

Episcopal Liturgy for the Children's Sabbath

Proper 24, Year C

This sample liturgy provides suggestions for incorporating the focus of the National Observance of Children's Sabbaths into the standard Episcopal liturgy for Proper 24, Year C which falls on October 20, 2013.

Throughout the liturgy, we have provided two options, one from *The Book of Common Prayer* and the other from *Enriching Our Worship: Supplemental Liturgical Materials* prepared by The Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music of The Episcopal Church.

While a few hymn suggestions are noted in the liturgy, following this liturgy is a more extensive list of especially appropriate hymns from *The Hymnal 1982* and *Wonder, Love, and Praise: A Supplement to The Hymnal 1982* to insert where appropriate.

The Word of God

Hymn: Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee #304, Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise (#423); God the Sculptor of the Mountains (#746, WLP)

Opening Sentences

Option 1:

(From *The Book of Common Prayer*, hereafter referred to as BCP)

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be His kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Option 2:

(From *Enriching Our Worship: Supplemental Liturgical Materials* prepared by The Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, hereafter referred to as EOW)

Celebrant: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People: Glory to God forever and ever.

Celebrant may say:

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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.

Song of Praise: God Is Love (#379); Creating God, Your Fingers Trace (#394)

The Collect of the Day

Option 1: (BCP)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Proper 24 (BCP)

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ who came as a child you have revealed your glory among the nations. Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

People: Amen.

Option 2: (EOW)

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

On the Children's Sabbath

Loving God, through your prophets you call us to turn swords into plowshares. Embolden your Church to replace weapons and want with peace and plenty, for the sake of all children; through Jesus Christ your Child who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

People: Amen.

The Lessons

A Reading from Genesis 32:3-8, 22-30

Option 1: (BCP)

After each reading, the Reader says:

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Option 2: (EOW)

After each reading, the Reader says:

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

A Reading from 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

Gospel Announcement

Option 1: (BCP)

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to St. Luke.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Option 2: (EOW)

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ, according to St. Luke.

Gospel: Luke 18:1-8a

After the Gospel, the Reader says:

The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

(See Sermon Resources in the complete section “Christian Resources for the Children’s Sabbath” from which this Episcopal Liturgy is excerpted, available for download from www.childrensdefense.org/childrenssabbaths.)

The Nicene Creed

The Prayers of the People and Confession of Sin

Option 1: Form II, Form IV, or Form VI which follows: (BCP)

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence.

For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of our creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For [N. our presiding Bishop, and N. (N.) our Bishop(s); and for] all bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence.

The people may add their own petitions.

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence.

The people may add their own thanksgivings.

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence.

The People may add their own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence may be kept.

Leader and People

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;

In your compassion forgive us our sins,

Known and unknown,

Things done and left undone;

And so uphold us by your Spirit

That we may live and serve you in newness of life,

To the honor and glory of your name;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Option 2:

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray, saying, "Lord, make us instruments of your peace."

For the body of Christ, that we follow in the footsteps of the Prince of Peace and serve with compassion the last, the least, the lost, and the littlest ones, let us pray,

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

For our nation and our leaders, that we seek to unite and not divide, to place a priority on the poor and not the powerful, grant us the wisdom, compassion, and commitment to justice and peace, let us pray,

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

For our world wounded by war and in which a billion people bear the brunt of poverty, that we heed the prophets' call to beat swords into plowshares and work to transform our world from one of weapons and want to one of peace and plenty, let us pray,

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

For ourselves and our community, when it is easier to be distracted than to demand justice, to feel daunted rather than determined to seek peace, grant us your sense of urgency and persistence as we pursue justice and peace, let us pray,

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

On this Children's Sabbath day, we pray especially for the children and families suffering from gun violence and the violence of poverty, and for ourselves that we join with people of all faiths across our nation to make our nation and world safe for children, let us pray,

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

For all who have died, especially the seven children killed by guns each and every day in our nation, we pray to the Lord,

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Leader and People:

God of all mercy,

We confess that we have failed to live our lives as ones made in your image,

We have not loved each other as sisters and brothers,

We have not welcomed all children and so welcomed you,

We have left stumbling blocks in the way of too many children.

Forgive us our sins,

As a woman searching for a cherished coin,

As a father welcoming a beloved child home,

And uphold us by your Spirit

That we may do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you,

Through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Absolution

Option 1: (BCP)

The Bishop when present, or the Priest:

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you

all your sins through our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

Option 2: (EOW)

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

The Peace

The Celebrant says to the people:

Let us share the peace of Christ with one another, and give thanks for the children among us who show us new ways to walk in peace together.

Option 1: (BCP)
Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People: And also with you.

Option 2: (EOW)
Celebrant: The peace of Christ be always with you.
People: And also with you.

The Holy Communion

Offertory: With Awe Approach the Mysteries (#759 WLP), For the Beauty of the Earth (#416), For the Fruit of All Creation (#424), Tell Out My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord (#438), Lord, You Give the Great Commission (#528, The Hymnal 1982; #780, WLP), We Are All One in Mission (#778, WLP)

(You may wish to include the Act of Commitment as a way for parishioners to make an offering of themselves—their time, commitment, voices.)

The Great Thanksgiving

Option 1: Eucharistic Prayer C (BCP)

Proper Preface for Children's Sabbath

Because you have blessed us with children and have given your own Child, the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, to reveal the fullness of your love and mercy.

Option 2: **Eucharistic Prayer for the Children's Sabbath**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant: We give you thanks and praise, amazing God,
who made heaven and earth and sea, and
all that is in them,
who keeps faith forever,
who executes justice for the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry;
You watch over the strangers,
uphold the children and most vulnerable parents,
and have triumphed over sin and evil.
(from Psalm 146)

On this Children's Sabbath day, we give you thanks, O God, especially for children, for the blessing they are and the blessing we may be to them, as we seek to heed your prophets and beat swords into plowshares and do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you.

And so we join the saints and angels in proclaiming your glory, as we sing (say),

Celebrant and People:

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.

The Celebrant continues:

We praise you, O God,
for sending your beloved child Jesus
born as a baby
nurtured by his family,
and protected by strangers,
who grew as a child
who was taught in his temple,
surrounded by his community,
and guided by his parents,
who became an adult
who loved and blessed the children,
who cared for those who were sick,
poor, and left out,
who taught that God loves us like a parent,
and who called us his friends.
This one who was born a baby needing us
died our Savior whom we all need,
triumphant even over death,
freeing us to live as your beloved children.

(At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing the wine to be consecrated.)

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at the table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. As you do this, remember me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, remember me."

Around your table, as your children,
O God, we remember Jesus Christ,
Who came in love, lived in love, and died in love,
Who was and is and is to come.

We offer to you our gifts of bread and wine,
And we offer to you our lives.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that they strengthen us to welcome the children, to show your love, to work for your justice, to bring your
peace. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor,
glory, and praise, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

The Breaking of the Bread

Option 1: (BCP)

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Option 2: (EOW)

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.
We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Communion Hymn: As We Gather at Your Table (#763), Go Forth for God (#347), Now Let Us Rise the
Hymn the Grace (#781 WLP)

Post Communion Prayer

Option 1: (BCP)

Let us pray.
Eternal God, heavenly Father,
You have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior, Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart,
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Option 2: (adapted from EOW)

Loving God,
we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
through serving the children
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior.
Amen.

The Blessing (EOW)

May the blessing of the God of Abraham and Sarah, and of Jesus Christ born of our sister Mary, and of the Holy Spirit, who broods over the world as a mother over her children, be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

The Dismissal

Celebrant: Remembering especially all our children, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Music Especially Suited to the Children's Sabbath Focus on Children, Justice, Poverty, and Peace:

From *The Hymnal*

Now that daylight fills the sky #4
I come with joy to meet my Lord #304
Praise the Lord, rise up rejoicing #334
Come with us O Blessed Jesus #336
*Savior, again to thy dear name we raise #345
*Go forth for God; go to the world in peace #347
Holy Father, great Creator, source of mercy, love,
and peace #368
Joyful, joyful we adore thee #376
*God is Love, Let Heaven Adore Him #379
Creating God, Your Fingers Trace #394
Now Thank We All Our God #396
New songs of celebration render #413
For the beauty of the earth #416
Immortal, invisible God only wise #423
For the fruit of all creation #424
I'll praise my Maker while I've breath #429
Blessed is the God of Israel #444
There's a wideness in God's mercy #470
Hope of the world #472
Lord of all hopefulness #482
O Holy Spirit #501
Like the murmur of the dove's song #513
Lord, you give the great commission #528
*Remember your servants, Lord #560
Father all loving, who rulest in majesty #568
All who love and serve your city #570
*O God of love, O King of peace #578
Our Father, by whose Name #587
Lord, make us servants of your peace #593
God of grace and God of glory #594

*O day of peace #597
O day of God draw nigh #600
What does the Lord require #605
*O God of every nation #607
*Lord, whose love through humble service #610
Dona Nobis Pacem #712
Shalom, my friends #714

From *Wonder Love and Praise*:

Isaiah the Prophet has written of old #723
(O threefold God of tender unity #743)
God the sculptor of the mountains #746
You have come down to the lakeshore #758
*With awe approach the mysteries
*As we gather at your table #763
We are all one in mission #778
The Church of Christ in every age #779
Lord, you give the great commission #780
*Now let us rise and hymn the grace
Gracious Spirit, give your servants #782
*Put peace into each other's hands #790
Peace before us #791
*Holy God, you raise up prophets #792
Here, O Lord, your servants gather #793
Come now, O Prince of Peace 795
Unidos #796
*Cuando el pobre nada tiene/When the poor one
who has nothing #802