**Worship Orders of Service Template**

**for June 11, 2023**

**Gather**

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Thanksgiving for Baptism**

*Pour Water into Baptismal Font. Consider inviting kids to assist with pouring water and then marking them with the sign of the cross in blessing at the end.*

L: Joined together in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God’s mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of Baptism.

 *Silence to reflect*

L: Holy God, Holy and merciful, Holy and Mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting well spring, you are the fire of rebirth

**C: Father, we give you thanks**

L: Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams, for the Wisconsin, Kickapoo, and Mighty Mississippi.  We honor you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow. Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you. You are the fountain of resurrection.

**C: Mother, we give you thanks**

L: Praise to you for the water of baptism and for your word that saves us in this sacrament. Breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here and into all creation. Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears. Wash away the sin within us and drown the evil around us.

**C: Satisfy all our thirst with your living waters, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  Amen**

L: Almighty God, Who gives us a new birth by water and Holy Spirit and adopts us into his family, strengthen us in all goodness and keep us in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

**Opening Song - Shall we Gather at the River**

*ELW Hymn #423*

**Kyrie**

**Learn**

**Children’s Message**

 *Script resource provided at end of this document.*

**Scripture Reading: Ephesians 4:11-16**

**Message**

*Video message provided by Bishop Felix Malpica.*

**Respond**

**Song of the Day: We are Marching in the Light of God**

*ELW Hymn #866*

**Prayers of the People**

 *Prayer petition resources at the end of this document.*

**Peace**

**Offering**

*Consider collecting socks, underwear and teen bras to contribute to the assembly tangible offering.*

**Offertory Prayer**

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Send**

**Announcements**

**Blessing**

**Sending Song**: **Build A Longer Table**

*All Creation Sings Hymn #1062*

**Postlude**

**Appendix**

**Children’s Message**

*The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers.* -- Ephesians 4:11

**Materials Needed**
Three potatoes
Card stock printed with scripture reference and verse

**Telling the Story**
I'd like to show you something. Does anyone know what this is? *(Show a potato. Let the children answer.)*That's right. It's a potato! I love potatoes! Potatoes taste good. They're full of vitamins and minerals that help us stay healthy, and there are many different ways we can cook potatoes.

One of my favorite ways to eat a potato is to bake it. I love baked potatoes. I bake it at 425 degrees for an hour, split it open, and top it with *(list your favorite potato toppings)*. Mmm ... that sounds good. In fact, it sounds so good that I think I'll take this potato home and bake it for supper.*(Set the potato aside, where the children can see it.)*

I'd like to you show something else. *(Show the second potato.)* Does anyone know what this is? *(Let the children answer.)* That's right! It's a potato! I love potatoes. They taste good, they're full of vitamins and minerals that help us stay healthy, and there are many different ways we can cook them.

One of my other favorite ways to eat a potato is to mash it. I peel the potato, boil it in water for twenty minutes, drain off the water, add a little milk and a little butter, and then mash the potatoes with my hand mixer. Sometimes I eat mashed potatoes with gravy and sometimes I eat them plain. Usually I cut up my meat and dip each bite in the mashed potatoes. Mashed potatoes are so good. In fact, that sounds so good that I think I'll take this potato home and make mashed potatoes for supper tomorrow. *(Set the potato next to the first potato, where the children can see both.)*

I'd like to show you something else.*(Show the third potato.)*Does anyone know what this is? *(Let the children answer.)*That's right! It's a potato! I love potatoes. They taste good, they're full of vitamins and minerals that help us stay healthy, and there are many different ways we can cook them.

Another way that I like to eat potatoes is to make hash browns. Now, hash browns aren't quite as good for me as baked potatoes and mashed potatoes. Hash browns have to be fried in grease or vegetable oil, which adds a little fat to them. But I still like to eat them. In fact, hash browns sound so good that I think I'll take this potato home and make hash browns for supper the day after tomorrow.*(Set this potato by the other two, where the children can see them.)*

Here we have three potatoes. Do you know what the amount of food you eat at one time is called? *(Let the children answer.)*It's called a "serving." Probably that name came from the fact that when someone gives you some food, they serve you, but there's another way we could think of it. Remember the vitamins and minerals that I said are in the potato. We could think of the potato as serving whoever eats it. It serves you or me by giving us the nutrition that we need. The potato is serving me when I eat it for supper.

How are people like potatoes?*(Let the children offer some answers.)*All those are good ideas, but there's another way.

Remember the potato? It serves me by giving me nutrition, but it can do that in many different ways. I could bake it, mash it, fry it, and I can cook the potato in other ways, too. There are many different ways the potato can serve me. Potatoes serve people, and people serve God. But guess what? There are many different ways that we can serve God. Who has some ideas? *(Let the children suggest ways that people can serve God.)* That's great! You've thought of a lot of ways we can serve God. Those ways are all different, but they're all important, and they all ultimately serve God.

*(Hold up the card stock with the scripture reference and verse printed on it.)*Paul, who wrote much of the New Testament, gives us some ideas, too. In Ephesians 4:11, he wrote, "The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers." These are just some of the ways that Paul says we can serve God. They're all different and they all ultimately serve God.

Now, how are people different than potatoes? *(Let the children offer some answers.)*Very good! Those are all ways we are different than potatoes, but there is another very important way.

Remember the potato? It can only serve one person, one way, and only one time. After I eat this potato, it'll be gone. I can never eat it again. But people aren't like that. Each one of us can serve God many times and many different ways. In fact, God will probably ask you to serve him different ways at different times in your life. The important things to remember are that:

1. Everyone is able to serve God -- so never think that you can't.

2. God is never "done" with you. God is always able to use you, even when you think you don't have any abilities, even if someday you think you're too old, or too tired. Even if you think you've sinned so badly that God won't ever want to hear from you ever again, he still loves you and will still use you if you let him.

So always be alert for ways that you can serve God and always be listening for God's directions, and then you can serve God, like a potato!

**Prayer**
Dear Lord,

Thank you for this beautiful day, and thank you for making potatoes that give us some of the nutrition we need. Please help us to remember that we can serve you in many different ways and help us to see how you want each of us, as individuals, to serve. Thank you for guiding us.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

**Scripture: Ephesians 4:11-16**

*New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition*

**11**He himself granted that some are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers **12**to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, **13**until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. **14**We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine by people’s trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming; **15**but speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, **16**from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love.

**Prayer Petitions**

Trusting in God’s abundant mercy, let us offer our prayers for a world in need, as we pray to cultivate life-

giving relationships with others and your whole creation.

*A brief silence.*

We pray, O God, for the church. Unite us with any on the margins, that the whole world recognizes that your mercy is greater than our human capacity to restrict it. Be with our faith communities as we strive to

love as you love.

God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray, O God, for creation. Show us how to honor and preserve forests and fields, and safeguard all cattle, birds, and wild animals. Lead us to appreciate and preserve lakes, rivers, and oceans as you send rain to water the earth. Revive lands recovering from natural disasters, and show us how to be the best stewards we can be.

God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray, O God, for the nations. Awaken in our leaders compassion for people who have too often felt

forgotten or neglected and inspire policy solutions that promote equity and inclusion. Teach us how we

can best advocate for our fellow humans.

God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray, O God, for all who are in need. Accompany anyone enduring chronic illness, any who suffer in

secret, and those grieving the death of loved ones. Send healing for all who plead for relief from sickness or pain, especially those we name now, aloud or in our hearts.

God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray, O God, for the eradication of racial hatred. On this week when we commemorate the Emanuel

Nine, we implore you to cast out the demons of white supremacy that make us believe lies about ourselves and our neighbors. Lead us into actions for justice.

God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We give thanks, O God, for Barnabas and all the saints who have gone before us. Renew our faith that you can do what you have promised and raise us, with all our beloved dead, to new life.

God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Receive our prayers and answer us in your good time and in your good way, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Song: Build a Longer Table**

Verse 1

Build a longer table,

not a higher wall,

Feeding those who hunger,

making room for all.

Feasting together,

stranger turns to friend,

Christ breaks walls to pieces,

false divisions end.

Verse 2

Build a safer refuge,

not a larger jail.

Where the weak find shelter,

Mercy will not fail.

For any place where justice is denied,

Christ will breach the jail wall,

freeing all inside.

Verse 3 Build a broader doorway, not a longer fence, Love protects all people, sparing no expense. When we embrace compassion more than fear, Christ tears down our fences; all are welcome here.

Verse 4

When we lived as exiles,

refugees abroad,

Christ became our doorway to the reign of God.

So must our tables welcome those who roam.

None can be excluded

all must find a home.