



*“Gathered By
Grace”*

**Lenten Series Outline:
Worship Practices as Diaconal Formation
for the Baptized**

Learn more about The CaSTLE Project at:
wartburgseminary.edu/the-castle-project
or email castle@wartburgseminary.edu

Week 1: Worship as the Foundation of Christian Life

- **Theme:** “Gathered by Grace, Sent in Mission”
- **Scripture:** Matthew 28:18-20 (The Great Commission)
- **Key Focus:** How the liturgical gathering immerses the faithful in God’s work, forming them for diaconal service.
- **Topics:**
 - o Understanding the four-fold order of worship (ordo): Gathering, Word, Meal, Sending.
 - o Baptismal identity as the starting point for Christian vocation.
 - o Connection between worship and daily discipleship.

Notes: _____

Week 2: Confession and Forgiveness

- **Theme:** “Reconciled to Reconcile”
- **Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 5:17-20 (Ministry of Reconciliation)
- **Key Focus:** Formation in the practices of confession and forgiveness as daily life practices.
- **Topics:**
 - o Forgiveness as the foundational action of Christian discipleship.
 - o The role of confession and absolution in shaping relationships.
 - o Living out forgiveness in family, work, and civic life.

Notes: _____

Week 3: Thanksgiving and Praise

- **Theme:** “Living a Life of Gratitude”
- **Scripture:** Philippians 4:4-7 (Rejoice Always)
- **Key Focus:** Thanksgiving for Baptism and songs of praise as formation for gratitude and generosity.
- **Topics:**
 - o Thankfulness as the foundational attitude of Christian discipleship.
 - o Thanksgiving for Baptism as renewal of vocation.
 - o Hymns and prayers as tools for deepening community and witness.

Notes: _____

Week 4: The Word of God in Daily Life

- **Theme:** “Scripture Shapes Our Steps”
- **Scripture:** Psalm 119:105 (A Lamp to My Feet)
- **Key Focus:** Scripture as the script for Christian living.
- **Topics:**
 - o Listening for God’s voice in scripture as the foundational posture of Christian discipleship.
 - o The power of the living Word to orient and guide daily decisions.
 - o Incorporating scripture into personal and communal practices.

Notes: _____

Week 5: The Eucharist and Radical Hospitality

- **Theme:** “Welcomed to the Table, Sent to Serve”
- **Scripture:** Luke 24:30-35 (The Road to Emmaus)
- **Key Focus:** Holy Communion as a foretaste of God’s kingdom and a call to radical generosity.
- **Topics:**
 - o Feasting/eating together as the foundational hope of Christian discipleship.
 - o Eucharistic practices as a model for community and justice.
 - o Hospitality as a diaconal practice in daily life.

Notes: _____

Week 6: Sending into the World

- **Theme:** “Go in Peace, Serve the Lord”
- **Scripture:** Matthew 25:31-46 (The Least of These)
- **Key Focus:** The dismissal as commissioning for diaconal ministry.
- **Topics:**
 - o Sending outward as the foundational outlook of Christian discipleship.
 - o Worship as rehearsal for neighborly love.
 - o Daily life as a continuation of liturgical mission.

Notes: _____

Additional Elements for Each Week:

- 1. Opening Reflection:** A brief introduction connecting the week's theme to the overall purpose of the series.
- 2. Discussion Questions:** Engage participants in connecting worship practices to their daily lives.
- 3. Practical Applications:** Suggestions for incorporating the week's focus into personal and congregational life.
- 4. Closing Prayer:** Rooted in the week's theme.

This outline emphasizes the interconnection between worship and diaconal service, fostering a deeper understanding of the role of worship in forming disciples for daily life. It can form the basis for a Wednesday Lenten service, or it could be adapted into a series for Sunday mornings.

Order of Service

Week 1: Worship as the Foundation of Christian Life

Gathering Song (*suggestion: ELW 529 Jesus, We Are Gathered*)

Call to Worship

Leader: We gather in the name of the Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All: Who calls us by grace and sends us in mission.

Leader: In baptism, you are claimed as God’s own—

All: Marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Leader: In Jesus we are baptized and never alone.

All: The Holy Spirit empowers us to share God’s love for the world every day.

Leader: In worship, we are shaped by God’s Word and Sacrament—

All: Formed to love and serve in Christ’s name.

Leader: Come, let us worship the One who calls us to faith and abundant life.

All: And be renewed for our mission in the world.

Reading – Matthew 28:18-20

Sermon/Discussion Questions

- How does worship shape your understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus?
- In what ways do you see a connection between Sunday worship and your daily life?
- How might we more intentionally live out our baptismal calling in our workplaces, families, and communities?

Notes: _____

Prayer

Lord’s Prayer

Sending Song (*suggestion: ELW 540 Go, Make Disciples*)

Dismissal



Order of Service

Week 2: Confession and Forgiveness

Gathering Song (*suggestion: ELW 328 Restore in Us, O God*)

Call to Worship

Leader: We gather in the name of the Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All: Seeking your mercy and longing for your peace.

Leader: In confession, we acknowledge our brokenness—

All: And trust in your forgiveness through Christ.

Leader: As we are reconciled to you, O God—

All: Make us instruments of reconciliation in the world.

Leader: Teach us your way of forgiveness and love.

All: That we may live as your redeemed people.

Leader: In Jesus we are baptized and never alone.

All: The Holy Spirit empowers us to share God’s love for the world every day.

Reading - 2 Corinthians 5:17-20

Sermon/Discussion Questions

- What does it mean to confess our sins not just before God, but within our relationships with others?
- How has receiving God’s forgiveness shaped your ability to forgive others?
- What practical steps can we take to cultivate a spirit of reconciliation in our homes, workplaces, and communities?

Notes: _____

Prayer

Lord’s Prayer

Sending Song (*suggestion: ELW 618 Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer*)

Dismissal

Order of Service

Week 3: Thanksgiving and Praise

Gathering Song (*suggestion: ELW 858 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*)

Call to Worship

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good—

All: God's steadfast love endures forever!

Leader: In baptism, we are washed in God's mercy—

All: And called to live as grateful people.

Leader: Let every word and deed be an offering of praise—

All: To the God who gives us life and sustains us by grace.

Leader: Come, let us sing and give thanks to the Lord!

All: For God's mercy flows abundantly in our lives.

Leader: In Jesus we are baptized and never alone.

All: The Holy Spirit empowers us to share God's love for the world every day.

Reading - Philippians 4:4-7

Sermon/Discussion Questions

- How does giving thanks to God in worship impact your outlook on daily life?
- In what ways can our gratitude for baptism shape our daily interactions with others?
- What are some concrete ways we can cultivate a life of generosity in response to God's blessings?

Notes: _____

Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Sending Song (*suggestion: ELW 870 We Praise You, O God*)

Dismissal



Order of Service

Week 4: The Word of God in Daily Life

Gathering Song (suggestion: ELW 512 Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil)

Call to Worship

Leader: In Jesus we are baptized and never alone.

All: The Holy Spirit empowers us to share God’s love for the world every day.

Leader: Your Word, O Lord, is a lamp to our feet—

All: And a light to our path.

Leader: As we hear the ancient stories of your faithfulness—

All: Open our hearts to live by your promises today.

Leader: Guide us by your Word in our daily lives—

All: That we may walk in your truth and share your love.

Leader: Come, let us listen to the living Word of God.

All: For it is life, hope, and salvation for all people.

Reading - Psalm 119:105

Sermon/Discussion Questions

- How does hearing and reflecting on scripture in worship influence your decisions throughout the week?
- What are some challenges you face in keeping God’s Word central in your daily life?
- How can we encourage one another to engage more deeply with scripture outside of Sunday worship?

Notes: _____

Prayer

Lord’s Prayer

Sending Song (suggestion: ELW 517 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word)

Dismissal

Order of Service

Week 5: The Eucharist and Radical Hospitality

Gathering Song (suggestion: ELW 477 I Received the Living God)

Call to Worship

Leader: Come to the table of grace—

All: Where Christ meets us with open arms.

Leader: Here, there is food for the hungry—

All: And drink for the thirsty.

Leader: As we are nourished by Christ's body and blood—

All: Let us become a people of radical hospitality.

Leader: Come, let us taste and see that the Lord is good.

All: And be sent to serve with generosity and love.

Leader: In Jesus we are baptized and never alone.

All: The Holy Spirit empowers us to share God's love for the world every day.

Reading - Luke 24:30-35

Sermon/Discussion Questions

- How does participating in Holy Communion shape the way we see and treat others?
- What does radical hospitality look like in our own communities?
- How can we extend the grace we receive at Christ's table to those who feel excluded or marginalized?

Notes: _____

Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Sending Song (suggestion: ELW 483 Here Is Bread)

Dismissal

Order of Service

Week 6: Sending into the World

Gathering Song (suggestion: ELW 575 In Christ Called to Baptize)

Call to Worship

Leader: We gather in the name of the Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All: We are shaped by God’s love and sent to share that love in the world.

Leader: In Jesus we are baptized and never alone.

All: The Holy Spirit empowers us to share God’s love for the world every day.

Leader: We are called to serve the least and the lost—

All: To bring hope, peace, and justice to all.

Leader: As we are blessed in this time of worship—

All: Let us be a blessing in every role and relationship.

Leader: Come, let us worship the One who sends us in peace.

All: And empowers us to serve in Christ’s name.

Reading - Matthew 25:31-46

Sermon/Discussion Questions

- What does it mean to be sent from worship to serve the Lord in daily life?
- Where do you see opportunities to bring Christ’s peace into your relationships and community?
- How can we better support one another in living out our Christian calling beyond Sunday worship?

Notes: _____

Prayer

Lord’s Prayer

Sending Song (suggestion: ELW 538 The Lord Now Sends Us Forth)

Dismissal



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