

[illegible]

God's Work. Our Hands.

# Introduction & Notes

## Greeting

Hello dear friends in Christ,  
Baptized in Christ, surrounded by people who love and support you, and filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, you have been given a wonderful gift – the promise of God’s continued presence and grace, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. For middle school students, this next step in your life of faith is an opportunity to use this gift by exploring God’s word with conversation and questions, to better understand the elements of Luther’s Small Catechism, and to find ways to actively live out your faith through service to your neighbors. For parents/guardians/mentors/leaders, accompanying your student(s) in this work is actively fulfilling your promises made at their baptism – to *“live among God’s faithful people, bring them to the word of God and the holy supper, teach them the Lord’s Prayer and the Ten Commandments, place in their hands the holy scriptures, and nurture them in faith in prayer.”*<sup>1</sup> This is holy and important work - may God bless this time for you!

## Materials Needed

- A Bible of your choice, or a Bible app on your smartphone.
- A Small Catechism or the Small Catechism App

## Relationships

Throughout the Bible, we hear stories of God creating, teaching, guiding, challenging, and calling people into relationship with God. These stories shine a light on God’s love for us and show us how to love one another unconditionally. Faith formation with young people cannot happen without these relationships. All ages can benefit from communities of support and encouragement, but young people especially can come to know and love Jesus Christ when they are surrounded by authentic, patient, and caring adults who are willing to engage in this ministry and embody the same love that God shows to us. This curriculum lifts up the important relationships between youth and their parents & families, and/or their mentors & youth leaders, and each session will rely on adults to lead and guide the topic and conversation.

## Format

Included in the Simple Faith curriculum are 8 sessions – you can use one per month, or you could do a confirmation “intensive” of 8 weeks in the fall or spring semester. The content would be appropriate for at-home or online classroom use and utilizes a simple structure that includes: Scripture story, conversation questions, video suggestions, activity, worship connection, and a prayer/blessing.

## Topics

Topics for the 8 sessions are: The 10 Commandments, The Lord’s Prayer, The Apostles’ Creed, Baptism, Holy Communion, Worship, Service & Vocation, and Faith Practices.

<sup>1</sup> (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, 2006) p.228)

# Session 1: The 10 Commandments

## Reading

Exodus 20: 1-21

## Overview

In the book of Exodus God speaks to Moses through a mysterious burning bush, identifies as '**I AM**,' sends the Egyptians **10 plagues** because they would not release the Israelites from slavery, and calls on Moses to help. Once the people cross the Red Sea and are free from Pharaoh, God creates a **covenant** (a promise) with the Israelites and helps renew a relationship with them. God gives the people the 10 Commandments, basic instructions that establish a faithful relationship between us and God (Commandments 1-3) and between us with one another (Commandments 4-10).

## Lutheran Moment

**Martin Luther** (a German priest and reformer of the Christian church who lived from 1483-1546) wrote the Small Catechism as a tool for parents in households to teach their children the fundamentals of Christian faith. It contains: the 10 commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, Sacraments, and Prayers. In this document Luther asks a common question about each commandment: ***What does this mean?*** Take turns reading Luther's answers for each of the commandments. Why do you think he chose to write a detailed explanation for each of these?

## Conversation Questions

1. Why do you think God gave commandments to the people? How do you think the people responded when they received these instructions?
2. Do you believe these commandments are still relevant today? Why or why not?
3. Are there other instructions that could help us establish healthy relationships with God and other people?
4. Share a recent story from the news that you believe reflects one of these commandments.

## Video Suggestion

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CmX1rgw9AfE&list=PL66D5EA1066FDCA29&index=2&t=0s>

## Activity

Take a few minutes and rewrite the commandments in a creative way. For example: send a text to a parent for each commandment using only emojis, rewrite in modern language, illustrate/doodle the commandments, or simply memorize the commandments in order. You could even have a friendly competition – see if student or adult can place them in order more quickly!

## Worship Connection

As a family/household, connect with your congregation's weekly worship service, listen to the sermon and fill out the sermon reflection sheet (printable document found at the end of this curriculum) together.

## Global Connection

Christians around the globe refer to the Bible, both Old and New Testament, to know God's story and learn how to live faithfully following the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The first 5 books of the Bible (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy – also knowns as the ***Pentateuch***) which includes the 10 commandments, are fundamental to both Christian and Jewish faith. Often times Jews will refer to these five books as the **Torah**, which means "instruction," "teaching," or "law."

## What does Jesus Say?

During his ministry, Jesus' disciples asked him, "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the law?" Jesus replies, not by reciting the 10 commandments, or picking one that he believes is the 'greatest,' but instead simplifies our actions: "**Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind.** This is the first and greatest commandment. The second is like it: **Love your neighbor as yourself.** All the law and the prophets hang on these two commandments." (Matthew 22:36-40).

## Closing Prayer

Merciful God, sometimes we struggle to do what's right. Other times we are confident in our actions, knowing that we have done our best to make good choices. Thank you for giving us simple instructions that guide our words and actions, and, when we mess up, thank you for hearing our apologies and giving us your mercy and grace. Help us to extend this same forgiveness to others and remind us that we are capable of good things. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

## A Shared Blessing

Making the sign of the cross on one another's forehead or the back of the hand, share these words:

**"You are a beloved Child of God."**

# Session 2: The Lord's Prayer

## Reading

Matthew 6:5-15

## Overview

In the **gospel** (good news) of Matthew, Jesus is interpreting Scripture and teaching. In chapter 6, Jesus teaches a simple prayer that invites people to talk directly to the “Father” (or “**Abba**” in Aramaic, which is an affectionate name for God, such as “*Daddy*”). This prayer highlights forgiveness, both given and received.

## Lutheran Moment

The Small Catechism was printed in 1529 – in it, **Martin Luther** examines the Lord's Prayer in sections: an introduction, seven petitions, and a conclusion. Again, he asks: ***What does this mean?***, and offers simple explanations to help us learn and understand each petition. Take turns reading Luther's answers for each of these.

## Conversation Questions

1. What is your favorite way to pray? Or, *where* do you like to pray? Why?
2. Who taught you how to pray?
3. Why do you think prayer is important?
4. What do you believe “forgiveness” means?

## Video Suggestion

Learn the Lord's Prayer in sign language: <https://youtu.be/EVcYGOWJuns>

## Activity

Write a new prayer that you or your family could use before a meal, bedtime, during times of stress or celebration, or when you are outdoors.

## Worship Connection

As a family/household, connect with your congregation's weekly worship service, listen to the sermon and fill out the sermon reflection sheet (found at the end of this curriculum) together.

## Global Connection

Our synod has a partnership with the Lutheran Church in Malawi, Africa. When you visit there, you will often hear Malawians sharing the words of the Lord's Prayer during worship, similar to our worship services here. However, there are often times when people will sing this and other prayers because music is a common way in which to teach and learn, pray and worship.

## Closing Prayer

Forgiving God, we thank you for the gift of prayer – for inviting us to talk to you about our fears and our joys, what we need and what we hope for, and to say thank you for all that you provide for us. Encourage us to find intentional time each day to pray. Amen.

## A Shared Blessing

Making the sign of the cross on one another's forehead or the back of the hand, share these words:

**"You are a beloved Child of God."**

# Session 3: The Apostles' Creed

## Reading

Matthew 28:16-20

## Overview

In the 28<sup>th</sup> book of the **gospel** (good news) of Matthew, Jesus has been resurrected and is now speaking to the disciples. Jesus is calling them to go and teach others the good news of Jesus, which is summed up in the words of the Apostles' Creed. Jesus talks about the holy **trinity** (God in three persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).

## Lutheran Moment

The Small Catechism contains **The Apostles' Creed** which is arranged in three parts (or articles) to reflect the trinity, and first appeared in 390 AD. (In the Lutheran Church, we use both the Apostles' Creed and the **Nicene Creed**.) The first article is about **Creation/Father**, the second article is about **Redemption/Jesus Christ**, and the third article is **On Being Made Holy/Holy Spirit**. Martin Luther asks *What does this mean?* Take turns reading Luther's answers for each of the articles.

## Conversation Questions

1. If someone asked you why you believe in God, what would you say? Why?
2. What do you think it was like for the early disciples to talk about Jesus with others? What may have been the challenges? What would have been easy?
3. What part of the creed is easy to understand, and what is more difficult to understand?
4. Why is it important to proclaim these words with and among other people?

## Video Suggestion

Video: "Why do we believe":

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5KenlYdUDSk&list=PL66D5EA1066FDCA29&index=17&t=0s>

"We Believe" by the Newsboys: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WjZo1FcKoykActivity>

## Activity

Together with your parent/mentor/youth leader, make three boxes on a piece of paper. Write "Creator" in the first box, "Jesus" in the second, and "Holy Spirit" in the third. Then, list all the characteristics or adjectives or you can think of for each of these parts of the triune God. (creative, sacrificing, teacher, inspiring, challenges us, etc.). Then rephrase the creed out loud using your boxes (example: *I believe in God, the caring parent who is always creating and loving us, I believe in Jesus Christ...etc.*)

## Worship Connection

As a family/household, connect with your congregation's weekly worship service, listen to the sermon and fill out the sermon reflection sheet (found at the end of this curriculum) together.

## Global Connection

The Apostles' Creed is **professed** (confessed or proclaimed) by Christians around the world. Spoken in multiple languages, these words bring us together in solidarity with others who believe in the triune God; this action of professing what we believe in local and global community helps us recognize and appreciate the whole body of Christ, walking together in unity.

## Closing Prayer

Triune and loving God, you seek us out in so many wonderful ways – in creation, through the sacrifice of Jesus, and in each way you inspire us and exclaim that we are worthy of your love. We thank you and praise you for these good gifts and ask for your continued guidance in our faith. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## A Shared Blessing

Making the sign of the cross on one another's forehead or the back of the hand, share these words:

**"You are a beloved Child of God."**



# Session 4: Baptism

## Reading

Matthew 3:1-17

## Overview

This chapter in Matthew tells us about a milestone event in the life of Jesus. **John the Baptist** (a relative of Jesus) baptizes Jesus in the **Jordan River**. Here we see all three “persons” of God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) show up together, and in the water and word it’s proclaimed: *“This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”*

## Lutheran Moment

Baptism is one of two sacraments in the Lutheran tradition. As the Small Catechism notes, “Baptism is not simply plain water. Instead, is it water used according to God’s command and connected with God’s word.”<sup>2</sup> Many Lutherans are baptized as infants during worship using a **baptismal font**, sometimes **anointing oil**, and a **baptismal candle**. Baptismal sponsors (sometimes called Godparents) are present and along with parents they promise to encourage and support the faith development of the child. In baptism, God makes a promise that we have been given forgiveness of our sins through Jesus Christ.

Sometimes, adults who have not yet been baptized will also choose to participate in this sacrament. Lutherans do not practice re-baptism, but instead trust that God is present in the water and word in all Christian baptisms.

Together, read the questions and answers in the Holy Baptism section of Luther’s Small Catechism.

## Conversation Questions

1. Have you ever attended a baptism? What do you remember? What do you think it would have been like to witness Jesus’ baptism?
2. What other Bible stories mention water as a connection God?
3. What does your baptism mean to you?
4. Name some of the things about yourself that God is “pleased” with.

## Video Suggestion

A story of incredible forgiveness: <https://youtu.be/o2BITY-3Mp4>

Listen to this song about forgiveness: <https://youtu.be/FMn0QNdiuGE>

<sup>2</sup> Luther’s Small Catechism, Augsburg Fortress, 2016

## Activity

Tell stories about your baptism. What day were you baptized? How old were you? Where were you baptized, and by whom? Who are your sponsors and who was there to celebrate with you? Are there photos from that special milestone that you can share together? Why did your parents decide to have you baptized? Someday, if you have a family, do you think you will baptize your children, why or why not? Make a plan to light your baptismal candle on the anniversary of your baptism.

## Worship Connection

As a family/household, connect with your congregation's weekly worship service, listen to the sermon and fill out the sermon reflection sheet (found at the end of this curriculum) together.

## Global Connection

Baptism was not a new ritual that John the Baptist invented; baptisms and other cleansing rituals using water were common in the Jewish faith before they became sacraments in Christian churches. Baptism looks different, not only between different denominations, but in different cultures throughout the world. There may be differences in the size and type of font used, the music that is heard, or the clothing that is worn, but we have faith that this sacrament, and the promises God makes to us in the water and the word, will transform our lives and connect us to the whole body of Christ.

## Closing Prayer

God of forgiveness, we thank you for the gift of baptism, for welcoming us into your family, and for calling us into the shared mission of Jesus Christ. Please continue to support us in our faith through the presence of parents, mentors, church leaders, and the power of the Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## A Shared Blessing

Making the sign of the cross on one another's forehead or the back of the hand, share these words:

**"You are a beloved Child of God."**

# Session 5: Holy Communion

## Reading

Matthew 26:26-30, Luke 22:14-22 or Mark 14:22-25

## Overview

In this gospel text, Jesus and his disciples are gathering during **Passover**, a Jewish festival which celebrates the Hebrews' escape from Egypt (Exodus 12:1-13:10). Jesus' words as they prepare to share this meal together are the same words we use during Holy Communion in our congregations. His words, with the bread and the wine, and filled with God's promise of forgiveness, are central in our Christian faith.

## Lutheran Moment

Holy Communion (also known as **Eucharist**, the **Sacrament of the Altar** or the **Lord's Supper**) is one of two sacraments in the Lutheran tradition. As the Small Catechism notes, Holy Communion "is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ himself for us Christians to eat and to drink."<sup>3</sup> As we participate in this sacramental meal, it's more than just a remembrance of this event in Jesus' life – we believe that Jesus is truly present at the table with us.

We also believe that in this sacrament God grants ALL people forgiveness for their sins and gives us life and salvation – no one should be excluded from receiving God's grace at the table.

Together, read the questions and answers in the Sacrament of the Alter section of Luther's Small Catechism.

## Conversation Questions

1. What is Holy Communion like in your congregation? Who serves the meal? What elements are present? What words are said when people are given the bread and the wine?
2. What other Bible stories mention wine or bread as a connection God?
3. What does the sacrament of Holy Communion mean to you?
4. Why is forgiveness important?

## Video Suggestion

Chuck knows church: Communion - <https://youtu.be/MuxWptcwqUs>

## Activity

Bake some bread together and share it during a meal.

A good, simple recipe can be found here: <https://inside.luthersem.edu/community-care/chapel/>

## Worship Connection

As a family/household, connect with your congregation's weekly worship service, listen to the sermon and fill out the sermon reflection sheet (found at the end of this curriculum) together.

## Global Connection

Holy Communion is a central element to our time of worship and our lives of faith. It connects us to Christ and to others throughout the entire global church. Like baptism, this sacrament is expressed in culturally diverse ways, presented with varied colors, unique **patens and chalices** (the plate and cup that holds the bread and wine), many languages in which to speak Jesus' words, and surrounded by inspiring music of all styles. The common thread is the grace and forgiveness that is received through God's word and the bread and wine.

## Closing Prayer

Holy God, you come to us with your love, and you invite us to your table, just as we are. In the bread and wine that you provide for us, Jesus, our savior, meets us there with the grace and forgiveness we so desperately need. We thank you for this gift. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## A Shared Blessing

Making the sign of the cross on one another's forehead or the back of the hand, share these words:

**"You are a beloved Child of God."**

# Session 6: Worship

## Reading

Psalm 100:1-5

## Overview

The Psalms contain many songs prayers, poems, etc. that are a response to God. This Psalm, also known as a “Hymn of Praise” is meant to be filled with joy as a response to the good things God has done for us. Through singing, prayer, reading scripture, holy communion, sharing peace, etc., our participation in worship offers the space to share our thankfulness and joy with God each week. And we are reminded that God will continue to come to us, bless us, and love us eternally.

## Lutheran Moment

Martin Luther said the book of Psalms “might well be called a little Bible. In it is comprehended most beautifully and briefly everything that is in the entire Bible.” “Luther did not mean that the Psalms teach Christian beliefs, since they were written before the time of Christ. Rather Luther was referring to the fact that the Psalms explore the highs and lows of the life of faith.”<sup>4</sup>

When we intentionally set aside time for **sabbath** (rest from our work) and focus our attention on giving thanks to and praising God, this becomes a time of worship. Sometimes this happens in community, when we spend time in nature, in your own congregation, or at home with family. It is an important component to our faith, and strengthens our relationships with other people and with God, it’s a reminder of our need for forgiveness, assures us of God’s grace, and encourages us to respond to these good gifts by sharing this good news with others we see during the week.

Our times of worship can also help us understand the topic of **Law** and **Gospel**; through stories from the Old Testament, we hear how God creates, calls people to lead and learn, and reminds us that we are broken by sin, imperfect, and often separate ourselves from God. But the Gospel **reconciles** (restores) what we have broken as God forgives us through the sacrifice of God’s Son, Jesus Christ, on a cross.

## Conversation Questions

1. Do you have a favorite or memorable Psalm? What meaning does it have for you?
2. Are the Psalms found in the Old or New Testament? How many Psalms are in the Bible?
3. What is the theme/emotion of Psalm 23? Psalm 91? Psalm 13? What might have been happening in the lives of the Psalmists as they wrote these?
4. We hear Psalms during worship; what other situations might people feel drawn to read them? Why?

## Video Suggestion

Can I be a Christian Without Going to Church?: <https://youtu.be/AzmAZ0c8wYQ>

## Activity

Try writing your own psalm! Take some time to think about an experience in your life; how did you feel during and after that experience? What words come to mind as you consider the ways God was with you during that time? How might you respond to God?

## Worship Connection

As a family/household, connect with your congregation's weekly worship service, listen to the sermon and fill out the sermon reflection sheet (found at the end of this curriculum) together.

## Global Connection

The way we worship is often influenced by our culture, heritage, language, resources, etc. For example, many congregations in the midwest were established by German, Swedish, or Norwegian immigrants who began settling here in the late 1800's and early 1900's. These congregations were language specific, so that worshippers could fully participate and understand the words being spoken. Throughout God's global church Christians worship in different ways – outdoors and indoors, online and in homes, lots of loud joyful singing or with a simple candle and silent prayer. Worship can be deeply meaningful to an individual, and also uplift an entire community. God's global church is diverse and Jesus invites us ALL to participate.

## Closing Prayer

God of joy, we praise you with thankful hearts for all the ways you continue to bless us. As we reflect on your faithfulness in our lives, may we respond to your generosity by taking time for sabbath and worship in whatever way genuinely connects us to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## A Shared Blessing

Making the sign of the cross on one another's forehead or the back of the hand, share these words:

**"You are a beloved Child of God."**

# Session 7: Service and Vocation

## Reading

Service: Matthew 25:35-40, Matthew 22:36-40, 1 Peter 4:10, 1 John 4:19

Vocation: 1 Corinthians 12:4-14

## Overview

These verses from the gospel of Matthew, as well as the verses from these two **epistles** (letters), show us that Jesus' mission and ministry and the early church that followed were called to serve others, particularly those who were oppressed, suffering, vulnerable, abused and often pushed to the margins of society. 1 Corinthians 12 describes in detail how God has given each of us our own unique combination of **spiritual gifts** – skills and passions and abilities – that we use to the best of our ability to serve God and our **neighbors** (people who live next door, in our communities, and around the globe- in other words ALL human beings!) When we use these gifts in our everyday lives, this is our **vocation** (what we have been called to do) – we will have several vocations throughout our lifetime, and sometimes we will have more than one vocation at a time!

## Lutheran Moment

Lutherans believe we are *simul justus et peccator* (simultaneously **sinner** and **saint**); we are human and therefore we **sin** (act in ways that separate us from God and other another), yet we have also been given **grace** (freedom from our sins through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ). Although imperfect, we are capable of goodness, and this includes recognizing all the ways that God has made us worthy of love and capable of sharing that love with others. We respond to what God has done for us by serving one another with compassion.

## Conversation Questions

1. What spiritual gifts do you believe God has given to you? (see Activity below!)
2. Think about the people in your life – what vocations do you see them living out? (parent, public speaker, teacher, etc.); how does this work reflect God?
3. Why is service to our neighbors important? What characteristics did Jesus embody and how can our lives reflect this?
4. How might God be calling you to serve? How can you use your spiritual gifts today?

## Video Suggestion

Using your gifts to serve your neighbors – Shobi's Table": <https://youtu.be/q7xsKXrPv-o>

## Activity

Use this tool to see what Spiritual Gifts you have been given! <https://www.elca.org/our-work/congregations-and-synods/faith-practices/spiritual-renewal/assessment-tools>

## Worship Connection

As a family/household, connect with your congregation's weekly worship service, listen to the sermon and fill out the sermon reflection sheet (found at the end of this curriculum) together.

## Global Connection

As we **discern** (think about/pray about) what our gifts are and how we might use them in our lives, it's important to remember that we can be called to vocations in our households, communities, country or even across the world. The **ELCA** (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) has many ministries that offer space and opportunities to go wherever God might be calling you to serve. Through these ministries, we begin to understand **accompaniment** (how we walk alongside and support one another) and see firsthand how God continues to show up in ways we never expected.

## Closing Prayer

Generous God, we thank you for creating us and giving us gifts that allow us to be exactly who you created us to be. As we learn and grow in faith, guide us with patience and help us to listen to the people around us so that we can share your love and grace with others in the same way you have done this for us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## A Shared Blessing

Making the sign of the cross on one another's forehead or the back of the hand, share these words:

"You are a beloved Child of God."



# Session 8: Faith Practices

## Reading

Philippians 4:6-7, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Luke 6:12

## Overview

We see from these pieces of scripture how important faith practices had been in Jesus' ministry and throughout the history of the Christian church. Jesus relied on prayer often as a way to communicate and express his deepest emotions and thoughts. Church leaders urged people to engage in faith practices frequently, understanding that this was central to following God's will.

## Lutheran Moment

Martin Luther encouraged Christians to pray daily. The Small Catechism includes three prayers – one for morning, one for evening, and one for mealtime. In fact, he offered specific instructions with these prayers as a way to prepare our hearts and give our full attention to God. For the Morning Blessing, Luther suggested making the sign of the cross before praying and when finished, to “go to your work joyfully.” Making the sign of the cross begins the Evening Blessing as well, and when that prayer is complete, Luther suggests we should “go to sleep quickly and cheerfully.”<sup>5</sup>

Faith Practices can include prayer, but also worship, service to our neighbors, reading the Bible, regular devotions, practicing kindness, sharing stories of faith, etc. And we don't have to do these perfectly – we “practice” them throughout our lives, growing and learning and listening to God along the way. These things can transform our hearts and lives.

## Conversation Questions

1. What is a favorite faith practice of yours? Why do you enjoy it?
2. Do you have a unique way you like to connect with God?
3. What's the most difficult part of starting a new faith practice? What can be done to make it easier?
4. Does your family have faith practices they do together? What are they?

## Video Suggestion

When We Pray: <https://youtu.be/9YZZzgJB33E>

## Activity

Start a prayer journal that can help you develop a regular practice of praying for yourself, others, saying thanks to God or offering a simple confession (see sample here):

<https://wellnurturedplantsandpillars.files.wordpress.com/2014/02/prayer-1.jpg>

## Worship Connection

As a family/household, connect with your congregation's weekly worship service, listen to the sermon and fill out the sermon reflection sheet (found at the end of this curriculum) together.

## Global Connection

Choosing how we connect with God is very personal, and unique to each of us. Many other religions have rituals like prayer that are meaningful in their lives of faith, too – these may appear similar to ours, but often times, they look somewhat different. Some people rely on icons or images, others have specific times for their rituals; some use ancient languages while some don't speak at all; and some celebrate festivals that reflect the history of their faith.

Religion continues to be important for so many people, but throughout history, and even now, people around the world face **persecution** (subjected to violence, harassment or abuse) for practicing their faith, even in places where freedom of religion is encouraged.

## Closing Prayer

Faithful God, you are present with us and continue to draw us closer to you each day. Please continue to create in and through us, empower and inspire us with the Holy Spirit, and teach us to be like Christ in our words and actions. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## A Shared Blessing

Making the sign of the cross on one another's forehead or the back of the hand, share these words:

**"You are a beloved Child of God."**

# Sermon Reflection

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Adult Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Liturgical Season: \_\_\_\_\_

Gospel or Sermon Scripture: \_\_\_\_\_

The main theme of the sermon was...

What's a word or phrase that was interesting to you?

What might God be saying to you through this story or sermon?

What's one action you plan to take this week that shows love to God or your neighbor?

Draw or doodle something that reminds you of today's Gospel or Bible story...