

The Steward Liturgy

A liturgy for each domain in the life of a steward is offered here. These liturgies are designed for congregational and corporate life. Each domain offers a different emphasis in the liturgy. Practice together.

All the collects and prayers are adapted from the [Book of Common Prayer](#) which can be referenced online at bcponline.org.

Key

Leader – one person reads aloud

People – recite together

Relationship to God

This liturgy is designed with a focus on praise and singing, and an affirmation of the Faith.

Scripture Reading

Psalm 103

Luke 15 – to the God who finds all who are lost

Hebrews 4: 14 - 16

Prayer of Confession

God our Father, we confess that our hearts betray you, and we often seek things that we wrongly believe will bring us more pleasure than intimacy with you. We are often more concerned with what we do than who we are. We confess that we resist letting you work in us, and produce rotten fruits of pride and self-righteousness. Renew our minds through the power of the Holy Spirit. Fix our gaze on you. We submit to your control and ownership of our whole life and being. Conform us to the image and likeness of your Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Songs of Praise

*links to songs in YouTube for reference purposes.

Hymn - [Holy, Holy, Holy. Lord God Almighty](#)

Lyrics by Reginald Heber, Music by John B. Dykes

Hymn – [Mary's Song \(Our King of Peace\)](#)

Music & lyrics by Wendell Kimbrough and Page CXVI

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Call and Response

Leader - *We proclaim the truth* that knowing God more intimately must be the greatest, highest and most passionate desire of a follower of Jesus because intimacy is His idea and His greatest desire for us.

People - *We will* steward this relationship by returning to His embrace, becoming so surrendered to Christ that His sweet aroma will flow from us and will draw all people to Him.

Leader – *We proclaim the truth* that it is only in an intimate relationship with God, through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit that we discover our true identity and find meaning and purpose in life as His stewards.

People - *We will* name the things that distract and pull us away from the intimacy God desires for us and surrender them back to God, thirsting for Him to take us to a deeper level than we've ever experienced starting with confession and repentance.

Leader - *We proclaim the truth* that a deeper walk with Jesus changes everything: it heals us, it restores us, it reconciles us, it comforts us, it encourages us, it calls us, it equips us, and it transforms us.

People - *We will* preach and teach against our works-focused culture and proclaim the truth that abiding in Christ is our highest calling and God's greatest desire for our life.

Shared Confession of the Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, visible and invisible.**

**We believe in one Lord,
Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,**

**begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit
and the Virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father
[and the Son], who with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

We were created to be faithful stewards, starting with our relationship with God. We do not own this relationship but steward it on behalf of the One who created us for this relationship. The purpose for our lives and meaning of our existence is discovered solely in a deepening, intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. As His stewards we find meaning and purpose in life as we seek to fulfill the purposes He has so graciously entrusted to our care. When we embrace our call to steward our relationship with God, we can experience true intimacy with Him. When we do not, we allow distractions to steal the joy of this intimacy and lure us into a two-kingdom life where we try to serve two masters.

Benediction

Almighty God, in praise and worship we offer our whole being to you. We acknowledge that you are Lord and Ruler of All. Reign in our hearts and minds. Send us out in the power of the Holy Spirit to be faithful stewards who are focused on loving you, knowing you, and being transformed in your image. Strengthen us, your image-bearers, to be a display of your splendor, oaks of righteousness. For the glory of Your Kingdom through the Lord Jesus Christ who was and is and is to come. Amen

Relationship to Self

This liturgy is focused on Communion and the spiritual feeding and transformation of our body and soul.

Scripture Reading

Psalm 139

Isaiah 61: 1 - 3

John 15: 1- 8

Romans 8: 1 - 16

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, we confess to that we believed the lie that we control and determine our identity and purpose. We falsely believe that our life belongs to us and not to you. Cleanse us from every demand to pursue success, achievement, and attention for our own pleasure and adoration. Remove our desire for self-rule and self-sufficiency – living independent from you. We are made in your image. We pray that through your Son the Lord Jesus Christ we might live by the Spirit, no longer slaves to sin. Heal us and empower us to live in our true identity and design as your stewards through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Call and Response

Leader - *We proclaim the truth* that in Jesus Christ the sin that seeks to rob us of our identity is overcome, that we are now children of God in Jesus Christ, and that this identity is a gift from God that we steward for His glory.

People - *We will stand firm against the lie that identity is self-defined and the popular cultural narratives about human self-image that conflict with God's Truth, and to affirm that every believer can find their identity as a child of God in Jesus Christ.*

Leader - *We proclaim the truth* that as God's reconciled people we are set free to follow Him wherever He calls, not seeking to build our reputation or gain the applause of others, but content to live in the will of God and enjoy the applause of nail-scarred hands.

People - *We will be compassionate towards all people because they also are made in God's image and to fulfill its stewardship role by inviting all people to find their meaning, purpose, and identity in Christ.*

Leader - *We proclaim the truth* that as stewards of this precious gift, we are called to the highest level of love and service, acting as champions of reconciliation and justice because all bear His image.

People - *We will preach, teach and model the joy of knowing who we are because we know whose we are, and experiencing the abundant life that Christ promised all who find their true self in Him.*

We were created to be faithful stewards, including our relationship with our self. We do not own this relationship but steward it on behalf of the one who created us for it. As living beings created by God, we declare the uniqueness, value and worth of every man and woman as an image bearer of their Creator. Because we are made in the image of God, we are objects of His love and stewards of the life He gives us. We are defined as humans by our identity in God as His stewards. When we embrace our identity as God's stewards, it touches every aspect of our lives, especially our understanding of who we are. When we believe we own and control our identity we allow false narratives to shape who we are. We live in bondage and as a result we buy into the lie that lures us into a two-kingdom life and try to serve two masters.

The Breaking of Bread

*Suggested activity – share in the celebration of the Lord's Supper and a communal meal together. *

Communion reading – John 6:29 – 40

On the night that he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat; this is my Body, which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, Jesus took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the forgiveness of sins: Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Leader - We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Word and Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Sanctify us also, that we may worthily receive this holy Sacrament, and be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us and we in him. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us with all your saints into the joy of your heavenly kingdom, where we shall see our Lord face to face. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us your peace.

The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Benediction

***Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.***

***Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.***

***Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.***

***For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.***

Relationship to Others

This liturgy is designed with a focus on prayer – for others and for the mission of the Church.

Scripture Reading

Psalm 133

Matthew 22: 37 – 39

2 Corinthians 5: 16 – 21

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, we confess to you that we have not loved our neighbor as you commanded us to do. We have not been faithful to serve you as ambassadors of reconciliation in our communities and relationships. We have sinned because we have dishonored your image displayed in others. Forgive us. Holy Spirit, free us from self-centeredness and soften our hearts towards neighbors and move us to faithful stewarding of our relationship with others. For the glory of Your Kingdom through the Lord Jesus Christ who was and is and is to come. Amen

Call and Response

Leader - *We proclaim the truth* that reconciliation with our neighbor requires us to name every sin that keeps us divided, repent of every attitude that separates us, and steward every opportunity to honor God through loving our neighbor as He commanded.

People - *We will speak boldly against the sins that divide us, to repent, and to raise up a new vision for living as stewards of every relationship God places in our care.*

Leader - *We proclaim the truth* that it is only when we stop controlling relationships to serve our own interests and start stewarding relationship to bless and serve others that we are truly following Jesus.

People - *We will be the loudest voice seeking for justice for our neighbor, the first to reconcile with our neighbor and the most faithful stewards of every relationship with our neighbor.*

Leader - *We proclaim the truth* that when we find the affirmation, we need in the love of Christ we are set free to create God-honoring relationships that focus on the needs of others.

People - *We will speak against our ownership attitudes regarding our relationships and let God set us free to love our neighbors through Jesus Christ for the sake of the witness of the church and the transformation of our culture.*

Prayer of the People

Leader - Father, we pray for your Holy Church, the Body of Christ;

People - *That we all may be one.*

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, pastors, leaders, and teachers in the Church;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

We praise you for your saints, our loved ones, who have died and entered into joy;

We look forward to singing praise around your throne and the full reign of your Kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. *

*Suggested activity – open time of prayer and confession. As a person shares a prayer or a confession, the whole community responds with, ***“Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers.”***

Stewards are called to create community, protect their community, and care for their community. Community begins with our relationships with other people. Moving out from our self and our relationship with God four areas of relationships overlap in concentric circles: (1) family, friends & work relationships; (2) church life and neighbors; (3) societal relationships (citizen/participant in structures like government, education and the arts); and (4) the culture

(worldview, mindsets, and norms). Our place in these concentric circles of relationships is God-given and therefore, faithful stewardship is really about loving others well.

Prayer for our pastors, clergy, and church leadership

Almighty God, the giver of all good gifts, in your divine providence you have appointed various orders in your Church: Give your grace, we humbly pray, to all who are called to any office and ministry for your people; and so fill them with the truth of your doctrine and clothe them with holiness of life, that they may faithfully serve before you, to the glory of your great Name and for the benefit of your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Prayer for our families

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we commend to your continual care the homes in which your people dwell. Put far from them, we beseech you, every root of bitterness, the desire of domination, and the pride of life. Fill them with faith, mercy, knowledge, patience, godliness. Knit together in constant affection those who have been made one flesh. Turn the hearts of the parents to the children, and the hearts of the children to the parents; and so, kindle love among us, that we may evermore be compassionate one to another through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for governing leaders

O Lord our Governor, whose glory is in all the world: We commend this nation to your merciful care, that, being guided by your Providence, we may dwell secure in your peace. Grant to the President of the United States, the Governor of this State (or Commonwealth), and to all in authority, wisdom and strength to know and to do your will. Fill them with the love of truth and righteousness, and make them ever mindful of their calling to serve this people in your fear; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

Prayer for the mission of the Church

O God of all the nations of the earth, whose will it is that all should come to you through your Son Jesus Christ: Remember the multitudes who have been created in your image. Grant that, by the prayers and work of your Church, that all may be brought to know and worship you as you have been revealed in your Son Jesus Christ. Inspire our witness to him, that all may know the power of his forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Benediction

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son Jesus Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under our Lord Jesus Christ's most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Relationship to Creation

This focus of this liturgy is surrendering of our time, treasures, and talents to the care and stewarding of all creation and God's Kingdom.

Scripture Reading

Psalm 8

Genesis 1: 26 – 31

John 1: 1 – 18

Colossians 1:9 – 20

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, we confess to you that we are often selfish and not concerned with how we steward our time, skills, or money for your glory. We reject the lie that we have license to abuse, destroy, or disregard the creation. We acknowledge that you have appointed us as stewards of the earth and creation, acting as your emissary with nurture, care, and responsibility with all you entrusted to us. We reject a consumerism and materialism, and the false belief that material blessings are our entitlement. Forgive us. Release us to serve and care for your creation. Strengthen us to be stewards of goodness and beauty in this world. For the glory of Your Kingdom through the Lord Jesus Christ who was and is and is to come. Amen

Call and Response

Leader - *We proclaim the truth* that our use of every second of time, every ounce of our abilities and every penny God has entrusted to us is a stewardship issue that requires prayer, discernment, and obedience, and therefore instruction on how we steward them is the right, proper and essential work of the church.

People - *We will preach boldly that our security and our identity are found only in Jesus Christ and not in material things, freeing God's people to an unprecedented level of lavish generosity that reflects the abundance of God and equips His work globally for such a time as this.*

Leader - *We proclaim the truth* that we are commanded and called to treat creation as God's gift to us, to use it as God intended it to be, and that dominion means to protect, care, conserve, and sustain God's creation as His representative, guardian, and steward.

People - *We will live the whole Gospel and the message of hope and reconciliation to a broken world, to seek intimacy with God as our highest calling and not allow the pursuit, accumulation, or false security of money to usurp the place of God in our hearts and lives.*

Leader - *We proclaim the truth* that God is a God of abundance, and He has entrusted His people with the resources needed to fully fund every vision, goal, and plan He places in the hearts of the leaders of His churches, ministries, and organizations; pressed down, shaken together and overflowing.

People - *We will care for the environment by loving God through valuing the things He loves and by seeking the well-being and flourishing of all aspects of creation.*

Dedication of Ministry Leaders & Laying on of Hands

*Suggested activity – gather lay leadership, elders, deacons, and ministry leaders for a time of prayer, laying on of hands, and dedication. *

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers, which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Leader - *Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ in his earthly life shared our toil and hallowed our labor: Be present with your people where they work; make those who carry on the industries and commerce of this land responsive to your will; and give to us all a pride in what we do, and a just return for our labor; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

Prayer for stewarding of creation

For fruitful seasons

Almighty God, Lord of heaven and earth: We humbly pray that your gracious providence may give and preserve to our use the harvests of the land and of the seas, and may prosper all who labor to gather them, that we, who constantly receive good things from your hand, may always give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our

Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

For stewarding creation

O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us, we beseech you, ever thankful for your loving provision. Make us, faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

We were created to be faithful stewards, including our relationship with creation and all temporal things. We do not own this relationship but steward it on behalf of the one who created this world for us. Nowhere are the competing loyalties for our hearts more clearly seen than in our relationship with creation. Within the church we have seen a spirit of ownership and control produce a compromised message that co-mingles Kingdom values with worldly principles, which ultimately places God's people in bondage. How we view our relationship to time, talents, finances, and the earth itself has a powerful impact on our life and witness as the church of Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, here, more than anywhere, we have bought the lie of the enemy that we own what only God owns and control what is His alone.

Songs of Praise

Hymn – [Great is Thy Faithfulness](#)

William Runyan, T.O. Chisholm ©1923, 1951 Hope Publishing Company

Hymn – [This is My Father's World](#)

Benediction

Almighty God, send us out as faithful stewards of your gifts and provisions for the care and nurture of all of your creation. Empower us, Holy Spirit, to release our skills, talents, and resources for the glory of God's Kingdom. We pray you find us loyal stewards, trusting you to rule over everything we are and have for we acknowledge everything we receive is from your hand and by your good grace through your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, who was and is and is to come. Amen.