

LITURGY SUGGESTIONS

The Homily

Camp Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for the shared ministry of our congregations and our camping program, and a time to encourage others to sign up for a camp session in 2020. It is also an opportunity for people to give financially so that cost is never an obstacle in participating in the offerings of our camp.

People often refer to camp as a place where they find time and inspiration to search for and discover the ways God shows up in our lives, our relationships, and in creation; let the appointed Lectionary readings help you tell these stories.

Or in place of a traditional sermon, invite leaders in your church (the priest, youth, camp alumni, camp counselors, camp volunteers, etc.) to share a personal camp story. Maybe several speakers of different ages and camp experiences might be effective.

The sermon can be a wonderful opportunity to share a personal experience about the transforming nature of God at work in a safe, nurturing environment where the meaning of unconditional love comes alive. If your church or your speaker(s) have pictures pertaining to their experience at camp, show a slideshow or video clip.

The Collect

Traditional – Fourth Sunday in Lent

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which giveth life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Contemporary – Fourth Sunday in Lent

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

A Collect for Camp Sunday:

Almighty God, giver of all life, Your creative hands have molded the dry land and gathered the waters into beautiful places for your children to experience your glory, to build relationships, to find you; your spirit moves in your church to inspire the lives of generations of children, youth and adults with generous and tender love. Move in us as we seek to strengthen the ministries we share, that we may be empowered by your presence to draw all people to you. Keep us ever mindful of the gifts and opportunities before us for the formation of children and families, that, when they ask to see Jesus we might show them the way through the generous and creative camping ministries of our church and diocesan family. Through Christ, who welcomes us to walk with him in unity with you through the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

A Blessing of the Offering for Camp Sunday:

Almighty God, we thank you for the generosity of those you have called to the churches of the Episcopal Dioceses of Louisiana and Western Louisiana today. Pour out now your blessing upon this offering. Let those who benefit from this generosity find themselves touched by you through the camp experience they will have this year. May time spent at camp strengthen the bonds of affection amongst them and between them and our Church, and may their experience grow us all, in fellowship with one another, into the head, who is Jesus Christ your Son. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers of the People for Camp Sunday:

We pray for the Church and its holy mission. That as brothers and sisters in Christ, we may be united together in proclaiming the love of God in all that we do.

God in your grace,
Hear our prayer.

We pray for all ministries of the Church, especially the camping ministry of this Diocese at Camp Hardtner; that these offerings of grace may provide a safe environment for persons of all ages to see and share the Kingdom of God.

God in your grace,
Hear our prayer.

We pray for our Church leaders: all bishops, priests, deacons, and lay leaders. We pray for all those serving as deans, chaplains, and teachers this summer at camp; that they may support and strengthen all camp participants and leaders while faithfully proclaiming Christ's love.

God in your grace,
Hear our prayer.

We pray for all camp staff and counselors who will serve this summer; that they may live out the love of Jesus Christ with energy and excitement as they mentor and serve the children, youth and adults gathered by our camping program.

God in your grace,
Hear our prayer.

We pray for the mission of camp ministry in our diocese and all those who support it with their time, talent, and treasure; that we may continue to find new ways to offer these gifts to all who are drawn to encounter your love in this community of grace.

God in your grace,
Hear our prayer.

We pray for this nation, our leaders, and the world; that they may seek justice and equality for all people, and together we may promote peace across this land.

God in your grace,
Hear our prayer.

We pray for the earth; that we may live into our calling from the beginning of time as good stewards of Your creation, as we learn to protect and conserve its beauty.

God in your grace,
Hear our prayer.

We pray for this community. That by loving our neighbor we may be a place of healing in a broken world.

God in your grace,
Hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are suffering or in any kind of trouble; may you send your healing Spirit to comfort and protect them. Help us to always remember that you are our light in the darkness; an outstretched hand when we are alone.

God in your grace,
Hear our prayer.

We pray for the departed; that you may safely guide them into your loving embrace where they may rest in your eternal Kingdom.

God in your grace,
Hear our prayer.