

Overall Theme

Called. Together.

Baptismal Liturgy

The scripture for that service is Ephesians 2:4-9 with a focus on v7. Our plan is to use this after the sermon to help people remember their baptism. This is the first service for the weekend and my hope is that as they remember their baptism, that they remember that we all have a role in the kingdom of God that we have been called to play. So whether the weekend affirms our calling to ministry or we realize we are called to lay ministry, God (through our baptism) has still placed a calling on our lives that is part of the bigger story.

Reading

⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵ even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ^[a]—by grace you have been saved— ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— ⁹ not the result of works, so that no one may boast.

Ephesians 2:4-9 (NRSV)

Remembrance of Baptism

The following can be divided among 3 voices as indicated or led by one person. During the first section (prior to the prayer), water may be poured visibly and audibly from a pitcher into a bowl or baptismal font, possibly 3 times, once with each paragraph.

1: Grace comes into our lives like water.
Like the rain, falling down upon us,
renewing our spirits as the rain refreshes the earth,
soaking into us without our doing anything to invite it,
gathering overhead before we are even aware,
washing over us and carrying on a cycle of life
that blesses us in its path.

2: Grace comes into our lives like water.

Like the ocean, it rises and falls,
crashes and splashes, ebbs and flows
with waves and currents and tides.
Sometimes we anticipate these changes,
sometimes they sneak up on us.
Always grace is wider and deeper than we can imagine,
beyond our understanding,
something to wonder at and float upon.

3: Grace comes into our lives like water.
Like the water of our bodies,
our tears, our blood, our fluids and functions:
we think we can contain them, control them,
prevent them from revealing things about us
we would rather not have others know.
Like how vulnerable we are,
how messy and changeable,
these bodies, these hearts, our soul-filled selves.

1: Grace is before us,

2: beyond us,

3: and within us.

1-3: Let us pray.

1: Holy and mighty God,
in Jesus Christ you go before us,
as Source and Creator you are far beyond us,
and as Holy Spirit you dwell within us.

2: We thank you, loving God,
for the gift of grace that saves and heals us,
liberates and transforms us,
empowers and sustains us
throughout our lives.

3: We thank you for joining our individual stories
to your great and wondrous Story
through the sacrament of baptism,
a means of grace
and a sign of cleansing from sin,

nourishment and renewal,
and resurrection from death.

2: For the community into which we have been baptized,
the Body of Christ, your holy Church,
the family of God, we give you thanks.

1: None of this is our own doing,
but your free gift to us,
born of love and mercy.

1-3: Pour out your Holy Spirit now
on this gift of water,

2: that it might awaken us in body and spirit

3: to remember the grace declared and received in our baptism,

1: that has been at work throughout our lives

2: and continues to form us into the image of Christ.

**All: May this remembrance stir up in us
a renewed experience of your grace,
a closer attentiveness to your Spirit,
a holy longing to dwell more fully with you.
May it refresh our hearts and minds
to discover anew your calling on our lives
and your vision for our world,
and to pursue more passionately the work
of co-creating your Kin'dom.**

1-3: We pray and praise you, God of love, Source of life,
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who with you and the Holy Spirit
lives and reigns forever.

All: Amen.

Call to Worship

Our call to worship will be used for our morning service on Saturday. The scripture for that service is Ephesians 2:19-22 with a focus on verses 21-22. We want to focus on the idea of togetherness and how Jesus is the one who calls us and the one who binds us together.

Reading

¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, ²⁰ built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; ²² in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

Ephesians 2:19-22 (NRSV)

¹⁹⁻²² That's plain enough, isn't it? You're no longer wandering exiles. This kingdom of faith is now your home country. You're no longer strangers or outsiders. You *belong* here, with as much right to the name Christian as anyone. God is building a home. He's using us all—irrespective of how we got here—in what he is building. He used the apostles and prophets for the foundation. Now he's using you, fitting you in brick by brick, stone by stone, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone that holds all the parts together. We see it taking shape day after day—a holy temple built by God, all of us built into it, a temple in which God is quite at home.

Ephesians 2:19-22 (The Message)

Call to Worship

incorporating excerpts from Eph 2:19-22 from The Message and NRSV.

A: Come, children of God!

B: Come, citizens with the saints!

All: We come to worship the Creator who made us.

A: Come, doubters and wanderers!

B: Come, lifelong believers!

All: We come to worship Jesus Christ who saves us.

A: Come, progressives and conservatives!

B: Come, justice warriors and devoted pray-ers!

All: We come to worship the Holy Spirit who leads us.

A&B: You're no longer strangers or outsiders.

All: The kingdom of faith is now our home country.

A&B: You belong here, in the home that God is building.

All: We want to become a dwelling place for God.

A&B: Christ Jesus is our cornerstone,

**All: calling us into community,
building us together spiritually,
through times of conflict and times of peace.**

A&B: Come, let us worship our God

All: as we are built into a holy temple together.

Communion Liturgy

Our communion service is focused on Ephesians 2:14. We love the theme of “though we are many, we are one body”. We would like to focus on how from this table, we are called to go back out into the world full of God’s peace as one.

Reading

¹⁴ For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.

Ephesians 2:14 (NRSV)

Holy Communion

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God, we praise and thank you for the gifts of creation,
for life in community,
for our connections and interdependence
with all people and all beings.

You created us with delight in our diversity.

But in our difference, we discovered distrust
and moved to division, discrimination, denial of dignity.

From the time of Cain and Abel to the present day,
we confess we have failed to honor those relationships;
we have sought our own gain
instead of serving as each other’s keepers,
committing violence through what we have done
and what we have left undone.

Yet time and again, through the saints and the prophets
you found ways to speak peace
into our hearts set on war,
inviting us to turn once again toward our neighbor,
and so to draw closer once more to you.

And so, with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ.

He came among us as Love made flesh,
the Prince of Peace, God-With-Us.

He healed the sick and restored many who were broken,
brought the outcast back into the circle of community,
and taught love of neighbor and enemy
as the natural outcome of loving you.

He showed through his life and teachings
that holiness is not a matter of purity to be protected,
but wholeness to be embraced and shared
through healing, integration, inclusiveness, and justice.

After his death and resurrection,
the Holy Spirit came upon his followers
to drive them out into the wilderness of the world
to continue breaking down walls and barriers,
drawing all people into the circle of grace.

On the night when the forces of hostility and violence
came to silence his message of love and reconciliation,
Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
One loaf broken into many pieces;

so you are many, but each part of the whole.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
“Drink from this, all of you;
this is my blood, a sign of life and promise,
healing and forgiveness.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.”

And so,
in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves with awe and gratitude
to be made holy in our living for Christ
and for the world you love so much,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
transformed and made whole by his love.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, even when we disagree,
and one in ministry to all the world,
until that day when weapons are melted down
and forged into gardening tools,
when the lion lies down with the lamb
and all the world comes together in peace.

Through your beloved child, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God,
now and forever.

Amen.

Commissioning Litany

We want to close worship with a call and response litany in which we affirm our calling. While they all may be different callings, we are all called and we are called to do this together. The kingdom of God requires active participation from us so we are called to leave this place, saying yes to our calling and togetherness and go bring about the kingdom of God here on earth as it is in heaven. The scripture for this service is Ephesians 4:4-5,11-12 with a focus on v12.

Reading

⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ¹¹The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

Ephesians 4:4-5 (NRSV)

Commissioning

Written for 1 leader and the gathered community giving the responses in bold. But the leader part could be divided into 2.

There is one body and one Spirit,

Though we are many, in Christ we are one.

Just as you were called to the one hope of your calling,

Though we are many, in Christ we are one.

One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

Though we are many, in Christ we are one.

The gifts that God gives are that some will be apostles,

Though we are many, in Christ we are one.

Some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers,

Though we are many, in Christ we are one.

Some elders, some deacons, some licensed local pastors,

Though we are many, in Christ we are one.

Some deaconesses and home missionaries, some dedicated laity,

Though we are many, in Christ we are one.

All dedicated to the work of proclaiming the gospel,
collaborating for God's Kin'dom,
equipping the saints for the work of ministry,
for building up the body of Christ.

Though we are many, in Christ we are one.

So let us go:
with Christ beside us, before us,
behind us, and within us;
We go with Christ as the body of Christ
to show God's love to the world!
Let us go, marching in the light of God,
singing and dancing in the love of God;
hoping and moving and praying and living
in the very power and presence of God!

**We go with Christ as the body of Christ
to show God's love to the world!**

Let us go,
to live with courage and humility,
compassion and conviction,
integrity and gentleness,
generosity and hospitality,
even in the face of disagreement and conflict,
even when the world tells us there is no way forward,
even when our faith seems small
and our problems seem mountainous:

**We go with Christ as the body of Christ
to show God's love to the world!**

Alleluia!

Alleluia! AMEN!