

A Liturgy for Bible Sunday
November 15, 2015
Elinor Brown

Call to Worship

How can we live a clean life?

By carefully reading the map of your Word.

We are single-minded in pursuit of you

Don't let us miss the road signs you've posted.

Be blessed, God; train us in your ways of wise living.

We'll transfer to our lips all the counsel that comes from your mouth.

We ponder every morsel of wisdom from you,

Open our eyes so we can see what you show us of your miracle-wonders.

Your sayings on life are what give us delight;

We listen to them as to good neighbors!

Be blessed, God' train us in your ways of wise living.

—based on Psalm 119:9-24

Call to Confession

Romans 10 says that “Moses wrote that anyone who insists on using the law code to live right before God soon discovers it's not so easy—every detail of life is regulated by fine print!... [But] the word that saves is right here, as near as the tongue in your mouth, as close as the heart in your chest. It's the word of faith that welcomes God to go to work and set things right for us.” Let us use our tongues and hearts to confess our wrong-doings to God.

—based on Romans 10:4-5

Prayer of Confession (unison)

O God, in the scriptures, you tell us to place your words on our hearts, to keep them deep inside of us and even to tie them onto our hands and foreheads as a reminder, but we don't do it. We hear the words to love you and one another as we love ourselves and we put ourselves first every time. You tell us to teach your words to our children, but instead they learn from what we do or don't do, an example that isn't always the best one to follow. You tell us to talk about your words from the time we get up to the time we go to bed, but we keep silent, afraid that we will be teased or excluded because of our faith. God forgive us our sins against you and others. Make us want to follow the example of your word-made-flesh through Jesus Christ. Amen.

—based on Deuteronomy 11:18-21

Assurance of Pardon

Paul in Romans goes on to say “You're not ‘doing anything;’ you're simply calling out to God, trusting God to do it for you.... With your whole being you embrace God setting things right,

and then you say it, right out loud: ‘God has set everything right between God and me!’ Friends, this is the amazing news, through Christ Jesus, God has set everything right between us. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

—based on *Psalm 119:9-10*

Prayer for Illumination

God, we know your powerful word is sharp as a surgeon’s scalpel, cutting through everything, laying us open to listen and obey. We know that nothing and no one is impervious to your word. No one can get away from it, no matter what. Let it enfold us, challenge us and move us to action. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

—based on *Hebrews 4:12-13*

Scripture Possibilities for the Sermon

- 1 Samuel 3:11-17
- 1 Kings 6:11-13
- Psalm 119:89-96
- Matthew 4:1-4
- Luke 8:11-12
- 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Prayers of the People

O God, with the psalmist, we shout your praises on the highest hilltops for you are the most holy and mighty God. We cannot help but offer you thanksgiving because of the all the many gifts you give us every day: the gift of life, the gift of shelter, water and food, the gift of family and friends who support us with love that is reflected from your face. We know that there are those who do not have the gift of good health so their lives are hard. We know there are those that do not have shelter or water and food, so they struggle daily. We know there are those who have no family and friends to help them with encouragement and love, so we know they are lonely and overwhelmed. For all of these people, we ask that you would be with them. We ask that you would put us in their paths, so we can be your hands and feet for them.

O God, with Peter and Paul we pray on behalf of those who have not heard your word. Let us be your mouth pieces so your word can be heard throughout the word and your son proclaimed Lord and Savior.

O God, your word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. Let us look for the answers we seek in your word. Let us pray for discernment through the scriptures so we will know what you would have us do. Let us say and mean the words that your son Jesus Christ taught us to pray:

**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 debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation and deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

Invitation to the Offering

Paul said that the church in Macedonia took the word of God to heart, and shared all they had because they believed and had experienced its grace and mercy. Let us learn from their example and bring our gifts that they may be a sign of the abundance of grace and mercy we have received from God.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God, as we give you back a portion of what you have generously given us, let us always strive to be an example of abundance giving just as those in the Macedonia church were. Bless these gifts and use them to promote your word in the world. Amen.

Charge and Benediction

Let the peace of Christ keep you in tune with each other, in step with each other.
Cultivate thankfulness.
Let the Word of Christ have the run of your house.
Give it plenty of room in your lives.
Instruct and direct one another using good common sense.
And sing, sing your hearts out to God!
Let every detail in your lives—words, actions, whatever—
Be done in the name of the Master, Jesus,
Thanking God the Father every step of the way
Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

—based on Colossians 3:15-17