World Refugee Sunday Resources

Litany

A: Let us give thanks to God for the gift of home and security. **C: We sing praises to the Lord who guides and protects us.** A: Let us recall the people of God who yearned for a place for home and safety. **C: The first, were sent from the Garden as refugees to find shelter and home themselves.** A: Their children and grand children sought the refuge of safety and peace. **C: Abraham & Sarah, Lot and his wife, Isaac & Rebekah, Jacob, Leah, Rachel, and their children; Moses, Aaron, Miriam and the whole nation of Israel, Joseph, Mary and the baby, Jesus lived as refugees.** A: Some sought safety for their children from the violence of war. Their cities and homes destroyed. **C: Some escaped the injustice of cruel kings and corrupt leaders.** A: Some follow the promise of wealth and riches. **C: All sought a new life, with opportunity, with safety, and with the freedom to worship God as they believe and choose.** A: And our story is of refugees and immigrants, our ancestors who claimed this land as their own. **C: We share much with those who seek refuge today, for their story is truly our story.**

Confession

P: Let the hearts of God’s people be open as we join in confessing our sins. **C: I confess to God who created all people, of very tribe, tongue, and race that I have sinned in many and creative ways. While I claim freedom for myself and my family, I willingly resist the plea of others for the same freedoms. I have limited my notion of justice to be “just us.” I have turned a deaf ear to the cries of the hungry. I have justified my neglect of those in need. Have mercy on me.**

**Worst of all, I have claimed God’s richest mercy for myself and those I love, while I would deny it for those I deem unworthy.**

**Lord, only You can open a closed heart. I need your help to open mine. I ask your mercy for my many sins.**

**Absolution**

P: The gift of God’s mercy is for our forgiveness. The gift of grace welcomes all to the table. Jesus showed both grace and mercy to foreigners, outcasts, and sinners of every ilk. By God’s grace, through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, mercy is given, your sins are gone. In the name of the Father, and of the Son (+), and of the Holy Spirit.

Communion Preface

P: Christ’s invitation to this meal is not something we earn. **C: Jesus fed everyone who would come. Sinners, imposters, hookers, and fools all were welcome to the feast.** P: The lame, blind, leper, healed by mercy, welcomed by grace. **C: We come as travelers hungering for life. We come as refugees thirsting for a home. All of us come from somewhere else, along a road that leads to Christ Jesus. We come as sojourners and pilgrims to the welcome feast.** P: We have not yet arrived, still the feast is spread for our forgiveness and for strength for the journey. Christ Jesus is here to welcome all to the table.

Words of Institution

Lord’s Prayer

Post Communion Prayer

Lord, you bless the pilgrims, and call the wanderers to your Kingdom of peace. As you have fed these travelers, bring us also to the Kingdom’s edge that we might join together with all your children of every tribe and tongue singing praise and thanksgiving from this day forth. Amen.

World Refugee Sunday Resources 2

Litany

A: Let us give thanks and praise to God from the comfort of this place. **C: We have come in from the summer heat, to sit on comfortable seats, and to celebrate friends close-by. It is good to be here!** A: Yet, we are to remember that there is no such comfort for millions of our brothers and sisters. **C: Their homes have been leveled. Their husbands murdered. There is nothing left. Where might they find water, food, and a place to stay the night?** A: Fleeing for their lives, and the safety of their children, they seek a place of safety and refuge. **C: I can’t imagine walking through desert heat, urged on by hope alone.** A: That would be hope and faith. Faith that God, whom we praise, will provide a place of welcome and rest. Are we, O people of God, a welcoming community and a refuge from the summer heat? **C: We are by God’s call, and Christ’s command: to go to the highways and by-ways and bring to the feast to the least, the last, the lost, and the little.**

**We have come in from the summer heat, to sit on comfortable seats, and to celebrate friends close-by. It is good to be here! Amen.**

Confession

P: Let us turn our hearts to the Lord in humility and deference to confess our sins. **C: Holy God, holy and mighty, have mercy upon us.** P: For our resistance to welcome the stranger in need of refuge and safety; **C: Holy God, holy and mighty, have mercy upon us.** P: For our insistence to limit the freedoms we enjoy to those who are like us. **C: Holy God, holy and mighty, have mercy upon us.** P: For forgetting or denying that our very ancestors came to this country as refugees and immigrants seeking a better life. **C: Holy God, holy and mighty, have mercy upon us.** P: For our “spirit of scarcity” that claims we do not have “enough stuff” to support any who seek refuge and safety. **C: Holy God, holy and mighty, have mercy upon us.** P: Our Lord, Jesus described the last judgment: I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was hungry and you fed me. I was naked and you clothed me. I was a stranger and you welcomed me in. I was sick or in prison and you visited me. **C: And the people said, “Lord, when did we serve you like that?” And Jesus said, “When you did it for the least of these, you did it for me.”** P: Forgiveness does not excuse us from our responsibility. By God’s mercy our sins are forgiven, and grace calls us to live Christ-like lives of compassion, mercy, and peace. **C: Let it be so. Amen.**

Communion Preface

P: We come to this feast of forgiveness at Christ’s invitation. **C: It is to receive forgiveness of sins, and grace in abundance.** P: Jesus invites us not because we have been so good and holy; **C: Jesus invites us because he loves us and all of God’s children, broken as we are.** P: In this feast we remember Jesus’ sacrifice for us in his body and blood; **C: And in Christ’s presence we feast on the promise of forgiveness.** P: God’s mercy is not limited to those like us. All persons of every tribe, tongue, and nation bear within them the likeness of God. **C: We come** **this day not because we have been so good. We come to this meal because we need its grace and mercy so much.** P: Christ Jesus, risen from the dead is the host of this meal. You, and every child of grace are welcome to receive the blessing of mercy, grace, and peace in Jesus’ name. **C: Amen.**

Words of Institution

Lord’s Prayer

Post-Communion Prayer

As Christ Jesus fed the multitude in the wilderness, we have been fed. As Christ looked with compassion upon us, strangers and pilgrims, we have been blessed. Now may we be empowered by the Spirit’s grace to offer welcome, refuge, and peace to all we meet. Amen.