

KNOWING GOD

Luke 10:25-28; Psalm 25 // Evening Prayer

This worship service centers on dwelling in the presence of God and knowing God better. Here are some materials to get you started creating your own worship service.

MAIN THEME: *Dwelling in the Presence of God*

CHOOSING MUSIC // FOR SINGING

- ✿ **Beautiful Things** [Key of D]
Text and Music: Michael Gungor and Lisa Gungor
© worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing)

- ✿ **Day is Done** [Key of F]
Text: James J. Quinn
© 1969. Used by permission of Selah Publishing Co., Inc.

- ✿ **Stay with Me** [Key of D]
Text and Music: Taizé Community Words
© 1984 Les Presses de Taizé (Admin. GIA Publications)

CREATING DRAMA // FOR HEARING

Tell the story of the Good Samaritan, from where we draw our scripture in *lectio divina*, in a new way. Consider using Eugene Peterson's translation from *The Message*.

"That you love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and muscle and intelligence—and that you love your neighbor as well as you do yourself." -Luke 10:27, The Message

FINDING ART // FOR SEEING

The following images from Unsplash [<https://unsplash.com>], a collection of free high-resolution photos released under the creative commons public domain license, can aid in emphasizing the setting of the service within the day.

We suggest you project these pictures or use them in other materials for worshipers to reflect on. You might even consider inviting worshipers to bring or take their own pictures of the sunset.



LIVING WORSHIP // FOR DOING

To reflect on tonight's scripture passage, we suggest using *lectio divina*, an ancient Christian practice that invites us to hear the scripture passage multiple times for the purpose of reflection.

As you prepare to hear the scripture passage, get into a comfortable position, close your eyes, and listen to the whole passage as a unit. I'll leave a few moments of silence after each reading. On the second reading, begin to listen for a word or group of words that shimmer or draw you in. On the third reading, allow yourself to focus on a word or group of words, then begin to think about what God might be wanting to say to you through those group of words.

A reading from Luke 10:25-28.

Close your eyes and listen to the passage and take in the passage as a whole unit. Begin to listen for a phrase or particular part of the passage that stands out to you.

"A legal expert stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to gain eternal life?" Jesus replied, "What is written in the Law? How do you interpret it?" He responded, "You must love the Lord your God with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself." Jesus said to him, "You have answered correctly. Do this and you will live."

Provide a few moments of silence, then say:

A reading from Luke 10:25-28.

Begin to listen for a word or group of words that shimmer or draw you in.

"A legal expert stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to gain eternal life?" Jesus replied, "What is written in the Law? How do you interpret it?" He responded, "You must love the Lord your God with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself." Jesus said to him, "You have answered correctly. Do this and you will live."

Provide a few moments of silence, then say:

A reading from Luke 10:25-28.

In this reading, allow yourself to focus on the word or words that stood out to you. After the reading, there will be an extended period of silence. In that silence, focus on those words that stood out to you, and consider what God might be saying to you through this scripture passage.

"A legal expert stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to gain eternal life?" Jesus replied, "What is written in the Law? How do you interpret it?" He responded, "You must love the Lord your God with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself." Jesus said to him, "You have answered correctly. Do this and you will live."

An extended period of silence follows.

MAKING SPACE // FOR WORSHIPPING

We suggest setting the tone for the service by bringing the dim lighting of evening and sunset in your worship space. This can be done by dimming the lights and place candles throughout the room.

WRITING POETRY// FOR PRAYING

Saint Francis of Assisi was an Italian Catholic friar and preacher who lived in the 12th and 13th centuries. He wrote several prayers which are commonly printed and used to this day. In his passion for caring for our neighbors, especially the poor, St. Francis wrote the following prayer.

*Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is error, the truth;
Where there is doubt, the faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.*

*O Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled, as to console;
To be understood, as to understand;
To be loved as to love.*

*For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.*

-St. Francis of Assisi

SAMPLE WORSHIP SERVICE

Evening Prayer // Luke 10:25-28; Psalm 25 // Knowing God

GATHERING AND WELCOME

PREPARING TO PRAY

One: Jesus said, “Come away with me
to a quiet place
All: **and rest for a while.”**

SUNG MEDITATION

Stay with Me

Words and Music: Taizé Community

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CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In Christ, the God of heaven has
made a home on earth.

ALL: **Christ dwells among us and is
one with us.**

One: Highest of all creation, God lives
among the least.

ALL: **God journeys with the rejected
and welcomes the weary.**

One: Come now, all who thirst,
ALL: **and drink the water of life.**

One: Come now, all who hunger,
ALL: **and be filled with good things.**

One: Come now, all who seek,
ALL: **and be welcomed by God, who
is making all things new.**

Source: *The Worship Sourcebook*, p.55

SONGS OF PRAISE

Beautiful Things

Text and Music: Michael Gungor and Lisa Gungor

© *worshiptogether.com songs* (Admin. EMI Christian Music
Publishing)

Sing a New Church

Words and Music: Delores Dufner, OSB

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THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIGHT

One: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord,
our God.

All: **It is right to give our thanks
and praise. We give you thanks,
O God, for in the beginning
you called light into being, and
you set lights in the sky to
govern night and day. In a pillar
of cloud by day and a pillar of
fire by night you led your
people into freedom. As we sit
in your presence this evening,
enlighten our darkness by the
light of Christ, for you are
merciful, you love your whole
creation, and with all your
creatures we give you glory,
through your Son Jesus Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
now and forever. Amen.**

VISUAL MEDITATION

“...Keep on coming to God’s door, because
the one thing you can be sure of is that down
the path, the God you call upon will finally
come, and even if God doesn’t bring you the
answer you want, God will bring you God’s
self. And maybe at the secret heart of all our
prayers, that’s what we’re really praying for.”

from Frederick Buechner in Wishful Thinking

PSALM 25

Sung Refrain: To You, O God

Words and Music: Bob Hurd

Sung Refrain

One: To you, O Lord, I lift up my
soul. O my God, in you I trust;
do not let those who wait for you

be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

All: **Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.**

Sung refrain

One: Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love, remember me, for your goodness' sake, O Lord!

All: **Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way. All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.**

Sung refrain

SONG OF ILLUMINATION

Speak to Me

Words and Music: Tommy Walker
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PRACTICING OUR FAITH

“Show Mercy” // a video refection
from [www.theworkofthepeople.com]

SONG OF ILLUMINATION

Speak to Me

Words and Music: Tommy Walker
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SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 10:25-28

SILENT MEDITATION

Concludes with *Speak to Me* refrain

SPOKEN MEDITATION

Minister

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sung Refrain: *Through Our Lives*

Words and Music: Iona Community
Source: ELWC Book of Worship

Sung refrain

One: Our Father, who art in heaven,
All: **Our Creator, you are all around us and within us.**

One: hallowed by thy name.

All: **We praise you with many different names.**

One: Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,

All: **Help us live as we understand we should from knowing you, in love and harmony with each other,**

One: on earth as it is in heaven
All: **with all creatures of the earth, and with the earth and the universe itself.**

Sung refrain

One: Give us this day our daily bread,
All: **Help us take responsibility when we fail to live harmoniously, and help us understand and forgive when others let us down.**

One: and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

All: **Help us to use your resources wisely, so that we might be sustained.**

One: And lead us not into temptation,
All: **Let us know you well enough that we are not tempted to live outside your love,**

One: but deliver us from evil,

All: **and empower us to work
together to overcome evil.**

Sung refrain

One: for thine is the kingdom and the
power and the glory forever.

All: **We believe that you created the
world and that you will be all
around us and within us
forever.**

One: Amen.

All: **We are open to you.**

Sung refrain

CLOSING PRAYER

One: And now gracious God, we give
you thanks for the day, especially
for the good we were permitted
to give and receive; the day is
now past and we commit it to
you. We entrust to you the night;
we rest securely, for you are our
help, and you neither slumber
nor sleep; through Jesus Christ
Our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

SONG OF REST

Day is Done

Words and Music: James Quinn

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BENEDICTION

One: Go out into the world in peace:
have courage, and hold on to
what is good; return no one evil
for evil; help the suffering; honor
all; love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the
Holy Spirit.

All: **With God's help, we will.**

One: The blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy
Spirit, be upon you, and remain
with you forever.

All: **Amen.**

Source: ELCW Book of Worship