



Festival Opening Worship
Commemorating the ELCA 50+40+10
Ordination Anniversaries
With the Opening of the Assembly
2021 Virginia Synod Assembly
12 June 2021
10 o'clock in the morning

Welcome to worship with the Virginia Synod!

We give thanks for all who are joining together to praise our resurrected and ascended Lord!

You are invited to fully participate by speaking the bold, singing along, and commenting in the chat throughout the service. Thank you to all the leaders who have contributed to this worship experience:

Bishop: The Rev. Robert F. Humphrey

Presiding Minister: The Rev. Kelly Bayer Derrick; VA Synod Assistant to the Bishop

Preacher: The Rev. Adam Schultz; Good Shepherd, Lexington

Assisting Minister: The Rev. Dr. Phyllis Milton; First, Norfolk

Confessor: The Rev. Jean Bozeman; retired VA Synod Assistant to the Bishop

Prayers of the People: led by members of the Virginia Synod Council, the Lutheran Youth Organization Board, and by Assembly Chaplain, the Rev. Jeniffer Tillman; Apostles, Gloucester

Musicians:

- *Nancy Delaney: organ (Christ, Roanoke)*
- *Song leaders: Chuck Price, Ann Price, Greg Williamson, Alli Beck, Pastor Heidi Moore, Alex Johnson, Robert Schuhl (Resurrection, Fredericksburg)*

Editor: The Rev. Colleen Montgomery; All Places Together & VA Synod Director for Digital Ministries

The Synod Assembly's offering will be divided between:

- The ELCA International Women Leaders Fund funds the equipping of women leaders in the church and society's life and development. These emerging leaders are studying at ELCA colleges, universities, seminaries, and other institutions worldwide. Since 2015, 34 scholars - representing 22 countries - have been supported by this fund.
- The Faith + Finance + Freedom Fund represents an opportunity to strengthen the financial situation of rostered ministers and congregations in the Virginia Synod. Every gift received generates a matching gift from a Lilly Foundation grant and provides an opportunity to make educational debt reduction grants to rostered ministers and provide stewardship support for the congregation.

Offerings can be made online at www.vasynod.org/give

The in-kind offering is menstruation hygiene products for schools in your local community. These gifts will make a direct impact on menstruating students across the Synod who either cannot afford hygiene products or find themselves without what they need.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We are God's people, sheep of the Spirit's fold, lambs of Christ's flock, sinners of God's redeeming. **Amen.**

Let us come before God, who already knows our hearts and welcomes our humility.

Loving God,

Our thoughts, our words, and our deeds are an open book to you.

You have seen where we fall short.

You know where we have strayed as individuals

And as your church.

In your mercy, forgive us and guide us into right ways of being—

Ways of welcome, paths of mercy, habits of grace—

So that we may live renewed in the joy of our salvation,

Prepared, equipped, and ready to meet Christ

In our neighbors and in your creation. Amen.

God's ways are not our ways

And God's thoughts are not our thoughts.

Before we were made, God brought creation out of nothing

And peace out of chaos.

In this same love, God unyokes you from sin

And binds you to a new life and new living in Jesus Christ.

Rejoice and be glad,

Yours is the kingdom of God.

Amen.



GATHERING HYMN: Come, All You People [*Uyaimose*] (ELW 819)

- 1 Come, all you people, come and praise the Most High;
come, all you people, come and praise the Most High;
come, all you people, come and praise the Most High;
come now and worship the Lord.
- 2 Come, all you people, come and praise the Savior;
come, all you people, come and praise the Savior;
come, all you people, come and praise the Savior;
come now and worship the Lord.
- 3 Come, all you people, come and praise the Spirit;
come, all you people, come and praise the Spirit;
come, all you people, come and praise the Spirit;
come now and worship the Lord.

Text: Alexander Gondo; tr. I-to Loh, b. 1936, alt.

Text © 1986 World Council of Churches, Geneva, Switzerland, and the Asian Institute of Liturgy & Music, notation and English paraphrase by I-to Loh.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Most high God, you know our whole truth, and you give us refuge in the shadow of your wings.
Continue to raise up people to serve Christ's church boldly
and strengthen all in the vocations to which you call us.
Sustain us in our daily living so that we may be the body of Christ in suffering world,
through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Ephesians 3:11-13 NET

What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God's promised salvation.

A reading from Ephesians.

[The revelation of God's multifaceted wisdom] was according to the eternal purpose that God accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,¹² in whom we have boldness and confident access to God by way of Christ's faithfulness.¹³ For this reason I ask you not to lose heart because of what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Galatians 3:26-29

Paul wants the Galatian Christians to understand that they are all equally valued by God. The distinctions that seem important in the world do not exist in God's kingdom. Christ calls, clothes, and commissions all people equally for God's work in the world.

A reading from Galatians.

²⁶ For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. ²⁷ As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, [\[a\]](#) heirs according to the promise.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

We welcome the gospel together:

Alleluia, alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL: Mark 5:21-43

Jesus heals a woman with a bleeding disorder and a young girl. Their physical restoration also means their restoration to their community. While these two women may have seemed socially or politically insignificant due to their lack of standing or power, God values both of them and their healing is a sign of divine love.

The holy gospel according to Mark, the fifth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. ²² Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw Jesus, fell at his feet ²³ and begged him repeatedly, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live." ²⁴ So Jesus went with Jairus.

And a large crowd followed Jesus and pressed in on him. ²⁵ Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. ²⁶ She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. ²⁷ She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸ for she said, "If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well." ²⁹ Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. ³⁰ Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my clothes?" ³¹ And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, 'Who touched me?'" ³² Jesus looked all around to see who had done it. ³³ But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. ³⁴ Jesus said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

³⁵ While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?" ³⁶ But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe." ³⁷ Jesus allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. ³⁸ When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. ³⁹ When he had entered, he said to them, "Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping." ⁴⁰ And they laughed at him. Then Jesus put them all outside, and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. ⁴¹ Jesus took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha cum," which means, "Little girl, get up!" ⁴² And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. ⁴³ He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: For Everyone Born (A Place at the Table)

1. For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead.

Refrain:

And God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace;
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice, and joy.

2. For woman and man, a place at the table,
revising the roles, deciding to share,
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,
for woman and man, a system that's fair.

Refrain

3. For young and for old, a place at the table,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
for young and for old, the right to belong.

Refrain

4. For just and unjust, a place at the table.
abuser, abused, with need to forgive,
in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy,
for just and unjust, a new way to live.

Refrain

5. For gay and for straight, a place at the table,
a covenant shared, a welcoming space,
a rainbow of race and gender and color,
for gay and stright, the chalice of grace.

Refrain

6. For everyone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
for everyone born, the right to be free.

Refrain

Words: Shirley Erena Murray

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APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus,
let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Holy Spirit, you move through all creation with sighs too deep for words. Open our hearts to listen to the cry of the earth and the cry of those who are poor. Speak through your church to

rebuke the forces that seek to exploit your planet. Join our human prayers with the voices of all creation and move us to honor you by preserving the gifts of nature that reveal your glory. Provide clean water for thirsty people, animals, and crops. Heal places suffering destruction caused by floods, typhoons, storms, and mudslides.

God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Creator and creative God, we thank you for those whom you have called to leadership and service in your church. For women, people of color, and siblings who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual/aromantic; for all who faithfully serve as bishops, pastors, and deacons; for those first to be ordained and those most recently ordained.

God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Merciful and Generous Savior, surround congregations with your expansive inclusion. help us to emulate your lead and befriend those who are marginalized, lonely, outcast, or rejected. Grant us healing and love that we may be tangible beacons of your steadfast love. Be present in the midst of disagreements, differences, and questions. Unite people of diverse viewpoints in the love of Christ. Strengthen ongoing dialogue between church bodies that do not agree on the ordination of women and of LGBTQIA+ siblings.

In the quiet of this moment, we especially remember . . . women, women of color, the transgender/gender nonconforming, all people of color, and our friends, neighbors, and relatives in the LGBTQIA community. God our guide, you are greater than we can imagine.

God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Mothering God, we praise you for the women who nurtured us in faith, whether in our family of birth or in the family of God. Raise up faithful women as witnesses to your strength and compassion. Bless mothers and all who offer mothering care. Protect victims of sexism, abuse, and gender-based violence, especially women and girls of color and our LGBTQIA+ siblings - who are more likely to experience violence. Restore dignity to those marginalized because of their gender, race, ethnicity, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Mighty Jesus, living Word, soothe the bodies, souls, and minds of the victims of sexual, gender-based, and/or domestic violence. Bring them peace, hope, comfort, and strength. Bring abusers to justice and prevent them from causing further harm. Stir up the heart of your church

gathered here and around the world, that we value justice and healing over silence and shame.
Show us the way to your righteousness, led by the voices of those who suffer.

God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Healing God, we pray for those who suffer from bleeding disorders; for children who are too sick or weak to get up; for all who continue to pray for healing in their bodies, especially those who are still suffering from COVID-19. For all medical professionals, first responders, and all who provide care to those who are hurting. Attend to the cares and needs of the hurting and hopeless in our congregations, communities, workplaces, schools, and families.

God of grace,
receive our prayer.

God of hope, your Holy Spirit equips the church with a rich variety of gifts. We praise you for the dynamic ministry of laypeople who do vital work through church ministries of hospitality, outreach, teaching, music, and dance. We especially thank you for those whose hard work is rarely praised, and whose names are forgotten though their work lives on. Grant that we may all use the gifts you have given us to bear witness to Christ in lives that are built on faith and love.

God of grace,
receive our prayer.

God of resurrection, we remember before you those who have died: especially those who die from gun violence, acts of terror, warfare, hatred, and brutality. We commend them to your eternal love. Grant healing and wholeness to the survivors who are wounded or traumatized, and restore all whose spirits are maimed by such violence. May we serve as your arms of care to those in distress. Teach us to live in peace with one another.

God of grace,
receive our prayer.

For what else and for whom else do we pray? *[Silence.]*

God of grace,
receive our prayer.

God of life, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting that your steadfast love is greater than the heavens and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. **Amen.**

PEACE

OFFERING

Join me in prayer:

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

You have blessed us with our bodies, our minds, our hearts, our communities, and the resources of this earth. Lead us and guide us to use these gifts in accordance with your will, and may those we share be a blessing to others, for the sake of the one who is with us to the end, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Dialogue

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

... And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

REMEMBRANCE OF COMMUNION

All praise to you, glorious God of grace.
Throughout the ages you have blessed us with foremothers of the faith.
With Sarah, we bless you for your gift of life.
With Ruth, we praise you for family and food.
With Miriam, we celebrate our escape from the foe.
Remembering Deborah, we honor the words of your prophets.
Remembering the woman at the well, we laud you for living water.
Remembering Junia, we thank you for those who minister among your people.
One with the daughter of Jairus, we wake to life in you.

With Mary, we magnify your name:
My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Remembering Martha and Mary, we join Jesus at this meal.
Living, he healed the bleeding woman;
dying, he cared for his mother;
risen, he sent Mary Magdalene in mission.

We remember that on the night before his crucifixion,
Jesus gathered and fed his friends,
offering himself to them and to us who come after,
calling us to gather, to remember, and to share.

Although we cannot be together in our customary way,
we are gathered as we can,
we are remembering,
and we share in the love you offer.

With Mary, again we magnify your name:
My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Mighty God of mercy,
as you heard the prayers of Hannah, so now hear us.
Send your Spirit on this bread and wine,
that sharing the body and blood of Christ we become his body in the world.

Send your Spirit on this assembly, that like Phoebe,
we serve one another with zeal.

Send your Spirit on the church, that like Anna,
we tell others of your mercy.
Send your Spirit into our hearts, that like Dorcas,
we care for the poor and needy.

With Mary, once more we magnify your name:
My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

All praise to you, powerful God of peace.
We adore you, our God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
you who mother and feed and comfort us,
today, tomorrow, and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
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.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

O God of justice and love,
we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life
with the words of your Son.
Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others,
and at the end bring all the world to your feast;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.
Amen.

OPENING OF AN ASSEMBLY

As in one body we have many members
so we, who are many, are one body in Christ.

Where two or three are gathered in my name,
I am there among them.

Live a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called,
with all humility and gentleness,
making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit
in the bond of peace.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray,
O God, you open the hearts of your faithful people
by sending into us your Holy Spirit.
Direct us by the light of that Spirit,
that we may have a right judgment in all things
and rejoice at all times in your peace,
through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

I declare this assembly of the Virginia Synod to be in session
in the name of the Father,
and of the + Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

BLESSING

May the joy of God's freedom cause your spirit to dance;
May the presence of God's peace bring wholeness to your body and mind.
May God give you blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Live in peace. You are the faithful + BOLD + serving body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Worship Planned by:

The Rev. Kelly Bayer Derrick; VA Synod Assistant to the Bishop

The Rev. Jean Bozeman; retired VA Synod Assistant to the Bishop

The Rev. Dr. Phyllis Milton; First, Norfolk

The Rev. Colleen Montgomery; VA Synod Director for Digital Ministry, and Mission Developer of All Places Together

The Rev. Adam Schultz; Good Shepherd, Lexington

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