

Planning Christian Worship - Year C

Non-Festival—the Half Year of the Church

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The Season of Pentecost

The Church grows

After reliving the great events of the life of Christ, the worshipping Church spends half a year focusing on the teachings of Christ. The Church wears green during the season of Pentecost as the Spirit uses those teachings of Jesus to grow the faith of believers. The appointed lessons cover a great body of doctrine for faith and life.

The editor offers this suggestion to help provide a pattern and path for worship planning. (JES)

THE BELIEVER HAS FAITH...

<i>Pentecost 1 (Trinity)</i>	<i>Faith that trusts in the One True God</i>
<i>Pentecost 2</i>	<i>Faith that trusts in God's great power</i>
<i>Pentecost 3</i>	<i>Faith that trusts in God—even in the face of death</i>
<i>Pentecost 4</i>	<i>Faith that trusts in God after contrition and repentance</i>

THE BELIEVER FOLLOWS CHRIST...

<i>Pentecost 5</i>	<i>Followers of Christ expect persecution</i>
<i>Pentecost 6</i>	<i>Followers of Christ understand the call for total commitment</i>
<i>Pentecost 7</i>	<i>Followers of Christ support kingdom work</i>
<i>Pentecost 8</i>	<i>Followers of Christ love their neighbor</i>
<i>Pentecost 9</i>	<i>Followers of Christ listen when God speaks</i>
<i>Pentecost 10</i>	<i>Followers of Christ pray boldly</i>
<i>Pentecost 11</i>	<i>Followers of Christ know that earthly wealth is meaningless</i>
<i>Pentecost 12</i>	<i>Followers of Christ find true treasure in trusting God's promises</i>

THE BELIEVER HEARS JESUS' WARNINGS...

<i>Pentecost 13</i>	<i>The Word doesn't bring peace, but division</i>
<i>Pentecost 14</i>	<i>The door to heaven is narrow</i>
<i>Pentecost 15</i>	<i>The first will be last...humble yourselves</i>
<i>Pentecost 16</i>	<i>Count the cost of discipleship</i>

THE BELIEVER GROWS IN CHRISTIAN CHARACTER...

<i>Pentecost 17</i>	<i>Christians love the lost like Christ</i>
<i>Pentecost 18</i>	<i>Christians have a right relationship with worldly wealth</i>
<i>Pentecost 19</i>	<i>Christians find real wealth in heavenly treasure</i>
<i>Pentecost 20</i>	<i>Christians do their duty</i>
<i>Pentecost 21</i>	<i>Christians live a life of thanksgiving</i>
<i>Pentecost 22</i>	<i>Christians are persistent in prayer</i>
<i>Pentecost 23</i>	<i>Christians serve God above all</i>
<i>Pentecost 24</i>	<i>Christians know that Jesus is the Savior of Sinners</i>

First Sunday after Pentecost—Holy Trinity

The mystery of the Holy Trinity is beyond our comprehension. Yet it is proclaimed in Scripture and believed by Spirit-wrought hearts of faith. We believe in the one true God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The height, depth, and breadth of our God gives us peace as we travel towards eternity.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	John 16:12-15	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Numbers 6:22-27	
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Romans 5:1-5	1 John 5:5-12
<i>Psalm</i>	150	
<i>Color</i>	White	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God and Father, dwelling in majesty and mystery, filling and renewing all creation by your eternal Spirit, and manifesting your saving grace through our Lord Jesus Christ: in mercy cleanse our hearts and lips that, free from doubt and fear, we may ever worship you, one true immortal God, with your Son and the Holy Spirit, living and reigning, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory. Alleluia. (Isaiah 6:3b cf. NIV)

THE GOSPEL: JOHN 16:12-15

On the night he was betrayed, perhaps even as they walked out to the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus warns his disciples that the truth is unbearable. But the Spirit of Truth would come to instruct, guide, and strengthen in the way of truth. With aching hearts they would witness the Suffering Savior fulfill his redemptive work, bringing eternal peace between God and humankind. Yet, it was not until the coming of the Holy Spirit that they would fully understand the fulfillment of promises made and kept by our Triune God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

FIRST LESSON: NUMBERS 6:22-27

The Aaronic blessing is an integral part of the Lord's closing instructions at Mt. Sinai. The two-sided covenant of Sinai called for complete dedication of heart and mind to the almighty God of Israel. The idolatrous failures of God's holy people were still fresh in their minds. (And surely, this would not be the last of their waywardness.) Yet, Aaron and the priests are to assure the people of their Lord's continued faithfulness, even in the face of Israel's unfaithfulness. How impossible for human minds to possess a full understanding of the depths of God's grace! But the Spirit comes, planting confidence in the heart that clings to the Father's faithfulness and the eternal blessing he brings through the Son. On the road to the Promised Land or on the road of life, believers travel at peace in the Triune God's three-fold blessing.

SECOND LESSON: ROMANS 5:1-5

The Judge's declaration of innocence would mean nothing were it not for faith. In love the Father pours out his Holy Spirit to give this forgiveness, life, and salvation to souls gripped by the fear of guilt and punishment. Gifted through the Father, made accessible through the Son, established by the Holy Spirit, we are assured of eternal peace with our Triune God. Suffer though we may, the Spirit continues to strengthen hearts that live in his grace.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: 1 JOHN 5:5-12

Sin is rampant. The godless get ahead. Deception succeeds. The believer suffers...or so it would seem. But John sets forth testimony to the truth of the Triune God through the Holy Spirit. For the Spirit works through the means of grace, proclaiming the message of the Christ in the waters of baptism and the blood of the Lord's Supper. This is the Spirit's message: the Father has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

HYMN OF THE DAY

177 Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest
 178 Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

44 Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light
 72 O Lord, Our Father, Thanks and Praise
 176 Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord
 185 O Holy Spirit, Grant us Grace
 190 We Now Implore God the Holy Ghost
 191 Father Most Holy, Merciful, and Tender
 192 Triune God, Oh, Be Our Stay
 193 Come, Now, Almighty King
 195 Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty
 239 Glory Be to God the Father
 241 Alleluia! Let Praises Ring
 247 Earth and All Stars
 260 Let All Things Now Living
 262 All Glory Be to God Alone
 263 All Glory Be to God on High
 264 Glory Be to God in Heaven
 266 Kyrie, God Father in Heaven Above
 270 We All Believe in One True God
 271 We All Believe in One True God

273 Glory Be to the Father
 326 May the Grace of Christ Our Savior
 329 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing
 330 Now the Hour of Worship O'er
 332 Go, My Children, with My Blessing
 394 Blessed Are the Saints of God
 398 Lord, We Confess Our Numerous Faults
 408 Christians, While on Earth Abiding
 411 What a Friend We Have in Jesus
 531 Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation
 534 In the Midst of Earthly Life
 584 O Blessed, Holy Trinity
 596 Let Me Be Yours Forever
 598 My Maker, Be with Me
 623 God the Father, Son, and Spirit
 724 Voices Raised to You We Offer
 760 When Peace, like a River
 778 How Shall They Hear Who Have Not Heard

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Faith trusts in God's power completely. No matter how impossible the problem, faith believes that God can and will help. Faith like that, given by the Holy Spirit, is not reserved exclusively for the direct descendants of Abraham. Rather, the gift of faith comes to every heart in the spiritual House of Israel.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 7:1-10	
<i>First Lesson</i>	1 Kings 8:22, 23, 41-43	Joshua 5:13—6:5, 20
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Galatians 1:1-10	James 1:2-12
<i>Psalm</i>	100	142
<i>Color</i>	Green	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you rule over all things in wisdom and kindness. Take away everything that may be harmful and give us whatever is good; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. Alleluia. (Psalm 119:105)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 7:1-10

In the centurion Jesus sees great faith in the heart of a foreigner. He trusted completely in Christ's power and believed that Christ could help in any trial. Though he was a foreigner, the centurion can claim membership in the House of Israel because of the grace given to him through the Christ. Through heartache and tears, faith trusts not in its own strength, but in the power of him to whom it clings, the Lord Jesus.

FIRST LESSON: 1 KINGS 8:22, 23, 41-43

At the dedication of the temple, Solomon exalts the object of our faith, the LORD, the God of Israel, the God of all power and might, and also the God of free and faithful grace. So great is his name and so deep his love that the faithful will come from the ends of the earth to worship him. In his grace, the LORD will keep his promises and bring his deliverance with a mighty hand and outstretched arm to all who trust in him.

SECOND LESSON: GALATIANS 1:1-10

This lesson begins a series of six readings from Paul's letter to the Galatians. Paul pleads with the Galatians not to abandon the faith to which they have been called. Their faith is in the Lord who has rescued them from hell itself. How can they abandon the Gospel they have known? But in the midst of trial, know this: It is the Lord who brings salvation. We place the confidence of our hearts in him alone.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: JOSHUA 5:13—6:5, 20

Standing before those huge walls, the instructions from the Lord must have seemed ridiculous. Yet the Lord had given his word. By faith the Israelites trusted the Lord’s marching orders and in spectacular fashion our faithful God delivered the city into their hands. Here was a chilling lesson for the people of Jericho. The Lord is all powerful and exacting in his judgment. Yet at the same, let us not forget his grace in the life of Rahab. What a lesson God teaches us at Jericho: He is all-powerful and exacting in his punishment, but boundlessly merciful to those like Rahab who cling to his promises in faith. By faith, a foreigner is brought into the House of Israel.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: JAMES 1:2-12

How difficult it is to rejoice in the midst of trials! Yet, the Christian does just that. For the heart of faith knows that the Lord uses trials to strengthen our trust in him and will doubtlessly give generously, even an eternal crown of life. Put your faith in him who has spoken it, and it is done.

HYMN OF THE DAY

190 We Now Implore God the Holy Ghost

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

176 Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord
 177 Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest
 178 Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest
 228 Come, Rejoice before Your Maker
 233 All People that on Earth Do Dwell
 252 Oh, Sing to the Lord
 255 Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty
 346 In You is Gladness
 354 Lamb of God, We Fall before You
 391 God Loved the World So that He Gave
 395 Seek Where You May to Find a Way
 401 Your Works, Not Mine, O Christ

403 I Know My Faith Is Founded
 404 Faith Is a Living Power from Heaven
 405 Oh, for a Faith that Will Not Shrink
 412 Lord, Teach Us How to Pray Aright
 416 How Firm a Foundation
 425 Oh, Sing, My Soul, Your Maker’s Praise
 428 Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me
 431 I Walk in Danger All the Way
 491 O Master of the Loving Heart
 520 Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of Old
 756 We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight
 768 How Firm a Foundation

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Last Sunday we heard that faith trusts God’s power completely. This Sunday’s lessons sound the depth of that faith. Can our faith trust completely, even when faced with death itself? Facing our own mortality, or that of our loved ones, brings out the weakest parts of our character. And so, today the Church prays: Be gracious to us in our weakness and give us strength...

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 7:11-17	
<i>First Lesson</i>	1 Kings 17:17-24	
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Galatians 1:11-24	Philippians 1:18b-26
<i>Psalm</i>	30	
<i>Color</i>	Green	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, the strength of all who trust in you, mercifully hear our prayers. Be gracious to us in our weakness and give us strength to keep your commandments in all we say and do; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Alleluia. (2 Corinthians 5:19 cf. RSV)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 7:11-17

A grieving heart finds unexpected joy as death is met by the Author of life. Leaving the people in awe at the display of his power, Jesus raises the young man of Nain from the dead. In so doing, Jesus brought joy to his mother and a promise of help to God’s people. Death is powerless before the Son of God. In this young man’s rising from death to life, Christ gives us a foretaste of what waits for God’s people. Faith trusts in Christ—even in the face of death.

FIRST LESSON: 1 KINGS 17:17-24

The Shunamite woman expressed her faith in the Lord by providing for the Lord’s prophet, Elijah. But her faith is shaken at the death of her only son, himself a special gift from the Lord. But the Lord changes her sorrow into joy by raising her son from the dead. God was gracious to her in her weakness and gave her renewed strength of faith seen in those humble words of awe at this display of power, “Now I know.”

SECOND LESSON: GALATIANS 1:11-24

As a testimony to the power of the Christ and the authority of his gospel, Paul cites the example of his own previous way of life. The power of the Christ raises the spiritually dead to spiritual life. Paul who once persecuted the church, was redeemed and raised from death to new life in Christ—a life of service to the saints in the Lord’s Kingdom work and life forever in heaven.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: PHILIPPIANS 1:18B-26

Live or die, Paul is at peace with the Lord's will. The message of the risen Christ is being proclaimed. More than a prophet, Christ has come to bring life from death. Therefore, Paul knows and is confident of this: the Lord can and will bring joy even through the sorrow of death. We now know the Lord of life who took away Death's sting. In him we can rejoice with Paul who said, "To live is Christ, and to die is gain."

HYMN OF THE DAY

413 When in the Hour of Utmost Need

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

145 Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won

167 Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense

170 Draw Us to Thee

212 Jerusalem, Thou City Fair and High

278 Holy God, We Praise Your Name

353 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

404 Faith Is a Living Power from Heaven

413 When in the Hour of Utmost Need

414 I Leave All Things to God's Direction

415 Be Still, My Soul

425 Oh, Sing, My Soul, Your Maker's Praise

429 What God Ordains Is Always Good

466 Though Thoughtless Thousands Choose

491 O Master of the Loving Heart

503 Oh, Blessed Home, Where Man and Wife

520 Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of Old

552 By All Your Saints Still Striving

555 For All Your Saints, O Lord

588 Abide with Me

606 For Me to Live Is Jesus

607 How Blest Are They

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

The journey from spiritual death to spiritual life begins with a recognition of guilt. We have sinned and fall short of fulfilling the Law of the Lord. Through contrition and repentance God prepares the heart to receive the gift of the Gospel.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 7:36-50	
<i>First Lesson</i>	2 Samuel 11:26—12:10, 13-15	2 Chronicles 33:1-6, 10-18
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Galatians 2:11-21	1 Corinthians 6:9-11
<i>Psalm</i>	32	40
<i>Color</i>	Green	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, protector of all the faithful, you alone make strong; you alone make holy. Show us your mercy and forgive our sins day by day. Guide us through our earthly lives that we do not lose the things you have prepared for us in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. May your priests be clothed with righteousness; may your saints sing for joy. Alleluia. (Psalm 132:9)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 7:36-50

Jesus uses the parable of the money lender to show the Pharisees the value of forgiven debt. Tears of guilt and shame still flow in a repentant flood from the heart at Jesus' feet. The man who fails to see his own sin, considers himself to have little need of a Savior. The heart of faith, however, recognizes its own debt of sin and can truly appreciate the depth of God's gracious forgiveness. The life of a Christian is one of constant repentance of sins, and trust in Christ for forgiveness.

FIRST LESSON: 2 SAMUEL 11:26—12:10, 13-15

What a warning this lesson brings to Christians! What an admonition to daily contrition and repentance! Here is the infamous blight on the reign of King David. Unrepentance was leading to David's spiritual destruction. So the Lord sends Nathan to bring David to recognize his guilt and return to the Lord. The Lord's judgment is just and right. But such is the grace of our God, that immediately sinners who repent hear that the Lord has taken away their sins.

SECOND LESSON: GALATIANS 2:11-21

The Law is necessary to show us our sins, to curb our actions, and to guide our lives. The Law, however, cannot save us; only the Gospel can. The sinful flesh continually tempts us to believe that God loves us because of who we are rather than in spite of who we are. Men came from Jerusalem and wanted the

Galatians to believe that fulfilling the ceremonial laws of the Old Testament was a necessity for salvation. Paul shows us that not even Peter can change what God ordained: salvation is by grace.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: 2 CHRONICLES 33:1-6, 10-18

Here is the account of the abominable evil of Manasseh, King of Judah. Only after a brutal humbling and exile in Babylon did Manasseh recognize the error of his ways. Physically, emotionally, and spiritually crushed into humble repentance Manasseh returned to the Lord and knew his forgiving faithfulness. How true it is that God wants no one to be lost, but that each man turn from his wickedness and live!

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 6:9-11

Here is stern warning from the Lord through the Apostle Paul that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God. Included in this list of wickedness are many of the sins that are popular—even defended and admired—in our society today. Here is opportunity to preach on not only on such hot-button sins as homosexuality, but also the power the Spirit to wash, sanctify, and justify the repentant heart in the Lord Jesus.

HYMN OF THE DAY

479 Jesus, Your Boundless Love to Me

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

32 When Sinners See Their Lost Condition
 93 Hail to the Lord's Anointed
 154 Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks
 286 The Law Commands and Makes Us Know
 302 Lord, to You I Make Confession
 304 Jesus Sinners Does Receive
 305 From Depths of Woe I Cry to You
 350 All Praise Be Yours
 383 Blessed Are They, Forever Blest
 385 Chief of Sinners Though I Be
 390 Salvation unto Us Has Come
 393 If Your Beloved Son, O God

394 Blessed Are the Saints of God
 397 Just As I Am, without One Plea
 398 Lord, We Confess Our Numerous Faults
 404 Faith Is a Living Power from Heaven
 405 Oh, for a Faith that Will Not Shrink
 425 Oh, Sing, My Soul, Your Maker's Praise
 434 Lord, You I Love with All My Heart
 446 I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus
 454 I Gave My Life for Thee
 738 In Hopelessness and Near Despair
 739 Baptismal Waters Cover Me
 761 Christ Is With Me

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Is faithfulness to Christ worth the trouble it brings? The life of faith is lived in a godless world, and it is therefore certain to be met with persecution. Like our Suffering Savior, we too bear his cross in our daily interactions with the unholy trio. The Lord, however, uses these persecutions suffered for the sake of the Gospel to refine us into the pure, precious metal of his children. Strengthened through the means of grace, we boldly confess Jesus as the Christ in the face of any persecution or trouble. The Church prays that God in his mercy would direct the affairs of this world so that the Church might have peace, but at the same time we prepare ourselves for persecution.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 9:18-24	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Zechariah 13:7-9	Genesis 39:6b-12, 16-23
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Galatians 3:23-29	Hebrews 11:24-26
<i>Psalm</i>	22	
<i>Color</i>	Green	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord, our God, govern the nations on earth and direct the affairs of this world so that your Church may worship you in peace and joy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” Alleluia. (Galatians 4:6 cf. NIV)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 9:18-24

In a private moment, Jesus offers the disciples an opportunity to confess their faith. They confess Jesus as “the Christ of God.” These men so bold in faith have no idea what lies ahead. Jesus warns them of his impending suffering and glorious resurrection. But the suffering is not his alone. To all who confess Jesus as Lord and Savior come trials and suffering on account of his name. We bear his cross on our heads and hearts at the risk of our lives. But to him who overcomes is given the crown of eternal life.

FIRST LESSON: ZECHARIAH 13:7-9

In this prophetic vision of Jesus as the suffering Messiah, the Shepherd is struck and the flock is scattered. The sound of disciples’ feet fleeing into the darkness first fulfilled this prophesy in the Garden of Gethsemane. Yet God makes a promise: suffering for the Gospel is his way of refining his children. As fire removes impurities from gold and silver, so persecution refines the faith of God’s people. Only with this knowledge can we understand what Luther meant when he said that the absence of persecution is total persecution.

SECOND LESSON: GALATIANS 3:23-29

How can a Christian rejoice even in the suffering and persecution? When we know that these sufferings are for the sake of Christ who bought us and made us his heirs. We confess Christ even in the face of persecution because we belong to Christ and look forward to an inheritance that no suffering, no evil, no attack can take away from us. Paul contrasts the harsh imprisonment of the law with the gracious freedom of the gospel that comes through faith. In this contrast we see how the Lord can use the trials of life and temptations of the heart to build deeper appreciation for his gracious salvation in Jesus Christ. Through baptism, we have been made equal and unified heirs of the promise, boldly claiming our inheritance from the Father.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: GENESIS 39:6B-12, 16-23

Is faithfulness to Christ worth the trouble it brings? Under daily pressure, Joseph knew the struggle of contemplating that question. When confronted with the blatant seduction of evil, he boldly confessed his obedience to the Lord only to find himself wrongly imprisoned. Yet even through this trial the Lord blessed Joseph, preparing him for future leadership and the saving of many lives. God had not forgotten him; God was refining him; God was preparing him for future service.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: HEBREWS 11:24-26

Is faithfulness worth the trouble it brings? For Moses, faithfulness meant giving up power, riches, and pleasure so great that the world still marvels at ancient Egypt’s glories. Even more than abstaining from these, faithfulness meant Moses would leave nobility behind and identify himself with an enslaved people. Such trouble for being faithful! Moses, however, knew the Hope of Israel and regarded this disgrace for the sake of Christ to be worth more than all the treasures of Egypt.

HYMN OF THE DAY

536 Lord Jesus Christ, the Church’s Head

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

156 Awake, My Heart, with Gladness
 210 Who Knows When Death
 297 Baptized in Water
 299 All Who Believe and Are Baptized
 300 See This Wonder in the Making
 376 Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness
 392 Not unto Us
 394 Blessed Are the Saints of God
 395 Seek Where You May to Find a Way

403 I Know My Faith Is Founded
 404 Faith Is a Living Power from Heaven
 416 How Firm a Foundation
 422 Jesus, Lead Us On
 428 Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me
 431 I Walk in Danger All the Way
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453 Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spoke
454 I Gave My Life for Thee
465 Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken
466 Though Thoughtless Thousands Choose
494 Blest Be the Tie that Binds
539 In Christ There Is No East or West
549 Around the Throne, A Glorious Band
552 By All Your Saints Still Striving
723 Holy Spirit, the Dove Sent from Heaven
736 All Christians Who Have Been Baptized
737 God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It
739 Baptismal Waters Cover Me
768 How Firm a Foundation
772 When Jesus Came from Nazareth

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Following Christ calls for total commitment. The life of faith walks in lock step with the will of God and does not following the meandering ways of this world. Elisha’s response to the Lord’s call stands in contrast to the initially willing, but ultimately uncommitted “followers” of Jesus. Our Prayer of the Day says it well, “Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises...” and our Verse of the Day aptly summarizes the Sunday.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 9:51-62	
<i>First Lesson</i>	1 Kings 19:14-21	Jonah 3:3—4:4
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Galatians 5:1, 13-25	2 Corinthians 11:21b-30
<i>Psalm</i>	62	
<i>Color</i>	Green	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you have prepared joys beyond understanding for those who love you. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.
Alleluia. (Mark 8:34b)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 9:51-62

Following Christ leaves no room for vengeance, self-preservation or wrong priorities. So many want to follow Jesus, but only if a life of faith can be lived as much *of* the world as *in* the world. Breathless excitement wasn’t enough; cultural conventions weren’t enough; not even seemingly loving acts were enough to change Jesus’ claim: Following Christ is all or nothing—it calls for total commitment.

FIRST LESSON: 1 KINGS 19:14-21

Elisha is called to follow Elijah in proclaiming the Word of the Lord to Israel. He answered the all or nothing call of God with total commitment by burning his oxen and plow. There would be no looking back. He promptly leads his family in a farewell thanksgiving celebration and then left them behind to follow Elijah. Let us put our hand to the plow and look only ahead to the eternal harvest.

SECOND LESSON: GALATIANS 5:1, 13-25

We were once yoked in slavery to sin and the Law. Now, set free from evil, our new found freedom does not lead to waywardness or being yoked again by sin. We are called to leave behind our life of sin and not look

back to it. Rather, we follow Christ completely and with willing hearts we joyfully serve the Lord, walking in step with the Spirit.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: JONAH 3:3—4:4

Jonah could best be described as the Lord’s reluctant prophet. Jonah thought he could outmaneuver God, but a fish spit him back into line with the Lord’s will. He preached the Word and to his dismay saw enemy of Israel in the dust and ashes of repentance. Jonah would rather have died than seen the mercy of the Lord showered upon them. He was unwilling to commit to God’s will and leave behind his hatred and prejudice. God calls Jonah to leave them behind and instead follow him on the path of mercy and forgiveness.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: 2 CORINTHIANS 11:21B-30

How easy it would have been for Paul to give up the Way to return to the way of the world! Yet by grace, through faith, Paul continued to follow Christ. Even in the face of a host of dangers and hardships he did not look back. Every Christian is called to similarly follow Christ with unswerving devotion.

HYMN OF THE DAY

465 Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 110 My Song Is Love Unknown | 525 The Son of God, Our Christ |
| 126 Lord Jesus, You Are Going Forth | 527 Weary of All Trumpeting |
| 154 Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks | 542 Dear Lord, to Your True Servants Give |
| 204 O God, Our Lord, Your Holy Word | 543 God of the Prophets |
| 205 O Lord, Look Down from Heaven | 563 Go Labor On |
| 357 Jesus, Lover of My Soul | 564 There Is a Balm in Gilead |
| 453 Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spoke | 580 Every Morning Mercies New |
| 463 Jesus Calls Us O’er the Tumult | 715 What Grace Is This! |
| 471 Renew Me, O Eternal Light | 749 The Love of Christ, Who Died for Me |
| 496 Glorious in Majesty | 770 O Christ, Who Called the Twelve |
| 505 Love Is the Gracious Gift | 772 When Jesus Came from Nazareth |
| 517 Almighty Father, Strong to Save | |

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

The Lord invites believers to take part in his kingdom work. What joy and privilege is ours to work in his harvest fields, to witness the power of the Spirit, and to support this ministry!

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 10:1-12, 16-20	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Isaiah 66:10-14	1 Kings 17:1-16
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Galatians 6:1-10, 14-16	Philippians 4:10-20
<i>Psalm</i>	66	
<i>Color</i>	Green	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of all power and might, you are the giver of all that is good. Help us love you with all our heart, strengthen us in true faith, provide us with all we need, and keep us safe in your care; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Happy are they who hear the Word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience. Alleluia. (Luke 8:15 cf. RSV)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 10:1-12, 16-20

Jesus sends out the seventy-two to proclaim peace to the people. But they go empty handed. In this way, God's people are given the opportunity to respond to God's goodness by sharing all good things with his messengers. What a privilege to bear such good tidings and humbly receive such gifts! What joy to see the Word at work, accomplishing the purpose for which it is sent! As messenger or hearer, what grace to be numbered among those whose names are written in heaven!

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 66:10-14

Through the ministry of the Gospel God extends peace to the world. Through the preaching of the Word, the hand of the Lord is made known to his servants and the fury of the Lord is made known to his enemies. Where there was seeming defeat, there is now victory. Where there was despair there is now purpose. Where there was distraught fear, there is now the carefree joy of a child dancing in mother's lap. Yes, the Lord has nourished and comforted the faithful with his message of peace. It is our privilege to witness this kingdom work and rejoice with all Israel in the comfort that has come to our hearts.

SECOND LESSON: GALATIANS 6:1-10, 14-16

Using harvest language, Paul is inspired to encourage our participation in the Lord's kingdom work. In our "Me" oriented culture, bearing our own burdens seems tough enough. But the Lord calls on each of us to help bear each other's burdens. What joy is ours to fulfill the love-law of Christ as we share the message not

only of forgiveness in Christ Jesus but also of comfort for the weary. This doing “good to all” even carries over into our support of kingdom workers as we share all good things with spiritual instructors.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: 1 KINGS 17:1-16

God provided for his prophet through a wonderful miracle. God could have kept providing for his prophet in that way, but he had another plan. He would give the people of God the privilege of providing for and supporting his minister. It was still a miracle; it was still the blessing of God that made it possible. But God in his wisdom wanted his Church to share in the work of supporting the ministry of the Word. And they were doubly blessed.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: PHILIPPIANS 4:10-20

Christians supporting the work of the Gospel offer a fragrant offering and an acceptable sacrifice to God. Paul acknowledges with joy the generosity of the Philippian congregation. Even when he was not directly serving them, they continued to support his mission work by meeting his physical needs. What privilege it is to praise God by supporting the Lord’s kingdom work. In this way the Lord continues to provide for his full-time servants in the church and promises even more: To those who give support to the Gospel, God promises to meet all their needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus!

HYMN OF THE DAY

570 O Christians, Haste

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

125 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
 181 Come, Oh, Come, Life-Giving Spirit
 200 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
 201 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
 236 All Praise to God Who Reigns Above
 253 I Will Sing My Maker's Praises
 345 In the Cross of Christ I Glory
 404 Faith Is a Living Power from Heaven
 437 I Trust, O Christ, in You Alone
 456 Forth in Your Name, O Lord, I Go
 466 Though Thoughtless Thousands Choose
 492 Son of God, Eternal Savior
 494 Blest Be the Tie that Binds
 499 O God of Mercy, God of Might
 518 Forth in the Peace of Christ We Go
 524 O Fount of Good, for All Your Love
 525 The Son of God, Our Christ

530 Hark! The Church Proclaims Her Honor
 544 Preach You the Word
 546 Lord Jesus, You Have Come
 548 O Lord, in Prayer You Spent the Night
 559 Lord of the Living Harvest
 567 Awake, O Spirit, Who Inspired
 568 Good News of God Above
 570 O Christians, Haste
 572 Send Forth, O Lord, to every Place
 573 Hark! The Voice of Jesus Crying
 575 How Shall They Hear the Word of God
 576 Spread, Oh, Spread the Mighty Word
 578 Saints of God, the Dawn Is Brightening
 726 Christ, the Lord of Hosts, Unshaken
 760 When Peace, like a River
 770 O Christ, Who Called the Twelve
 775 For Builders Bold, Whose Vision Pure

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

The believer loves his neighbor. We have every reason to love him. We know what we were when God found us; we know the love and mercy he poured out on us. Christ, the compassion of God, has treated our spiritual wounds and paid for our healing with his own blood. As we have known his goodness, let us do good to all. As our Prayer of the Day reminds us: The word is planted in our hearts, and now we ask the Holy Spirit to bring forth such fruits of faith as loving our neighbor for the sake of Christ.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 10:25-37	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Deuteronomy 30:9-14	Deuteronomy 24:17-22
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Colossians 1:1-14	Romans 12:9-21
<i>Psalm</i>	25	
<i>Color</i>	Green	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your Word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy and to bring forth fruits in faith and hope and love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. The Word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it. Alleluia.
(Deuteronomy 30:14 cf. NIV)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 10:25-37

In the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus connects love for God with love for our neighbors. Just as God has had compassion on us, so we are to have compassion on others, especially those in need. This love for others, even for our enemies, grows from the Word of the Lord rooted in our hearts and mouths.

FIRST LESSON: DEUTERONOMY 30:9-14

How abundantly has the Lord loved his people and blessed them with bountiful gifts for heart and mouth, soul and body. This Word of salvation is abundantly clear and fills our hearts and mouths. With such abundance, the life of faith responds in generosity towards others in need.

SECOND LESSON: COLOSSIANS 1:1-14

This lesson begins a series of three readings from Paul's letter to the congregation at Colosse. Spirit-worked appreciation for what has been given to them in Christ Jesus has led the Colossians to bear fruits of faith and love for the benefit of God's kingdom. Paul's prayer is that this work of the Spirit continues, not only in the hearts of the Colossians, but also in hearts of believers today. Rescued from darkness, we too know and embody the love of Christ, bearing fruit in every good work done for the love of our neighbor.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: DEUTERONOMY 24:17-22

The Lord commands the Israelites to remember those in need by reminding them that they were once slaves in Egypt. Crying out in need, the Lord answered Israel's prayer and provided for their salvation. God's love for us is always the reason and motivation for our acts of love toward our neighbor.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: ROMANS 12:9-21

Paul calls on the believer to live the life of faith in joyful response to the Lord's goodness. This means shunning what is evil and embracing what is good. Loving our neighbor means embodying the love of Christ: being humble, brotherly, hospitable, peaceable. Sharing with those in need, especially the enemy, embodies the love Christ had for us. This, then, is truly showing love to our neighbor and doing good to all.

HYMN OF THE DAY

456 Forth in Your Name, O Lord, I Go

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

184 O Holy Spirit, Enter In

204 O God, Our Lord, Your Holy Word

348 Jesus, Jesus, Only Jesus

390 Salvation unto Us Has Come

438 In God, My Faithful God

459 O God, My Faithful God

476 Thee Will I Love, My Strength, My Tower

498 Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire

499 O God of Mercy, God of Might

505 Love Is the Gracious Gift

518 Forth in the Peace of Christ We Go

519 O God of Love, O King of Peace

521 Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace

524 O Fount of Good, for All Your Love

526 We Are Your People

597 May God the Father of Our Lord

773 In Unity and Peace

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

The believer hears the Word of God and listens with a trusting heart. So many things in this world can distract us from that simple privilege and duty of believers! Living according to God's will means giving the Word of God central place in our lives as the one thing needful.

	CHRISTIAN WORSHIP LECTIONARY	SUPPLEMENTAL LECTIONARY
<i>Gospel</i>	Luke 10:38-42	
<i>First Lesson</i>	Genesis 18:1-14	1 Samuel 3:1-10
<i>Second Lesson</i>	Colossians 1:21-29	Colossians 3:12-17
<i>Psalm</i>	119a	122
<i>Color</i>	Green	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Grant us, Lord, the spirit to think and do what is right that we, who cannot do anything that is good without you, may by your help be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. My Word will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. Alleluia. (Isaiah 55:11b cf. NIV)

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 10:38-42

Twenty-first century Christians can certainly identify with Martha. So much to do and so little time! We have great excuses and fine rationalizations to explain the fact we have so little time to sit at Jesus' feet. But like Martha, our reasons fail in the face of Christ's simple statement: there is one needful thing—to hear the Word of God. On many an occasion, Martha would have surely sat at Jesus' feet. But on this day, she was distracted by the many things being used to drag her away from where it was better for her to be. The busyness of Martha is contrasted by the devotion of Mary to Jesus' words. When this one thing needful is truly treasured in the believer's life, everything else falls into place and it will not be taken from us, even into eternity.

FIRST LESSON: GENESIS 18:1-14

The Lord appeared to Abraham and promised him a son. While the world laughs with Sarah at the seemingly impossible promises of God, we hear the Word of the Lord and believe it. Promises of free forgiveness, eternal life after death, and the perfection of heaven seem laughable to those who busy themselves with getting ahead or serving self. Even those who are familiar with the Word of the Lord find it difficult to believe his promises when guilt haunts our hearts. But with the Word of the Lord in its rightful, central place in the life of the believer, nothing is impossible. The Lord spoke and ancient Abraham had a son.

SECOND LESSON: COLOSSIANS 1:21-29

Paul became a servant of the Church to present the Word of God in its fullness. This Word proclaims the mystery kept hidden for generations: God has reconciled all people through Christ's physical body and now presents us without blemish and free from accusation. Only one thing is needful: the Word of God in its fullness. This mystery, hidden from the ages, is now revealed to us, his saints. Because Christ is in us, so is the hope of eternal glory. We sit at Jesus feet to hear it again and again.

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: 1 SAMUEL 3:1-10

Eli had issues. He was a man who falsely accused pious Hannah but failed to remove his wicked sons from office. He was a man who served in the Lord's house, but received a prophecy of judgment against him from God. Yes, Eli had issues. However, he knew one thing and passed it on to young Samuel: When God speaks, we listen. With Samuel, we humbly answer the Lord's call, "Speak, LORD. Your servant is listening."

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: COLOSSIANS 3:12-17

Though we have been called to be God's chosen people, we often fail to act like it. Such fruits of the Spirit as compassion, gentleness, and patience are replaced by irritation, intolerance, and impenitence. But as the Word of Christ dwells in us, so the peace of Christ rules in our hearts. Gathered around the Word of the Lord, we hear of his gracious forgiveness. We rejoice in thanksgiving. We put aside the urges of the sinful nature. We forgive as we have been forgiven. We love as we have been loved. Such is the impact the Word of the Lord has in the believer's life. Indeed, when the Word has central place as the one thing needful, everything we do is to the glory of God.

HYMN OF THE DAY

290 One Thing's Needful

ADDITIONAL HYMNS

184 O Holy Spirit, Enter In
 221 Blessed Jesus, at Your Word
 222 Songs of Praise the Angels Sang
 255 Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty
 282 Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear
 283 Speak, O Savior; I Am Listening
 293 God's Word is Our Great Heritage
 317 O Lord, We Praise You
 333 Abide, O Dearest Jesus
 456 Forth in Your Name, O Lord, I Go
 458 May We Your Precepts, Lord, Fulfill
 462 Oh, that the Lord Would Guide My Ways

467 May the Mind of Christ My Savior
 490 Love in Christ Is Strong and Living
 506 Oh, Blest the House, Whate'er Befall
 510 I Pray You, Dear Lord Jesus
 518 Forth in the Peace of Christ We Go
 519 O God of Love, O King of Peace
 522 Grant Peace, We Pray, in Mercy, Lord
 592 All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night
 724 Voices Raised to You We Offer
 735 Speak, O Lord
 745 May the Peace of God
 752 In Christ Alone

