

Love Feast: A Liturgy

NOTE: The order of this liturgy is typical of what we do at Abiding Savior. Please feel free to adapt or rearrange it to fit the needs of your worshipping community. Just make sure the appropriate copyright information is included in your bulletin, video worship, etc:

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If you are only using the music: *Kyrie, Hymn of Praise, Lamb of God and Holy, Holy, Holy are from "Love Feast: A Liturgy", by David Eck, Copyright © 2020. Used by permission of the author. Contact info: twelstring@aol.com.*

Gathering

Prelude

Invocation (Sample)

L: Today, we gather in love: The love of God who created us in the Divine image; the love of Jesus + who offers us forgiveness and new life; the love of the Holy Spirit who weaves us together as community.

C: Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship or Confession and Forgiveness

Gathering Song(s)

Greeting

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit is with you all.

C: And also with you.

Kyrie

Love Feast

Prayer of the Day (Sample)

L: The Lord is with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray...Loving Savior,

C: You commanded us to love God and love our neighbor as much as we love ourselves. Give us the courage to manifest your reconciling and redeeming love in our lives and in our world. We ask this in your name. Amen.

Word

Children's Sermon

First Lesson

L: A reading from N.

L: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

C: Thanks be to God!

Psalm

Second Lesson

L: A reading from N.

L: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

C: Thanks be to God!

Gospel

L: The holy gospel according to N.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

L: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Song of the Day

The Apostles' Creed

Assistant: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C: We believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

Assistant: Let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation. We hold before God... *(at the end of each petition the congregation responds as follows)*

Assistant: God of mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

C: The Light of God surrounds us; the Love of God enfolds us; the Power of God protects us; the Presence of God watches over us; wherever we are, God is. All is well. Amen.

The Peace

Assistant: The peace of Christ is with you always.

C: And also with you.

Assistant: Please share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Meal

Offering

Offering Prayer

Assistant: Let us pray,

C: All that we are, all that we have, is a gift from you, gracious God. Use what we are, use what we have, as an offering of love poured out into the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving (Sample)

L: The Lord is with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

L: God created us in the Divine image. We are God's beloved who are called to be benevolent caretakers of creation and of each other. God sent us Jesus as the ultimate example of what love looks like when it's put into action. Yet, we rebelled against this love and Jesus was crucified for it. But, three days later, Jesus rose from the grave to remind us that God's love cannot be extinguished. When he ascended, Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit who continually calls us to love and serve all of our neighbors, both near and far. And so, as a testimony to the enduring power of God's love, we offer a hymn of praise:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C: 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.

The Invitation to Communion

Assistant: The gifts of God for the people of God.

C: Thanks be to God!

Distribution of the Elements

Lamb of God

Post Communion Prayer

L: Let us pray...Loving Savior,

C: Thank you for the gifts of grace we have received at this Table in overflowing abundance. May the extravagant love we've experienced be seen in all that we say and do this week. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Sending

Sending Song

Benediction and Dismissal (Sample)

L: Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we go out into the world this week offering hope and healing, love and wisdom. Let us be Spirit-led people in every thing we do.

C: Amen.

L: Go in peace. Serve in the name of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God!

Some ideas for worship in the time of the coronavirus where singing is not permitted and social distancing is required. A worship assistant speaks on behalf of the people since group responses are discouraged.

Kyrie

L: Lament is part of our faith tradition. The Psalms ask honest questions such as "How long, O Lord?" (*Ps 79*) and "Will you not revive us again, so that your people may rejoice in you?" (*Ps 85*) These are not the questions of people who have lost faith in God, They are the questions from those who trust that God is with us in the midst of our sorrow and suffering.

L: Today we lament because there is much we have lost during this pandemic, both personally and globally. Our hearts cry out, "Kyrie eleison. Lord, have mercy." And with these words, we affirm that God is big enough to hold us in love, and bring us comfort during these difficult times. *(Pause for silence.)*

L: For events happening in our world that cause our hope to falter, for injustices we pray will end, for our spirits that have grown weary from being so careful, we pray:

Assist: Kyrie eleison. Lord, have mercy.

L: For way too many sleepless nights, for milestones we've not been able to celebrate properly, for the dying whose hands we were not able to hold, we pray:

Assist: Christe eleison. Christ, have mercy.

For more grief than our hearts can bear, for days when we just want to pull the covers over our heads and stay in bed, for our frustration with those who do not take this virus as seriously as we do, we pray:

Assist: Kyrie eleison. Lord, have mercy.

Hymn of Praise

L: Every lament in the Psalms also contains a statement of trust and a song of praise. "Wait for the Lord, be strong and let your heart take courage," says Psalm 27. "I will exult and rejoice in your steadfast love, because you have seen my affliction; you have taken heed of my adversities," says Psalm 32.

L: Therefore, we also offer a statement of trust and a song of praise this morning; because if God is for us, who or what can be against us? *(Pause for silence)*

L: For every act of kindness that has come our way, for every sign of hope that has helped us to hold on for one more day, for the beauty of nature which surrounds us and feeds our souls, we give thanks:

Assist: Glory to God in the highest!

L: For scientists working hard to find a vaccine, for leaders who shepherd their people wisely and compassionately, for health care professionals who willingly put themselves in harm's way, we give thanks:

Assist: Glory to God in the highest!

L: For family and friends who brighten our day, for technologies that have kept us connected, for simple joys no matter how small they may be, we give thanks: **Assist: Glory to God in the highest!**

The Peace

The Peace

L: Take a look at those who surround us in this sacred space, and in our hearts, let's send them a blessing and a wish that the peace of Christ may be with them.

L: Then think about those who are members of our church and who are watching worship online. In our hearts, let's send them a blessing and a wish that the peace of Christ may be with them.

L: Finally, let that blessing and wish go out to members of our families, our friends, our neighbors, and throughout the world. With God's help, our hearts are big enough to extend peace that far. Let us also pledge to do what we can to embody the peace of Christ after we exit the building this morning. Amen.