

Ability Sunday - September 2019 – Liturgy resources

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Insert readings, videos, reflections, and music, according to local custom

Opening words

Leader: Welcome in the name of Jesus.

God's grace, mercy and peace be with you

All: and also with you.

Leader: Loving God, we have gathered here to worship you.

**All: Help us to pray to you with faith,
to praise you with gratitude,
and to receive your Word with eagerness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Praise – perhaps as a response to the reading from Genesis 1

[Taken from Psalm 136]

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

All: God's love never ends.

Leader: Give thanks to the God of gods.

All: God's love never ends.

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord of lords:

All: God's love never ends.

Leader: to God, who alone does great wonders,

All: God's love never ends.

Leader: God, by his understanding, made the heavens,

All: God's love never ends.

Leader: God, who spread out the earth upon the waters,

All: God's love never ends.

Leader: God, who made the great lights—

All: God's love never ends.

Leader: the sun to govern the day, the moon and stars to govern the night.

All: God's love never ends.

Leader: Give thanks to the God of heaven.

All: God's love never ends.

Praise – perhaps as a response to the reading from Psalm 139

Voice 1: We praise You, Lord, because we are all fearfully and wonderfully made.

Voice 2: In God's house there is room for all, there are no rejects.

Voice 3: There are no able-bodied, there are no disabled:
there are only His beloved children,
made in His image,
beautiful in His eyes.

Voice 4: Jesus ascended into heaven, carrying his wounds on our behalf.
Jesus does not hide these wounds: they carry no shame for him,
they are proof of his eternal love.

Voice 3: His love does not depend on our fragile form.
His love is enough for this coming day.

Voice 2: We are called to bring that love to those we meet today:
Lord when you call, help us to say "here I am, send me".

Voice 1: Show me the gifts I have
Show me the gift I am

**All: Show us the gifts we have
Show us the gifts we are**

Intercessions / Prayers

Short and 'simple' is key. A suggested format is here, using different voices from the person leading (see the note below on the Eucharistic Prayer). The congregation response acknowledges that the usual response "hear our prayer" could exclude those with limited or no hearing. The response here is used in many Deaf churches.

Voice 1: God our Father, we pray for our world.

Help us to care for all creation – all creatures which fly, swim, walk or crawl.

Help us to care for all people – who walk, wheel, sit, or lie still.

Lord in your mercy

All: Receive our prayers

Voice 2: God our Father, we pray for our world leaders.

Help the politicians to lead us well.

Give them honesty, courage, and willingness to make loving decisions.

Lord in your mercy

All: Receive our prayers

Voice 3: God our Father, we pray for your church.

May we all love one another as you love us,

so that when people meet us, they feel as though they have met Jesus.

Lord in your mercy

All: Receive our prayers

Voice 4: God our Father, we pray for all people – ourselves, and others –

whose bodies and minds are not working as well as we need them to.

Give us all hope, strength and comfort.

Help us all to be good companions to each other in the difficult times.

Lord in your mercy

All: Receive our prayers

Leader: Amen.

All: Amen.

Eucharistic / Communion prayer

This is taken from Common Worship, Additional Prayer 2.

Where there are sections in [square brackets] these are optional, but effective when given to additional voices, perhaps children, or those with additional needs who don't usually lead from the front.

Leader: The Lord is here

All: His Spirit is with us.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

[Voice 1: Why is it right to give thanks and praise?

Voice 2: Listen, and we will hear.]

Leader: Lord of all life,
you created the universe,
where all living things reflect your glory.
You give us this great and beautiful earth,
to discover and to cherish.

God, we thank you that you made each one of us.
We are made to love other people, as you love us.
You have given us gifts and skills, talents and abilities,
to serve you, and those around us.

You made us all, each wonderfully different.
We now join with the angels
and declare your praise:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Leader: We thank you, loving Father,
because, when we turned away,
you sent Jesus, your Son.
He gave his life for us on the cross
and shows us the way to live.
Send your Holy Spirit
that these gifts of bread and wine
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

[Voice 1: Why do we share this bread and wine?

Voice 2: Listen, and we will hear.]

Leader: On the night before he died,
when darkness had fallen,
Jesus took bread.
He gave thanks, broke it,
and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, Jesus took the cup of wine,
gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many,
for the forgiveness of sins.'

So Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate Jesus' love, his death, his risen life.
As you feed us with these gifts,
send your Holy Spirit,
and change us more and more
to be like Jesus our Saviour.

[Voice 1: How do we follow Jesus Christ?

Voice 2: Listen, and we will hear.]

Leader: Help us, Father God, to love one another,
as we look forward to that day
when suffering is ended,
and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.

And now with all your saints we give you glory,
through Jesus Christ,
in the strength of the Spirit,
today and for ever.

All : Amen.

There follows the Lord's Prayer, and words of invitation to receive Communion, according to your local custom – if you usually use a High Altar, perhaps Administration could be done from the Nave, ensuring level access to all who wish to receive.

Closing words

Leader: As we come to the end of the service, we pray this prayer together:

**All: God of power,
may the boldness of your Holy Spirit transform us,
may the gentleness of your Holy Spirit lead us,
may the gifts of your Holy Spirit equip us
to serve and worship you,
now and always.
Amen.**

Leader: May God go before us, as our pathfinder and guide
May God go behind us, protecting our memories
May God go alongside us, as our companion and friend.
And may the blessing of God almighty –
Father, Son and Holy Spirit –
be with us and remain with us always.

All: Amen

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The Blessing words “May God go before us...and friend” was first written and used by Revd Katie Tupling in St Michael’s Church Hathersage (2009) and is included here by permission.

Praise as a response to Psalm 139: “We praise you, Lord... the gifts we are” adapted from *An Ordinary Office, Morning Prayer* ©An Ordinary Office 2019 [Design and Maintenance by Pilgrim Digital](#) Newcastle Upon Tyne, <http://anordinaryoffice.org.uk/index.php/morning-2/>

Ability Sunday gives churches the opportunity to celebrate all God’s people and all our gifts, as we recognise that we are all made in God’s image.

For more information contact Katie Tupling katie.tupling@oxford.anglican.org

Find resources on the Diocesan website:

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/mission-ministry/faith-in-action/disability/>