Amen.**

Rev. 7:12

Silence for reflection may follow.

An invitation to discipleship (BCW 72) may take place here, giving opportunity for any who wish to make a personal commitment to Christ, join the community of faith, or to live more fully into their baptismal calling.

Jesus said: Ask, and you will receive;
seek, and you will find;
knock, and the door will be opened to you.

Matt. 7:7; Luke 11:9

If you are ready to respond to God's call,
to share in our worship and service,
and to follow Christ more faithfully,
we welcome you; God welcomes you.

HYMN, PSALM, OR SPIRITUAL SONG

All may stand.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed (BCW 82), Apostles' Creed (BCW 85), or another affirmation of faith (BCW 80) may be drawn from scripture or creeds and confessions of the church.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

It is particularly appropriate for a deacon or elder to lead the prayers of intercession (BCW 92) from the midst of the congregation or from the Lord's Table.

Worshippers may respond with specific prayers, aloud or in silence, as bidden.

For the church, the world, and all in need,
let us pray to the Lord, saying:

After each petition, one of the following or another response (BCW 114) may be said:

1 Lord, in your mercy:
hear our prayer.

2 God of grace,
hear our prayer.

For your Church in every place,
that we may worship and serve you faithfully . . .

For leaders and people in every land,
that they may know your way and do your will . . .

For justice throughout the world,
that there may be peace and plenty for all . . .

For the earth you have made,
that it may flourish in beauty and show your glory . . .

For all those who hunger and thirst,
that they may be filled with good things . . .

For those who are ill or close to death,
that they may know your loving care . . .

Other special needs may be mentioned.

Those who have died are remembered with thanksgiving (BCW 115).

The leader concludes the intercessions with these or similar words (BCW 116).

Receive all these prayers, O God, in the tenderness of your mighty hand,
and strengthen our hands to serve you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OFFERING

The following, or another invitation to offering (BCW 118), may be said.

The earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it,
the world, and those who live in it.

Ps. 24:1

Then the leader says:

Let us return to God the offerings of our life and the gifts of the earth.

As offerings are gathered, an anthem may be sung or other appropriate music may be offered.

*The people's offerings, which may include food for people who are hungry, are brought to the table.
A song of praise may be sung.*

As the offerings are presented, the following may be said:

Heaven and earth are yours, O Lord,
and of your own we give you.

1 Chr. 29:11, 14

An elder or deacon may then pray this or a similar prayer (BCW 25, 149):

Eternal God, creator of the world and giver of all good,
we thank you for the earth, our home, and for the gift of life.

We praise you for your love in Jesus Christ, who came to heal this broken world,
who died rejected on the cross, and rose triumphant from the dead.
Because he lives, we live to praise you, our God forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

The Lord's Prayer is sung (GTG 464; PH 571, 589–90) or spoken (BCW 144).

As our Savior Christ has taught us,
we are bold to pray:

**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.**

SENDING

Brief announcements related to the church's mission may be mentioned here.

HYMN, PSALM, OR SPIRITUAL SONG

BLESSING AND CHARGE

The presider speaks God's blessing to the congregation, using the following, or another blessing (BCW 30, 151).

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all. **Alleluia! or Amen.**

2 Cor. 13:13

A deacon or elder may share God's summons to service from the font, table, or door of the church, using the following, or another charge (BCW 30, 154).

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Amen. or Thanks be to God.

Instrumental music or congregational song may follow the charge.