

Take-Home Church For the Summer

You can use the service as a daily practice with your family or if you are traveling and will miss Sunday worship, either in person or digitally at church it can be used as your family Sunday worship.

The service comes from the Book of Common Prayer. The Bible readings are from the Common English Bible.



August

Service

Say the following together or have one person read it for you.

Open my lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Give me the joy of your saving help again and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. *From Psalm 51*

Read the Scripture for the week and talk about one or more of the questions for the week.

Be silent for a moment and then either out loud or silently remember the names of the people and things that you are worried about, that you hope for and that you are grateful for.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as
we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in
safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we
may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we
do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ
our Lord. *Amen.*

Weekly Readings

Week of August 4

John 6:24-35

²⁴ When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and came to Capernaum looking for Jesus. ²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?”

²⁶ Jesus replied, “I assure you that you are looking for me not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate all the food you wanted. ²⁷ Don’t work for the food that doesn’t last but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Human One will give you. God the Father has confirmed him as his agent to give life.”

²⁸ They asked, “What must we do in order to accomplish what God requires?”

²⁹ Jesus replied, “This is what God requires, that you believe in him whom God sent.”

³⁰ They asked, “What miraculous sign will you do, that we can see and believe you? What will you do?” ³¹ Our ancestors ate manna in the wilderness, just as it is written, *He gave them bread from heaven to eat.*”

³² Jesus told them, “I assure you, it wasn’t Moses who gave the bread from heaven to you, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ The bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

³⁴ They said, “Sir, give us this bread all the time!”

³⁵ Jesus replied, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

1. Have you ever been really hungry or thirsty? What did you do?
2. What do you think it means to believe that Jesus is the one whom God has sent?

Week of August 11

John 6:35, 41-51

Jesus replied, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

⁴¹ The Jewish opposition grumbled about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven."

⁴² They asked, "Isn't this Jesus, Joseph's son, whose mother and father we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?"

⁴³ Jesus responded, "Don't grumble among yourselves. ⁴⁴ No one can come to me unless they are drawn to me by the Father who sent me, and I will raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁵ It is written in the Prophets, And they *will all be taught by God*. Everyone who has listened to the Father and learned from him comes to me. ⁴⁶ No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God. He has seen the Father. ⁴⁷ I assure you, whoever believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸ I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹ Your ancestors ate manna in the wilderness and they died. ⁵⁰ This is the bread that comes down from heaven so that whoever eats from it will never die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever, and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

1. Can you think of a Bible story where God gave bread to the people?
2. What do you think Jesus means when he says, "I am the bread of life?"

Week of August 18

John 6:51-58

⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever, and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

⁵² Then the Jews debated among themselves, asking, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"

⁵³ Jesus said to them, "I assure you, unless you eat the flesh of the Human One and drink his blood, you have no life in

you. ⁵⁴ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day. ⁵⁵ My flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in them. ⁵⁷ As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me lives because of me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven. It isn't like the bread your ancestors ate, and then they died. Whoever eats this bread will live forever."

1. What do you think it would be like to live forever?
2. What does Jesus mean when he tells us to eat his flesh and drink his blood?

Week of August 25

John 6:56-69

⁵⁶ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in them. ⁵⁷ As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me lives because of me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven. It isn't like the bread your ancestors ate, and then they died. Whoever eats this bread will live forever." ⁵⁹ Jesus said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum. ⁶⁰ Many of his disciples who heard this said, "This message is harsh. Who can hear it?"

⁶¹ Jesus knew that the disciples were grumbling about this and he said to them, "Does this offend you? ⁶² What if you were to see the Human One going up where he was before? ⁶³ The Spirit is the one who gives life and the flesh doesn't help at all. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴ Yet some of you don't believe." Jesus knew from the beginning who wouldn't believe and the one who would betray him. ⁶⁵ He said, "For this reason I said to you that none can come to me unless the Father enables them to do so." ⁶⁶ At this, many of his disciples turned away and no longer accompanied him. ⁶⁷ Jesus asked the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?"

⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered, "Lord, where would we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ We believe and know that you are God's holy one."

1. Can you think of any teachings of Jesus that were hard for you?
2. What did you do?