

# 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, 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.*

*July*



## 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.

*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 July 7***

Mark 6:7-13

<sup>7</sup> He called for the Twelve and sent them out in pairs. He gave them authority over unclean spirits. <sup>8</sup> He instructed them to take nothing for the journey except a walking stick—no bread, no bags, and no money in their belts. <sup>9</sup> He told them to wear sandals but not to put on two shirts. <sup>10</sup> He said, “Whatever house you enter, remain there until you leave that place. <sup>11</sup> If a place doesn’t welcome you or listen to you, as you leave, shake the dust off your feet as a witness against them.” <sup>12</sup> So they went out and proclaimed that people should change their hearts and lives. <sup>13</sup> They cast out many demons, and they anointed many sick people with olive oil and healed them.

1. What does it mean to welcome someone?
2. How do you make someone welcome in your home? In your group of friends? In our church? In your school or work?
3. How would you welcome Jesus if he came to our house? How can we welcome others that way?

## ***Week of July 14***

**Mark 6:14-29**

<sup>14</sup> Herod the king heard about these things, because the name of Jesus had become well-known. Some were saying, “John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and this is why miraculous powers are at work through him.” <sup>15</sup> Others were saying, “He is Elijah.” Still others were saying, “He is a prophet like one of the ancient prophets.” <sup>16</sup> But when Herod heard these rumors, he said, “John, whom I beheaded, has been raised to life.”

<sup>17</sup> He said this because Herod himself had arranged to have John arrested and put in prison because of Herodias, the wife of Herod’s brother Philip. Herod had married her, <sup>18</sup> but John told Herod, “It’s against the law for you to marry your brother’s wife!” <sup>19</sup> So Herodias had it in for John. She wanted to kill him, but she couldn’t. <sup>20</sup> This was because Herod respected John. He regarded him as a righteous and holy person, so he protected him. John’s words greatly confused Herod, yet he enjoyed listening to him.

<sup>21</sup> Finally, the time was right. It was on one of Herod’s birthdays, when he had prepared a feast for his high-ranking officials and military officers and Galilee’s leading residents. <sup>22</sup> Herod’s daughter Herodias came in and danced, thrilling Herod and his dinner guests. The king said to the young woman, “Ask me whatever you wish, and I will give it to you.” <sup>23</sup> Then he swore to her, “Whatever you ask I will give to you, even as much as half of my kingdom.”

<sup>24</sup> She left the banquet hall and said to her mother, “What should I ask for?”

“John the Baptist’s head,” Herodias replied.

<sup>25</sup> Hurrying back to the ruler, she made her request: “I want you to give me John the Baptist’s head on a plate, right this minute.” <sup>26</sup> Although the king was upset, because of his solemn pledge and his guests, he didn’t want to refuse her. <sup>27</sup> So he ordered a guard to bring John’s head. The guard went to the prison, cut off John’s head, <sup>28</sup> brought his head on a plate, and gave it to the young woman, and she gave it to her mother. <sup>29</sup> When John’s disciples heard what had happened, they came and took his dead body and laid it in a tomb.

1. This is a pretty horrible story. What does it make you think?

## ***Week of July 21***

**Mark 6:30-34**

<sup>30</sup> The apostles returned to Jesus and told him everything they had done and taught. <sup>31</sup> Many people were coming and going, so there was no time to eat. He said to the apostles, “Come by yourselves to a secluded place and rest for a while.” <sup>32</sup> They departed in a boat by themselves for a deserted place.

<sup>33</sup> Many people saw them leaving and recognized them, so they ran ahead from all the cities and arrived before them. <sup>34</sup> When Jesus arrived and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. Then he began to teach them many things.

1. Why do you think Jesus tried to take the apostles away by themselves?
2. Why do you think he changed his mind?

### ***Week of July 28***

#### **John 6:6-13**

6 After this Jesus went across the Galilee Sea (that is, the Tiberias Sea). <sup>2</sup> A large crowd followed him, because they had seen the miraculous signs he had done among the sick. <sup>3</sup> Jesus went up a mountain and sat there with his disciples. <sup>4</sup> It was nearly time for Passover, the Jewish festival.

<sup>5</sup> Jesus looked up and saw the large crowd coming toward him. He asked Philip, “Where will we buy food to feed these people?” <sup>6</sup> Jesus said this to test him, for he already knew what he was going to do.

<sup>7</sup> Philip replied, “More than a half year’s salary worth of food wouldn’t be enough for each person to have even a little bit.”

<sup>8</sup> One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said, <sup>9</sup> “A youth here has five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that for a crowd like this?”

<sup>10</sup> Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass there. They sat down, about five thousand of them. <sup>11</sup> Then Jesus took the bread. When he had given thanks, he distributed it to those who were sitting there. He did the same with the fish, each getting as much as they wanted. <sup>12</sup> When they had plenty to eat, he said to his disciples, “Gather up the leftover pieces, so that nothing will be wasted.” <sup>13</sup> So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves that had been left over by those who had eaten.

1. What does this story tell you about Jesus?