

Sample Worship Models Used by the Prayer and Revival Team

The Prayer and Revival Team has several worship models that they can offer as they provide Lutheran revivals. On this site are two examples of the type of worship services that are possible in your ministry setting. Adaptations are possible to adjust to the needs of your context.

Sample 1- "Renewal Through Word and Prayer"

Gathering

Freedom, flexibility, and creativity are encouraged as the assembly gathers for worship. Song, greeting, and prayer form the core elements of the gathering around which other elements such as scripture, litany, drama, dance and visual arts may interact.

Gathering Song

One or more songs/hymns are sung by the assembly or choir as the people gather. Songs should flow easily from one to another, drawing people into the presence of God and encouraging their participation in worship.

Greeting

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the name of the triune God.

Prayer

Pray for God's presence to be revealed through Word and prayer for the renewal of God's people.

Word and Prayer

Reading

One or more readings from scripture are proclaimed. The Word may be proclaimed in sign, song, drama, art or dance.

Song

Hymns, songs or psalms may be sung by the congregation or choir between the readings and before or after the sermon.

Sermon

Reflecting upon the Word proclaimed in the readings, the preaching goal is to engage the assembly with a message of hope, healing, restoration, and release, encouraging the assembly to embrace the will of God as revealed in their learning and experience. No one should go home without a deeper

understanding of God and God's presence. The sermon should prepare the assembly for the call to renewal and time of interactive prayer.

Call to Renewal

The presiding minister may address the assembly with these or similar words:

Brothers and sisters in Christ,
On this day/evening, we are called to a time of spiritual renewal.
Through Word and prayer,
you are called, with all the baptized,
to continuing renewal,
to die daily to sin,
and to walk in newness of life.

Therefore I ask you:

Will you continue to hear the word of God
and receive it as a pattern for your life?

I will, with God's help.

Will you continue to deepen your life of prayer
for all God's people in Christ Jesus,
and for all people according to their needs?

I will, with God's help.

Will you continue to join with the church in worship and service,
both in the community of faith and in the world,
by walking in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us?

I will, with God's help.

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God;
you have called your people
to do justice,
to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with you.

Bless us and all of your holy people
as we journey together in faith.

Guide us to true repentance and renewal,
that we may follow in the way of the cross
of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Prayer

The assembly is invited into a time of interactive prayer for spiritual renewal.

Candle Lighting

Lighting a candle as we pray is one of the oldest rituals in the church. People may light a candle as they pray for the light of Christ to be renewed in their lives.

Preparation:

You will need several small thin candles, one or more larger candles, trays of sand to stand the candles in, and possibly an icon or other artwork. Arrange the sand trays on one or more levels in a fire safe place. Place the unlit candles in a basket nearby. Next to the icon, light a large candle from which people can light their individual candles.

Option:

Set up computers and light virtual candles such as those produced on www.embodiment.co.uk in the 'sanctuary'. These are lit by clicking on the candle with a mouse, video or still images of candles or flames projected around the worship space can be very beautiful.

Incense

Incense is a biblical symbol of the prayer and praise of God's people ascending to heaven. Burning incense adds a dimension of otherness and mystery. People may place one or two granules of incense in the brazier as a way of offering their prayer to God. "Let my prayer rise before you as incense..." (Psalm 141:2)

Preparation:

You will need some kind of brazier or bowl in which to burn the charcoal and incense. Charcoal and allergy free incense made for this purpose can be purchased at www.augsburgfortress.com. The charcoal will need to be lit about 30 minutes before you wish to use it. Place the brazier in a fire-safe place with a bowl of incense next to it.

Option:

A video of incense burning is also a good accompaniment to prayers.

Prayer Wall

Like the wailing wall in Jerusalem, the prayer wall is a communal place for people to offer their prayers. People may write prayers for renewal, especially for the renewal of their community on the wall.

Preparation:

Attach large sheets of paper to an existing wall or sturdy temporary wall or provide Post-it notes which can be stuck to the wall. Put several markers in front of the wall.

Labyrinth

Labyrinths have been found around the world for several thousand years and were a feature of many European mediaeval cathedrals. Unlike a maze they have only one path-there are no dead ends. People walk the labyrinth slowly, as an aid to contemplative prayer and reflection, as a spiritual exercise, or as a form of pilgrimage.

Preparation:

There are a whole range of labyrinth designs and you can come up with your own. A labyrinth can be marked out on the floor with plenty of duct tape, set-up outside with rocks, painted on a large canvas, or drawn in the sand. Go to www.labyrinth.org.uk for more information on labyrinths, designs and interactive resources.

Option:

Set up computers and walk the virtual online labyrinth at www.labyrinth.org.uk or www.embody.co.uk.

Meditation, Singing and Prayer

People may remain seated for prayer or meditation, gather to pray with others around them, or participate in singing.

Option:

Final Prayer

Concluding Prayer

At the conclusion of this open time of interactive activities, the assisting minister invites the assembly into prayer. The congregation may be invited to offer petitions as well.

We pray for the Spirit of God to renew the whole world:

for the church universal and its ministry for creation and its right use;

for peace and justice in the world, the nations and those in authority, the community and those who govern;

for the poor and oppressed, the sick, the bereaved, the lonely, all who suffer in body, mind and spirit;

for the congregation, and special concerns;

for the witness of the saints to a life of faith.

The prayers conclude with the Lord's Prayer.

Sending

We go out from the assembly as Christ's body in the world. Blessing in the name of the triune God, song, and encouragement to be faithful witnesses form the core elements of the sending around which other elements such as drama, dance, and visual arts may interact.

Blessing

The assisting minister addresses the assembly with these or similar words:

Go out into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold to what is good;
return no evil for evil;
strengthen the faith-hearted;
support the weak;
help the suffering;
honor all people;
love and serve our God,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The presiding minister blesses the assembly:

The almighty and merciful God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Song

Sending

The assisting minister may send the assembly forth:

Go in peace. Pray without ceasing.

Thanks be to God.

Taken from the text: Renewing the Passion: A Guide To Spiritual Revival, an ELCA Resource, pgs. 30-35

