

Virginia Synod Assembly 2025

Intertwining Hope



Worship Bulletins for:

Friday Opening Worship - June 13 at 1pm

Saturday Morning Prayer with Necrology - June 14 at 8:30am

Sunday Morning Prayer - June 15 at 8:30am

Sunday Closing Worship - June 15 at the Conclusion of the Assembly



**Virginia Synod Assembly
Opening Worship
Friday, June 13, 2025**

Presiding Minister: The Rev. Dr. Phyllis Milton; Bishop, Virginia Synod

Preacher: The Rev. Dee Pederson; Bishop, Southwestern Minnesota Synod

Assisting Minister: The Rev. Libby Pfaff; Nineveh, Radford

Lector: Vicar Elisabeth Chapin; Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, North Chesterfield

Musicians: Richard Barnett and Luci Hughes; St. Luke, Richmond

Liturgy: This Far by Faith; Holy Communion Setting One: River of Life; LBW Setting 2

Head Sacristan: Donna Gum; Grace, Waynesboro

Communion Assistants: Barbara Atkinson; Holy Trinity, Wytheville; Kathleen Kleinbrook; St. Michael, Virginia Beach; Jim Somerville; St. Michael, Virginia Beach; Donna Gum; Grace, Waynesboro; and The Rev. Chris Carr; First English, Richmond; John Staubus

Worship planned by: The Rev. Libby Pfaff; Nineveh, Radford; and Vicar Elisabeth Chapin; Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, North Chesterfield

We chose this care of creation focused worship service because it embodies a hope that is both active and sacred. By intertwining worship with ecological responsibility and a deep love for all of creation, the service proclaims that caring for creation is a defiant act of hope rooted in love, renewal, and reverence for God's world.

GATHERING

Prelude: *Envia Tu Espiritu* - Worship Team

The assembly is invited to stand.

Welcome

We gather in the name of God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of the Earth and all creatures! Praise be to the Holy Trinity! God is sound and life, Creator of the Universe, Source of all life, whom the angels sing; wondrous Light of all mysteries known or unknown to humankind, and life that lives in all.

Call to Worship

We enter the song of Creation!

Earth cradles our ancestors, birthing new life.

We enter the prayer of Creation!

Sky brings darkness and light, holds storms and the stars.

We enter the praise of Creation!

Mountains peaked with snow, hills swaying with grasses.

We enter the silence of Creation!

Humanity between the ground and the heavens.

We come here, humbly, as one earthly family to worship our Creator: the giver of form,
the maker of space.

Amen.

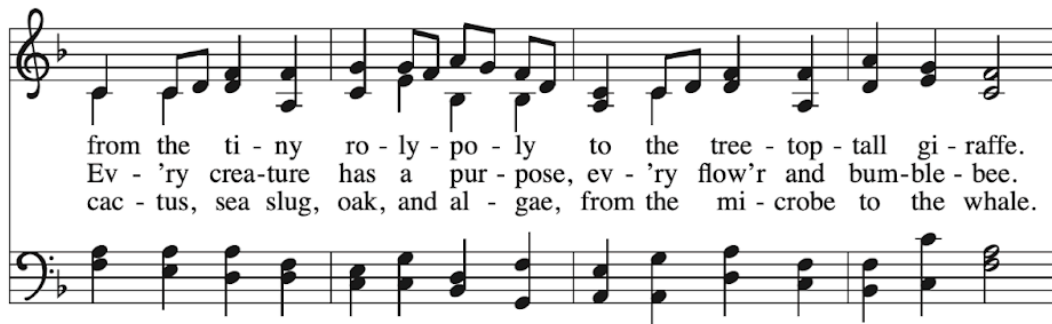
Opening Hymn:

Earth is Full of Wit and Wisdom

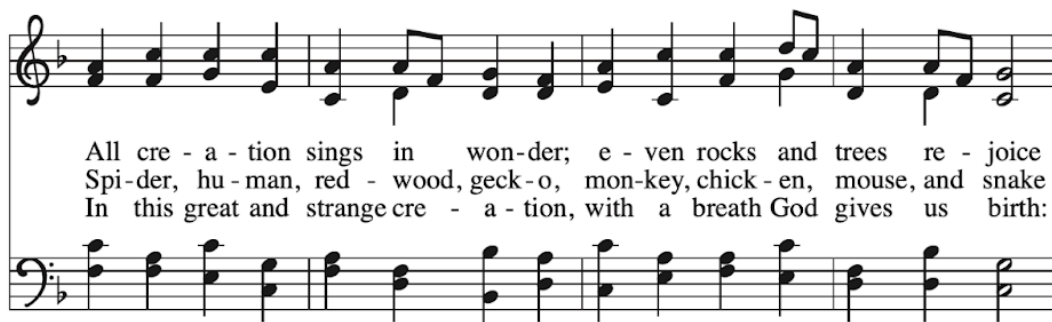
All Creation Sings 1064



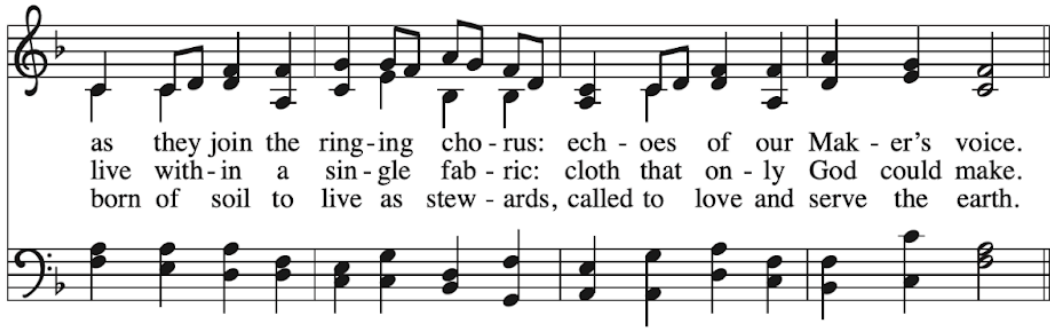
1 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, sound-ing God's de - light-ed laugh,
2 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, wo - ven in - to har - mo - ny.
3 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom: pen - guin, pla - ty - pus, and snail,



from the ti - ny ro - ly - po - ly to the tree - top - tall gi - raffe.
Ev - 'ry crea-ture has a pur - pose, ev - 'ry flow'r and bum-ble - bee.
cac - tus, sea slug, oak, and al - gae, from the mi - crobe to the whale.



All cre - a - tion sings in won-der; e - ven rocks and trees re - joice
Spi-der, hu - man, red - wood, geck-o, mon-key, chick - en, mouse, and snake
In this great and strange cre - a - tion, with a breath God gives us birth:



Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825; arr. hymnal version

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Arr. © 2003 Augsburg Fortress

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Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + One God, who calls forth Creation, evokes praise from Creation, and stirs life in Creation.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God, Creation, and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of righteousness and justice,

You have made the Earth and all that is in it, but we have failed to honor your good work. We do not recognize your presence among us, and our hardened hearts do not hear Creation's cry. We have made your good land a desolation, and we dishonor your image in our neighbors. Forgive us, in your steadfast love, O God, for trampling your vineyards and polluting your sky. On your holy mountain, call us again to be stewards of your Earth and to join all Creation in songs of praise.

Amen.

Rejoice, for the Incarnate Word has come to you. Laying aside all heavenly glory, the Servant of all is obedient unto death to make of you and all the Earth a new Creation. Rejoice, for Christ, from whom nothing can separate you, + forgives you all your sins. Rejoice, for the One whose name is majestic in all the Earth raises you up to newness of life.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Sovereign of the universe, your first covenant of mercy was with every living creature. When your beloved Son came among us, the waters of the river welcomed him, the heavens opened to greet his arrival, the animals of the wilderness drew near as his companions. With all the world's people, may we who are washed into new life through baptism seek the way of your new creation, the way of justice and care, mercy and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

The assembly is invited to be seated.

First Reading: Genesis 9:8-17, 20

A reading from Genesis.

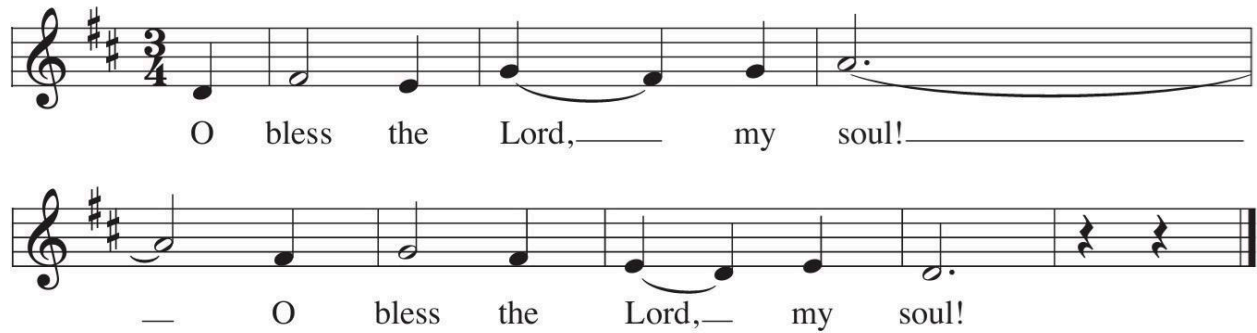
⁸ Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹ "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you ¹⁰ and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹ I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." ¹² God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³ I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴ When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵ I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh, and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶ When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." ¹⁷ God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth." ²⁰ Noah, a man of the soil, was the first to plant a vineyard.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 104:**O Bless The Lord!**

104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30



1. O Lord My God, how great you are,
clothed in majesty and honor,
wrapped in light as with a robe!
You stretch out the heavens like a tent!
2. On the waters you establish your dwelling.
You make clouds your chariot;
You ride on the wings of the wind.
You make the winds your messengers,
flame and fire your servants.
3. How many are your works, O Lord!
In wisdom you have made them all.
The earth is full of your creatures.
Vast and wide is the span of the sea,
With its creeping things past counting,
Living things great and small.

Second Reading: Revelation 22:1-6

A reading from Revelation.

¹Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month, and the

leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³ Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; ⁴ they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

⁶ And he said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true, for the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place.”

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Alleluia:

Celtic Alleluia

Evangelical Lutheran Worship 174



Gospel: Luke 12:22-31

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 13th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²² [Jesus] said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. ²³ For life is more than food and the body more than clothing. ²⁴ Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! ²⁵ And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁶ If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? ²⁷ Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ²⁸ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, you of little faith! ²⁹ And do not keep seeking what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. ³⁰ For it is the

nations of the world that seek all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹
 Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Bishop Dee Pederson

Hymn of the Day: Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery

Evangelical Lutheran Worship 334

1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your
 2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed
 3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling

death we are re - born; though you die in all of
 on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and
 though our steps may be; one with you in joy and

his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you
 bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the
 sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the

rise with ev - 'ry morn.
 bod - y of our Lord.
 riv - er, you the sea.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: Marty Haugen

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Litany of Lament and Repentance

Three candles are lit to represent the voices of Indigenous people, women and biodiversity

God of our vibrant world,

You have given humans the responsibility to care for each other. Indigenous people have historical, spiritual, and personal ties to these lands on which we inhabit. But many of us have failed to recognize the presence of God in these traditions, and their voices have been silenced. We are thankful to Indigenous Nations for their continuing care and presence on the earth. We all value the resilience and strength shown through the generations and today. We turn to the Spirit who dismantles borders and celebrates life giving community. Help us make a place where everyone is welcome and we acknowledge your grace at work in the ways of one another. Together, may we learn the spiritual richness of our relationships in the web of life.

God in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

O God of the whole of creation,

You have created land and trees, animals and all living creatures on the earth. We are destroying the forests through poisons and logging, the voices of the birds, insects and forest dwellers are silenced. You created the wonders of the ocean, the fish, shells, reefs, whales, waves, corals. The oceans are warming and as they drown in plastic, their voices are being stilled. We turn to you in sorrow and repentance. Please help us to care for the oceans, the land and the forest, and to recognize that it is your blessing for us. Creation is speaking to us, but their voices have been silenced by the roar of our greed.

God in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Mothering Earth, our Sister, you sustain and govern us. We have silenced the voices of your people, especially the voices of women - protectors of the Earth who have been killed by land-grabbers, mining and oil companies. Many are the voices of our sisters who have been silenced by flooding, hurricanes and drought as the earth's warming brings destruction. May we listen to the voices of our mothers and sisters and learn to treasure and protect the web of life.

God in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We turn to you in sorrow and repentance. Please, Creator God, forgive us for the human activities which have overpowered the weather and caused destruction of our environment. God in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

A time of silence is kept as people go forward to extinguish candles in memory of communities that are being wiped out by environmental degradation and creatures that are becoming extinct. For the voices of women, indigenous people and creation that have been silenced.

Statement of Faith

**We believe in God who creates all things to live in harmony
Heaven and Earth, Sea and Sky,
Sun and Moon, Fish and Birds,
Mountains and Valleys, Forests and Deserts,
All animals great and small, all human beings
and cares for all creation as our perfect, loving parent.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God,
Who came to reveal the depth of God's love for all creation,
and teach us to live under God's reign of justice, mercy, and compassion.
Who suffered death on the cross to save creation from oppression, violence, and
hatred, and free us from brokenness, sin, and self-conceit.
Who raises us with him into new life
to experience joy, peace, and unity with God and all creation.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
Who calls, equips, empowers, and helps us
to reject hatred, oppression, and violence against anyone,
and to extend justice and mercy, love and compassion
to all created things – Earth, Creatures, and Humans
regardless of how similar or different we are from one another.
Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

**If we are in Christ, we are becoming a new creation.
We see God around us. We see God within us. We give thanks to our Creator.**

Let us show the caring nature you have instilled within us by greeting each other as a sign of God's justice of peace, love, forgiveness and grace. The peace of our Creator be with you in all things.

And also with you.

You are invited to care for and to share peace with your neighbor and to speak a word of peace to the land in which you gather and the creatures who share this common home.

MEAL

Offering and Preparation

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.

Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.

Gathering the hopes and dreams of all; united them with the prayers we offer.

Grace our table with your presence and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

Offering Prayer *(Inspired by St. Francis' Canticle of Creation)*

Loving Creator, you brought us forth from the very earth itself. We share with others what you have entrusted to us. Bless these offerings and compel us to be strengthened by them, not only to serve our human neighbors, but also to serve our sister sky, our brother mountain, our mother earth, and all our family in Creation. We pray this in the name of the Word that dwells among us.

Amen.

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 right and good that we should offer you thanks and praise, O God, for with great love you have led us out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land. You guided us along the way, giving us power to rejoice in the face of evil and death, and fulfilling your ancient promise, you continue to lift up the brokenhearted even in our own day. And so, with the multitude from east and west, from north and south, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we lift our voices in the 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 the one who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
in the beginning you formed the heavens and earth
and created us in your likeness.

You made us guardians of your good creation and left the earth in our care.

All through our weary years and our silent tears,
you did not abandon us to ourselves,
but sought us out in love.

When we were captives in Egypt, you did not abandon us.

When we wandered in the wilderness, you did not abandon us.

When we turned to false gods, you did not abandon us.

Through your holy prophets you called us to return
to your graciousness, to your mercy, and to your steadfast love.

In the crowning act of love you gave your only Son,
that whoever believes in him will have eternal life.

For you sent Jesus not to condemn the world, but to save the world from sin.

Through his death on the cross, we who were once far off
have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup, we remember Christ's life among us;
his association with outcasts, his eating with sinners,
his healing of the sick, his care for the poor.

Send, we pray, your Holy Spirit
upon us and upon this bread and wine,
that we who share this meal
may become a holy communion,
the body of Christ in the world.

Through him, with him, in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father,
now 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.

The assembly is invited to be seated.

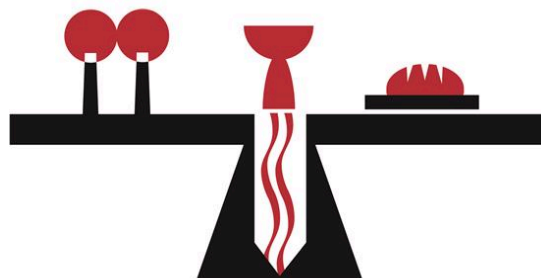
Distribution of Communion

All are welcome at God's table of grace. If you do not wish to commune, but would like to come to the table, you are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing.

There are a number of ways to join in communion. You are welcome to participate according to your comfort level:

- *There are five available communion stations. You are invited to proceed to the station closest to you. All stations have the same communion offerings.*
- *The communion bread at all stations is gluten-free.*
- *At each station, wine or grape juice is available in prefilled cups in communion trays. You have the choice of white wine (clear cups) or white grape juice (purple cups). Simply receive a cup from the communion assistant, then place your used cup in the basket.*
- *There are also prepackaged communion cups that contain a wafer and grape juice available on tables near the font. Packaged gluten-free wafers are also available on the tables near the font. If you wish to commune in this way: simply pick up a cup from the tray, a gluten-free wafer, if needed, consume the bread and juice, and then place your used cup in the basket.*

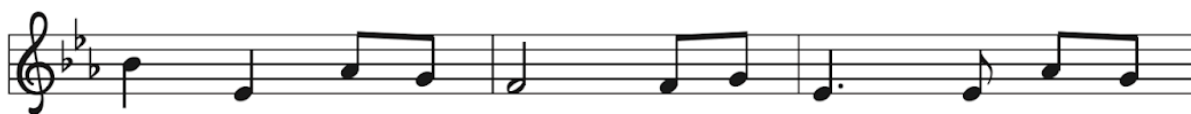
As the assembly communes, you are invited to join in song.



Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken - All Creation Sings 966



1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the
 2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a
 3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in
 4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us



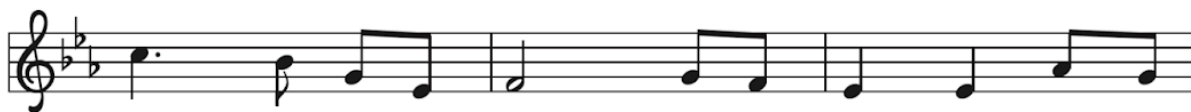
Gal - i - le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of life from
 qui - et room one night. In the bread and wine you
 faith we gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the
 in your name to share bread for which the mil - lions



heav - en, was their food for - ev - er - more.
 gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.
 a - ges: "I am with you; do not fear!"
 hun - ger, words that tell your love and care.



By your bod - y bro - ken for us, by your



wine of life out - poured, Je - sus, feed a - gain your



peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923-2007

Music: JOYOUS LIGHT, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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Abide in Me - So Great a Cloud of Witnesses 02

Refrain

A - bide in me as I a - bide in you,

Last time to Coda Φ 1, 2, 3

a - bide in me as I a - bide in you.

1 I am the vine, you are the branch-es; those who a -

2 A - part from me you can do noth - ing, keep my com -

3 As I love you, love one an - oth - er; my joy in

Refrain

bide in me bear much fruit.
mands, a - bide in my love.
you, your joy made com - plete.

Φ *Coda*

you, as I a - bide in you.

Text: John 15, adapt. Paul D. Weber

Music: ABIDE IN ME, Paul D. Weber

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By Your Hand You Feed Your People - Evangelical Lutheran Worship 469



- 1 By your hand you feed your peo - ple, food of an - gels, heav-en's bread.
- 2 In this meal we taste your sweet-ness, bread for hun - ger, wine of peace.
- 3 Send us now with faith and cour - age to the hun - gry, lost, be - reaved.



For these gifts we did not la - bor, by your grace have we been fed:
Ho - ly word and ho - ly wis - dom sat - is - fy our deep - est needs.
In our liv - ing and our dy - ing, we be - come what we re - ceive:



Christ's own bod - y, blessed and bro - ken, cup o'er - flow - ing, life out - poured,



giv - en as a liv - ing to - ken of your world re - deemed, re - stored.

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952

Music: CAMROSE, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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May This Church Be like a Tree - *Que esta iglesia sea un árbol*

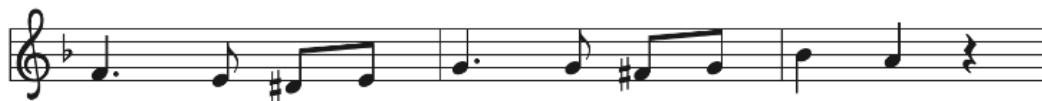
All Creation Sings 1042



1 *Que_es-ta_i* - gle - sia se - a_un ár - bol en el
 1 May this church be like a tree, be - hind your
 2 May this church be like a tree there in the
 3 May this church be like a tree, O God, that



fon - do de tu ca - sa, que_ha - ya fies - ta, ya - le -
 house, there in your gar - den, meet - ing - place for joy, and
 street or in the pla - za, for the birds a nest - ing -
 thrives where you have plant - ed; may it stand to show the



grí - a y_o - ra - ción ba - jo sus ra - mas.
 feast, and sim - ple prayer be - neath its branch - es.
 branch, for pass - ers - by a wel - come shel - ter.
 way, your way of lov - ing and self - giv - ing,



Con ra - í - ces bien pro - fun - das y sus bra - zos
 With its roots in earth so fer - tile, and its arms raised
 May it stand as if it's watch - ing, near my house, just
 of - f'ring shade, and fruit for shar - ing, giv - ing up its

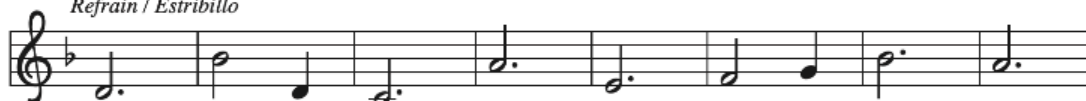


ha - cia_el cie - lo, que_es - ta_i - gle - sia sea fe -
 high to heav - en, may this church bear fruits of
 round the cor - ner, wait - ing for this wea - ry
 wood for burn - ing. May this liv - ing church that

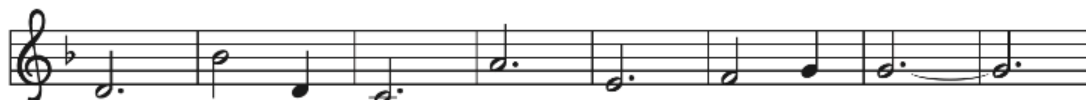


cun - da dan - do fru - tos de con - sue - lo.
 jus - tice, acts of lov - ing and com - pas - sion.
 pil - grim with its arms wide to em - brace me.
 names you be a tree of life e - ter - nal.

Refrain / Estribillo



Ár - bol plan - ta - do jun - to a las a - guas
Tree ev - er grow - ing by liv - ing wa - ter,



de vi - da e - ter - na de nues - tro Dios.
run - ning e - ter - nal, flow - ing from God.



Ár - bol plan - ta - do jun - to a las a - guas
Tree ev - er grow - ing by liv - ing wa - ter,



de vi - da e - ter - na de nues - tro Dios.
run - ning e - ter - nal, flow - ing from God.

- 2 *Que esta iglesia también sea como un árbol de la plaza,
nido de pájaros libres y refugio del que pasa;
y que sea como el árbol de la esquina de mi casa,
que me ve llegar de lejos e imagino que me abraza. Estribillo*
- 3 *Que esta iglesia sea un árbol, oh buen Dios, en donde quieras,
pero siempre apuntalado por tu amor y a tu manera.
Para dar frutos y sombra o entregar nuestra madera,
que esta iglesia que te nombra árbol de la vida sea. Estribillo*

Text: Pablo D. Sosa, 1933–2020; tr. Andrew Donaldson, b. 1951
Music: QUE ESTA IGLESIA SEA UN ÁRBOL, Pablo D. Sosa
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Prayer

God of our ancestors,
God of all people,
before whose face the human generations pass away,
we thank you that as the broken bread was gathered into one loaf,
the broken fragments of our history are gathered up,
and healed by the redeeming act of Christ.
Send us forth in peace,
form us into what we celebrate,
the body of Christ in the world.
Nourished by this sacrament,
give us strength and courage to serve you in daily life
with joy and singleness of heart.
In the name of Christ we pray.

Amen

SENDING**Benediction**

May God who established the dance of creation,
Who marvelled at the lilies of the field,
Who transforms chaos to order,
Lead us to transform our lives and the Church
To listen to the voice of all creatures,
That reflect God's glory in creation.




Closing Hymn:**Morning Has Broken***Evangelical Lutheran Worship 556*

1 Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing; black - bird has
2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sun - lit from heav - en, like the first
3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing, born of the



spo - ken like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the
dew - fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet
one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - 'ry



morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
gar - den, sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.
morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version

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Dismissal

Go in peace. Care for Creation.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly remains standing.

Order for the 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.

The assembly is seated.

Postlude

Canon in D

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Call to Worship, Confession and Forgiveness, Prayer of the Day, Statement of Faith, Offering Prayer: Lutherans Restoring Creation, A Creation-Focused Worship Service for Earth Day

<https://lutheransrestoringcreation.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/LRC-Service-bulletin-April-25-2021.pdf>

Welcome: Hildegard of Bingen

Litany of Lament and Repentance: Adapted from a Prayer of Lament written by members of the four Religious Orders in the Anglican Church of Melanesia. Melanesian Brotherhood, Society of St Francis, Community of the Sisters of the Church, Community of the Sisters of Melanesia

Sharing of the Peace: (adapted from Celebrating Creation: Honoring Indigenous People, Kelly Sherman-Conroy, ELCA)

Post-Communion Prayer: UMC Creation Justice Movement, Season of Creation 2024

<https://umcreationjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/702/2024/07/Week-by-Week-Outline.pdf>

Benediction: Adapted from the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland Eco-Congregation Programme

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Virginia Synod Assembly
Morning Prayer
with Remembrance of Those Who Have Died
Saturday, June 14, 2025

Worship Leaders: The Rev. Deanna Boynton; Chaplain, Valley Health, Winchester; and Luci Hughes; St. Luke, Richmond

Remembrance Presiding Minister: The Rev. Dr. Phyllis Milton; Bishop, Virginia Synod

Musician: Richard Barnett; St. Luke, Richmond

Worship planned by: The Rev. Deanna Boynton; Chaplain, Valley Health, Winchester; The Rev. Marissa Sotos; Augsburg Fortress, Minnesota

Liturgy: ELW Matins

Saturday morning prayer is focused around assurance and joy in the hope of the resurrection. As we remember and give thanks for those who have died, we read of treasure in clay jars and Jesus who is the resurrection and the life.

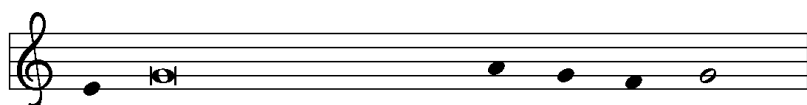
Prelude Music - *The Cloud's Veil* - Worship Team

The assembly is invited to stand.

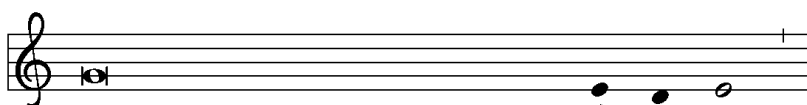
Opening



Satisfy us in the morning with your stead - fast love, O God,



that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.



Praise to the blest and holy Trinity, one God,



who gives us life, salvation, and res - ur - rec - tion.



Al - le - lu - ia.

Psalmody



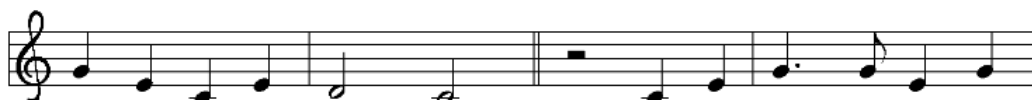
Give glory to God, our light and our life.



Oh, come, let us wor - ship and praise.



Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the



rock of our sal - va - tion. | Let us come be-fore God's



pres - ence with thanks - giv - ing and raise a loud shout to the



Lord with psalms. For you, Lord, are a great



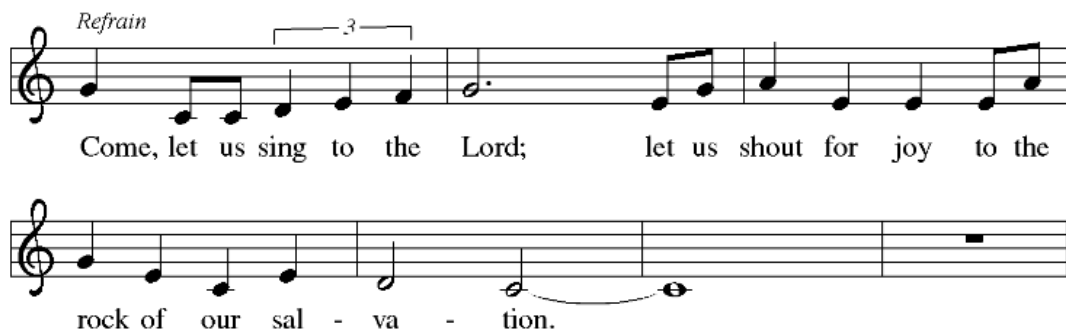
God, and a great rul - er a - bove all gods.

Refrain

Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the
 rock of our sal - va - tion. 2 In your hand are the
 cav - erns of the earth; the heights of the hills are al - so
 yours. The sea is yours, for you made it; and your
 hands have mold - ed the dry land.

Refrain

Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the
 rock of our sal - va - tion. 3 Come, let us wor - ship and bow
 down; let us kneel be - fore the Lord our mak - er. For the
 Lord is our God, and we are the peo - ple of God's
 pas - ture and the sheep of God's hand.



The assembly is seated.

Readings

First Reading: 2 Corinthians: 7-18

A Reading from Second Corinthians

⁷But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. ⁸We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. ¹¹For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. ¹²So death is at work in us, but life in you.

¹³But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture — "I believed, and so I spoke" — we also believe, and so we speak, ¹⁴because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence.

¹⁵Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

¹⁶So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, ¹⁸because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God

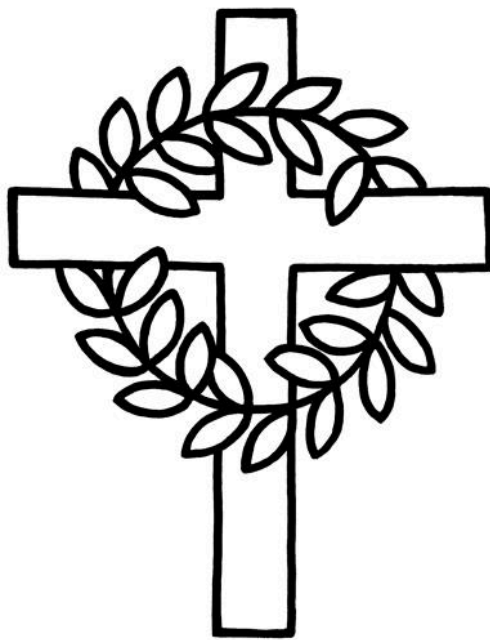
Second Reading: John 11:17-27

A reading from John

¹⁷When Jesus arrived [at Bethany] , he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

Word of God, Word of Life.

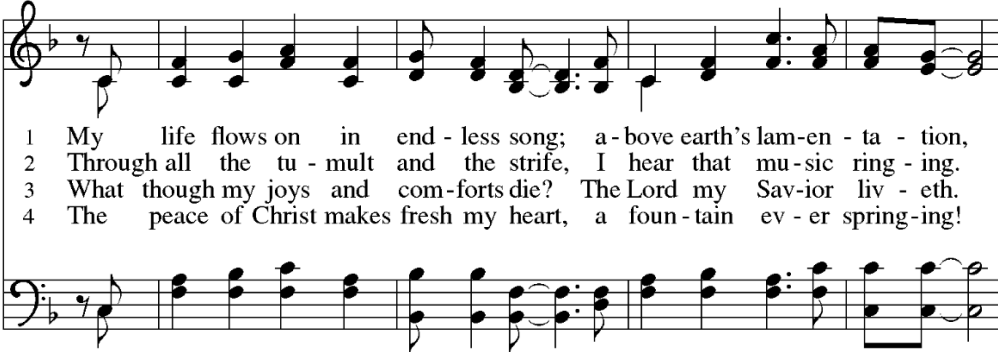
Thanks be to God.



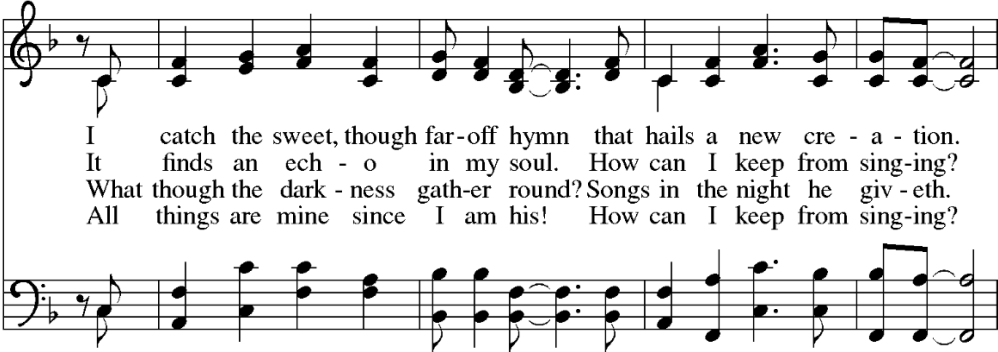
Hymn:

My Life Flows On in Endless Song

Evangelical Lutheran Worship 763

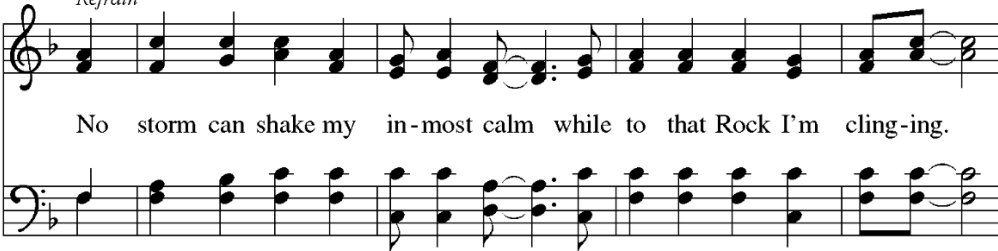


1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,
2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu-sic ring - ing.
3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.
4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev - er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899
Music: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING, Robert Lowry, alt.

Prayers for Healing

Let us pray,

God the Father, you desire the health and salvation of all people.

We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

God the Son, you came that we might have life and might have it more abundantly.

We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

God the Holy Spirit, you make our bodies the temples of your presence.

We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

Holy Trinity, one God, in you we live and move and have our being.

We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

Lord, grant your healing grace to all who are sick, injured, or disabled, that they may be made whole;

hear us, O Lord of life.

Grant to all who are lonely, anxious, or despondent the awareness of your presence;

hear us, O Lord of life.

Mend broken relationships, and restore those in emotional distress to soundness of mind and serenity of spirit;

hear us, O Lord of life.

Bless physicians, nurses, and all others who minister to the suffering; grant them wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience;

hear us, O Lord of life.

Grant to the dying a peaceful, holy death, and with your grace strengthen those who mourn;

hear us, O Lord of life.

Restore to wholeness whatever is broken in our lives, in this nation, and in the world;

hear us, O Lord of life.

Hear us, O Lord of life,

heal us, and make us whole.

Gracious God, in baptism you anointed us with the oil of salvation, and joined us to the death and resurrection of your Son. Bless all who seek your healing presence in their lives. In their suffering draw them more deeply into the mystery of your love, that following Christ in the way of the cross, they may know the power of his resurrection.

Amen.

Remembrance of Those Who Have Died

A reading from First Thessalonians: We do not want you to be uninformed, [brothers, sisters, and siblings], about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. *(1 Thessalonians 4:13-14)*

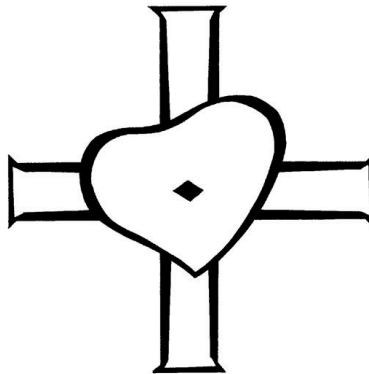
A reading from the Gospel of John: Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die." *(John 11:25-26)*

Silence for reflection

Prayer

O God, we remember with thanksgiving
those who have loved and served you on earth,
who now rest from their labors.
Keep us in union with all your saints,
and bring us with them to the joyous feast of heaven;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.



Remembrance

We remember before you these beloved from our community who have died:

The Rev. Cliff (Clifford) Olsen	May 27, 1932-June 13, 2023
The Rev. Hal Harter	June 13, 1928-September 5, 2023
Deacon Doug Price	September 5, 1952-February 29, 2024
The Rev. K. Roy Nilsen	December 29, 1931-March 22, 2024
The Rev. Waldron “Wally” Rosheim	April 1, 1936-July 21, 2024
The Rev. Ronnie Peterson	June 21, 1932-October 28, 2024
The Rev. Richard Umberger	June 12, 1926-January 31, 2025
The Rev. C. Frederick Eichner	December 17, 1941-February 6, 2025
The Rev. Thomas Bailey	March 4, 1943-April 19, 2025
The Rev. William M. Van O’Linda	November 26, 1951-April 26, 2025

We remember before you these communities of the faithful who have celebrated their final worship service and have endowed the wider church with their legacy:

Bethany Lutheran Church in Columbia Furnace
St. Mark’s Evangelical Lutheran Church in Quicksburg

As we remember these, your servants,
strengthen us to follow Christ through this world
until we too are carried into the harvest of eternal life,
where suffering and death will be no more.
Hear our prayer in the name of the good and gracious shepherd,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is invited to stand.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Almighty God, the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and pre - serve us.

A - men.

Hymn:

Let All Things Now Living

Evangelical Lutheran Worship 881



1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours - es and
God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;
who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who
the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the
still guides us on to the end of our days.
deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.
God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -
We too should be voic - ing our love and re -
fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,
joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise
till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as
till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To
for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892–1980, alt.
Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune
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Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly may be seated.

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Virginia Synod Assembly
Morning Prayer
Sunday, June 15, 2025

Worship Leaders: The Rev. Harry Griffith; The. Rev. Suzanne Stierwalt; St. Andrew, Portsmouth; Jillian Stierwalt; Synod Council Member; St. Andrew, Portsmouth; The Rev. Carl Trost; Christ, Staunton

Musicians: Richard Barnett and Luci Hughes; St. Luke, Richmond

Worship planned by: The Rev. Harry Griffith; Judith Wilfong; Muhlenberg, Harrisonburg

Our inspiration for the Sunday morning prayer is a focus on praise and thanksgiving. We picture disciples filled with the Holy Spirit and ready to branch out in their gospel ministry. Like sprouts growing from the Vine, they hope they are packed with the nutrients to produce fruit.

Gathering Music:

Gather Us In

Evangelical Lutheran Worship 532



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and

blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,

we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen
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Morning Welcome

Psalms 111

¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
 in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

²**Great are your works, O LORD,
 pondered by all who delight in them.**

³Majesty and splendor mark your deeds,
 and your righteousness endures forever.

⁴**You cause your wonders to be remembered;
 you are gracious and full of compassion.**

⁵You give food to those who fear you,
 remembering forever your covenant.

⁶You have shown your people the power of your works
in giving them the lands of the nations.

⁷The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice;
all of your precepts are sure.

⁸They stand fast forever and ever,
because they are done in truth and equity.

⁹You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever;
holy and awesome is your name.

¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise endures forever.

Hymn:

Abide in Me

Refrain



A - bide in me as I a - bide in you,

Last time to Coda  *1, 2, 3*



a - bide in me as I a - bide in you.

1 I am the vine, you are the branch - es; those who a -
2 A - part from me you can do noth - ing, keep my com -
3 As I love you, love one an - oth - er; my joy in

Refrain



bide in me bear much fruit.
mands, a - bide in my love.
you, your joy made com - plete.

 *Coda*



you, as I a - bide in you.

Text: John 15, adapt. Paul D. Weber

Music: ABIDE IN ME, Paul D. Weber

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Opening Prayer

Let us pray.

Holy and Gracious Trinity, thank you for this morning as we gather for the third day of our assembly. As you surround us with your love, continue to inspire us and care for the responsibilities in and through our church. Inspire us with your words and guide our business as your spirit calls us to our mission, beyond our congregations, into the wider world. Focus our hearts and our minds on your people. We pray that every aspect of our faith will be our witness of Your Love. Strengthen us in our response and continue to send us out as your ambassadors and messengers of love. This we pray in the name of Jesus, who is the Christ. **Amen.**

Packing *(a Gospel introduction)*

The disciples filled with the Holy Spirit are trying to decide what to do. They remember being sent out two by two; however, it is different now after the resurrection, and their spirits are stronger.

One Disciple walks up to another.

“Ready to go?”

Not yet, I'm still packing

Jesus said, “Take nothing with you”

He wasn't serious

He meant for us not to overpack

Surely he didn't mean to take nothing, always??

I'll leave behind my best cloak and my extra belt

I'll even leave behind my favorite soap and my golf clubs

I think he was serious

He wants us to take nothing but ourselves

Our understanding of his message

Our faith

Our desire to be his faithful Messengers

and to leave behind our egos

We will take with us the psalms in our hearts

They are light and easy to carry

Reading: Luke 10: 2-9

A reading from Luke,

[Jesus] said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”³ Go on your way; I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves.⁴ Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals, and greet no one on the road.⁵ Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace to this house!’⁶ And if a person of peace is there, your peace will rest on that person, but if not, it will return to you.⁷ Remain in the same

house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. ⁸ Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; ⁹ cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

A Litany of Thanksgiving and Praise

Give thanks to the Lord who is good.

God's love is everlasting.

Come, let us praise God joyfully.

Let us come to God with thanksgiving.

For the good world;
for things great and small,
beautiful and awesome;
for seen and unseen splendors;

Thank you, God.

For human life;
for talking and moving and thinking together;
for common hopes and hardships shared from birth until our dying;

Thank you, God.

For work to do and strength to work;
for the comradeship of labor;
for exchanges of good humor and encouragement;

Thank you, God.

For marriage;
for the mystery and joy of flesh made one;
for mutual forgiveness and burdens shared;
for confidences kept in love;

Thank you, God.

For family;
for living together and eating together;
for family amusements and family pleasures;

Thank you, God.

For children;
for their energy and curiosity;
for their brave play and startling frankness;

for their sudden sympathies;
Thank you, God.

For the young;
for their high hopes;
for their irreverence toward worn-out values;
for their search for freedom;
for their solemn vows;
Thank you, God.

For growing up and growing old;
for wisdom deepened by experience;
for rest in leisure;
and for time made precious by its passing;
Thank you, God.

For your help in times of doubt and sorrow;
for healing our diseases;
for preserving us in temptation and danger;
Thank you, God.

For the church into which we have been called;
for the good news we receive by Word and Sacrament;
for our life together in the Lord;
We praise you, God.

For your Holy Spirit,
who guides our steps and brings us gifts of faith and love;
who prays in us and prompts our grateful worship;
We praise you, God.

Above all, O God, for your Son Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and lives again for our salvation;
for our hope in him;
and for the joy of serving him;
**We thank and praise you, Eternal God,
for your everlasting love. Amen.**

Hymn:

Go to the World

All Creation Sings 991

1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.
2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - 'ry place.
3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;
4 "Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,

Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,
Go live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace.
the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.
for I am with you till the age shall end,

bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.
Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.
As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.
when all the hosts of glo - ry cry, A - men!"

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

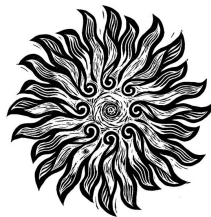
Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: SINE NOMINE, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

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Prayer to Begin Our Assembly Day

Jesus said, "Ask, and it will be given you;
search, and you will find;
knock, and the door will be opened for you."

Lord, as we search now, let us find you.

As we knock, open the door to us.

Let us know you, that we may praise you;
and love you, that we may serve you.



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Opening Prayer, Packing, Prayer to Begin Our Assembly : Written by the Rev. Harry Griffith

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Prayer to Begin Our Assembly: David Beswick - <http://www.beswick.info/rcresources/17C95OS.ht>

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Virginia Synod Assembly
Closing Worship with Installation of Synod Leaders
Sunday, June 15, 2025

Presiding Minister: The Rev. Becca Ajer Franz; Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, North Chesterfield

Preacher: Vicar Andy Taminger; Southside Partnership

Assisting Minister: Jill Beverlin; Director of ELCA Coaching

*Installation of Synod Leaders and Closing of Assembly: The Rev. Dr. Phyllis Milton; Bishop,
Virginia Synod*

Musicians: Richard Barnett and Luci Hughes; St. Luke, Richmond

Worship planned by: The Rev. Viktoria Halmagyi Parvin

The closing service on Sunday is centered on God's inclusive vision for our community. Our hope is deepened when we share it with one another—especially across our differences, which enrich and strengthen us all.

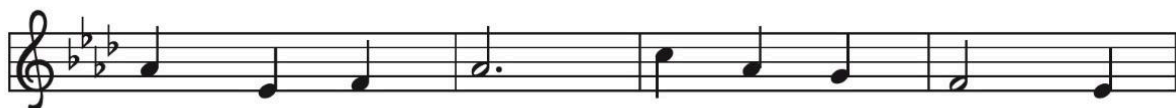
GATHERING

Gathering Hymn: **God's Work, Our Hands**

All Creation Sings 1000

Printed on the next page.

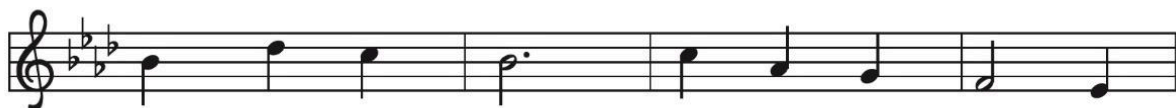




1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922–1987

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Litany for Sending Worship

The assembly is invited to stand. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the Holy Trinity ☩ one God, the source of being that is common to us all and to all living creatures bringing light and salvation into all that is broken by sin.

Amen.

Siblings in Christ—people of the promise—take heart and stand firm in faith!
The Holy Spirit has called us together in this sacred assembly, just as the Spirit gathered the early Church in an upper room, in the desert and by the river, in homes and on city streets.

Now, filled with the same Spirit that hovered over the waters of creation and raised Christ from the dead, we are sent forth—rejoicing in the good news of Jesus Christ, proclaiming with our lives what we have heard with our hearts:

***that perfect love casts out fear,
that grace is abundant,
and that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord*** (Romans 8:39).

Let us return to the world as listeners and doers of the Word,
attentive to the voice of God in Scripture,
and in the voices of those crying out for justice, mercy, and belonging.

The Spirit of the Living God will lead us
from death into life (John 5:24)

The Spirit of the Living God will lead us
from falsehood into truth (John 16:13)

The Spirit of the Living God will lead us
from despair into hope (Romans 5:5)

The Spirit of the Living God will lead us
from fear into trust (Isaiah 41:10)

The Spirit of the Living God will lead us
from hatred into love (1 John 4:7)

The Spirit of the Living God will lead us
from conflict into peace (Micah 4:3)

The Spirit of the Living God will lead us
from isolation into beloved community (Ephesians 2:14–19).

Come, Holy Spirit. Fill our hearts, our church, and all creation.
Renew the face of the earth. (Psalm 104:30)

Let us pray:

Spirit of the Living God,
you send us from this place to every place where healing is needed,
where walls must fall,
where love without conditions can be planted and grown.

Give us courage to speak boldly,
compassion to act gently,
and joy that cannot be shaken.
Make us one body—diverse yet united,
rooted in Christ,
nourished by grace,
and sent for the sake of the world you so deeply love.

In the strong and tender name of Jesus,
Amen.

Hymn:

We Are Many Parts

As One Voice - Volume 1

Hymn is printed on following page



Marty Haugen

REFRAIN

We are man-y parts,_____ we are all one bod-y,_____ and the
 gifts we have we are giv-en to share,_____ may the Spir-'it of Love
 make us One in - deed,_____ One, the Love that we share,_____ One, our
 Hope in des- pair,_____ One, the Cross that we bear._____ *Fine*

VERSES

1. God of all, we look to you,_____ we would be your
 2. So my pain is pain for you,_____ in your joy is
 3. All you seek-ers great and small, seek the great-est

to Refrain

1. ser - vants true,_____ let us be your love to all the world.
 2. my joy, too,_____ all is brought to - geth - er in the Lord.
 3. gift of all,_____ if you love, then you will know the Lord.

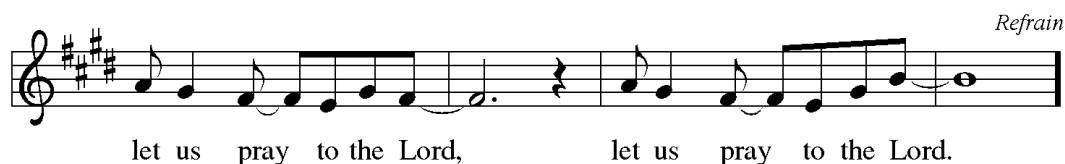
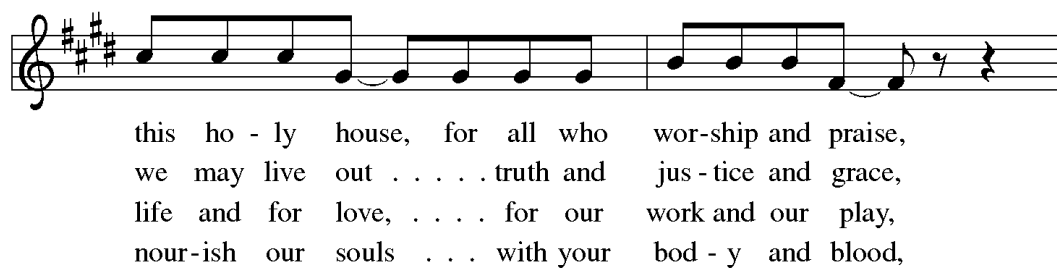
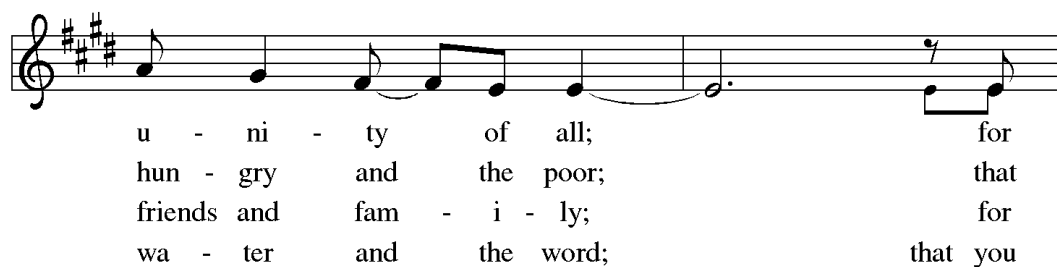
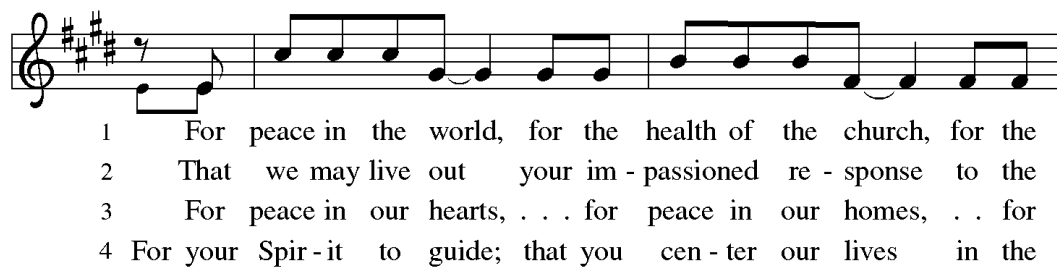
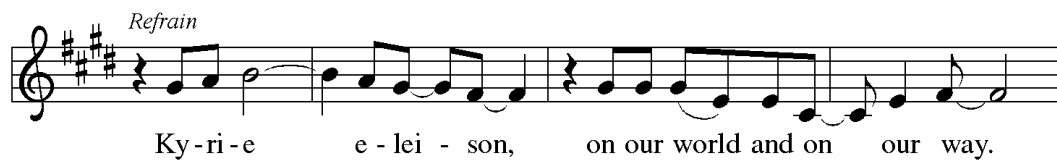
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Greeting

May the Creator, who is both Mother and Father,
 Christ, who is our friend and liberator, and the Holy
 Spirit, who is our comforter and advocate,
 be with us all.

And also with you.

Kyrie:



Canticle of Praise

Refrain

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and
peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

1 Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,
we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you
Refrain
for your glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high -
est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the
right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and
 peace to God's peo - ple on earth. 3 For you a -
 lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
 you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the
 Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.
 A - men. A - men. A - men.

Final refrain

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and peace to God's
 peo - ple on earth. Glo - ry to God in the high -
 est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Gracious and merciful God,

as we go from this place, open our ears to the voices we have not heard,
and our hearts to the ones the world often overlooks (*Proverbs 31:8–9*).

May we welcome one another as Christ has welcomed us (*Romans 15:7*),
bearing one another's burdens and building one another up in love (*Galatians 6:2*;
1 Thessalonians 5:11), through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is invited to be seated.

WORD

Reading: 1 John 4: 16-18

¹⁶And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. ¹⁷This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. ¹⁸There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

This is the Word of God, a message of hope and love for all people.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Matthew 5:14-16

The Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter

Glory to You O Lord

[Jesus said] "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden... Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

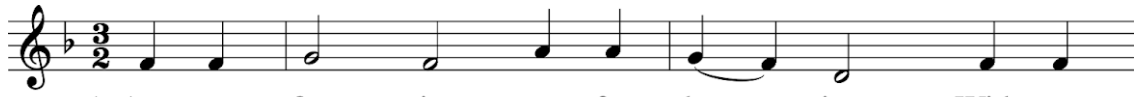
The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

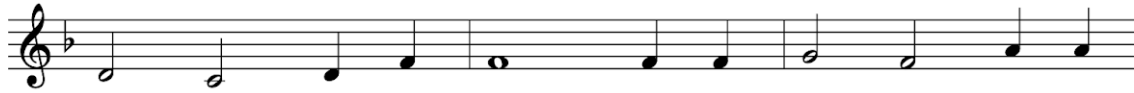
Sermon

Vicar Andy Taminger

The assembly is invited to stand.

Hymn of the Day:**As a Fire Is Meant for Burning***Catholic Community Hymnal, Second Edition 349*

1. As a fire is meant for burn - ing With a
2. We are learn - ers; we are teach - ers; We are
3. As a green bud in the spring - time Is a



bright and warm-ing flame, So the Church is meant for
pil - grims on the way. We are seek - ers; we are
sign of life re - newed, So may we be signs of



mis - sion, Giv - ing glo - ry to God's name.
giv - ers; We are ves - sels made of clay.
one - ness Mid earth's peo - ples, man - y hues.



As we wit - ness to the gos - pel, We would
By our gen - tle, lov - ing ac - tions, We would
As a rain - bow lights the heav - ens When a



build a bridge of care, Join - ing hands a - cross the
show that Christ is light. In a hum - ble, lis - t'ning
storm is past and gone, May our lives re - flect the



na - tions, Find - ing neigh - bors ev - 'ry - where.
Spir - it, We would live to God's de - light.
ra - diance Of God's new and glor - ious dawn.

Text: Ruth Duck, b.1947, © 1992, GIA Publications, Inc.

Tune: BEACH SPRING, 8 7 8 7 D; *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; harm. by Ronald A. Nelson, 1927–2014, © 1978, *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. by Augsburg Fortress

The assembly is invited to be seated.

Installation of Synod Leaders

Leader: *The Rev. Dr. Phyllis Blair Milton, Bishop, Virginia Synod*

The following persons, having been elected and appointed to positions of leadership, are asked to come forward as their offices and names are read.

As their names are called, those to be installed come forward and stand before the bishop.

St. Paul writes: "There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives to every-one ability for particular service. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person, for the good of all."

You have been elected and appointed to positions of leadership and trust in this synod. You are to see that the words and deeds of this synod reflect Christ in whose name we gather. You are to be diligent in your specific area of serving, that the one Lord who empowers you is glorified. You are to be examples of faith active in love, to help maintain the life and harmony of this synod.

On behalf of your siblings in Christ, I ask you: Are you ready to accept and faithfully carry out the duties to which you have been elected and appointed?

(Each responds) **I will, and I ask God to help me.**

Those being installed face the assembly. The bishop addresses the assembly:

People of God, I ask you: will you support these, your elected and appointed leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all the baptized?

(The assembly responds) **We will, and we ask God to help us.**

I now declare you installed as leaders of the Virginia Synod. God bless you with the Holy Spirit, that you may prove faithful servants of Christ. **Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

An assisting minister invites the assembly into prayer with these or similar words.

In the spirit of compassion and justice, let us bring our prayers before the Source of all life, lifting up the beauty and complexity of humanity in all its forms.

After each prayer, we respond:

May love guide us.

For the rich diversity of your creation:

We give thanks for the endless variety of people—across cultures, races, languages, faiths, gender identities, sexual orientations, abilities, and life experiences. May we learn to honor one another, recognizing the sacredness in every person.

May love guide us.

For LGBTQIA+ individuals and communities:

We pray for safety, acceptance, and joy. Where there has been exclusion, may there now be belonging. Where there has been harm, may healing begin. Where there is pride, may it be celebrated in full dignity.

May love guide us.

For those who struggle to be seen or heard:

For those rejected by family, silenced by institutions, or made to feel less than whole—we pray for voices to rise, for spaces to open, and for justice to come.

May love guide us.

For allies, advocates, and bridge-builders:

Bless those who stand alongside others in solidarity and courage. May their actions create communities of welcome and transformation.

May love guide us.

For communities of faith and conscience:

Help us to be places of sanctuary, humility, and growth—where every person is met with love, not judgment, and where true inclusion is not an exception but the standard.

May love guide us.

For young people discovering who they are:

We hold in love those navigating identity, expression, and belonging. May they be surrounded by affirmation, safety, and support.

May love guide us.

For our own hearts and minds:

Give us the grace to unlearn prejudice, the humility to listen deeply, and the courage to act with justice and mercy.

May love guide us.

For newly elected and installed leaders:

May their leadership be rooted in humility, wisdom, and a deep commitment to community. Strengthen their voices to speak truth, their hands to serve generously, and their hearts to be open to the Spirit's stirring.

May love guide us.

For communities, the ministry of the synod and ministry sites:

May our sacred spaces remain places of hospitality, healing, and courageous vision. Grant us clarity in purpose and joy in our shared ministry.

May love guide us.

Spirit of all compassion, receive these prayers—spoken and silent. May we go forward with renewed commitment to live in love, work for equity, and welcome all with open arms.

Amen.

Peace

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ that transcends all boundaries, be with you always.

And also with you.

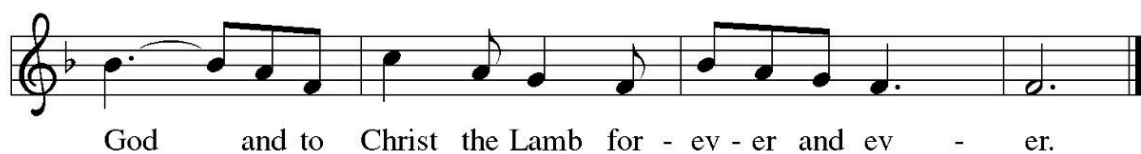
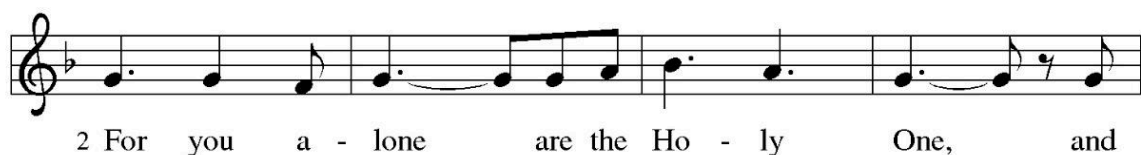
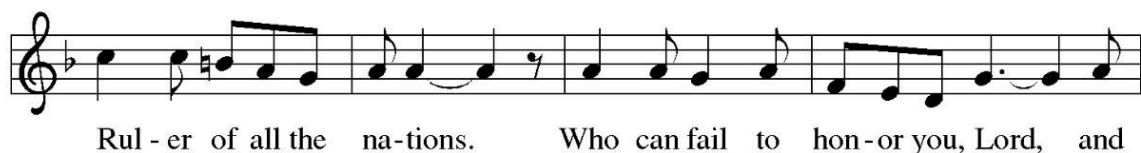
The assembly is invited to stand.

Thanksgiving Cantic

Refrain

Sal - va - tion be - longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for -

ev - er and ev - er. 1 Great and won - der - ful are your deeds, O



Thanksgiving for the Word

The presiding minister leads the assembly in prayer.

Let us pray:

Praise and thanks to you, Holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed

**be your name, your
kingdom come, your will
be done, on earth as it is 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.**

Closing Song:

We've Come This Far By Faith

Evangelical Lutheran Worship 633

Refrain – All

We've come this far by faith, lean-ing on the Lord;
trust-ing in his ho-ly word, he's nev-er failed us yet.
Oh, can't turn a-round, we've come this
far by faith. We've come this far by faith.

1 Just remember
the good things God has done,
things that seemed impossible;
oh, praise him for the vict'ries he has won.

2 Don't be discouraged
with trouble in your life;
he'll bear your burdens,
and move all the discord and strife.

Text: Albert A. Goodson, 1883–1947

Music: THIS FAR BY FAITH, Albert A. Goodson

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Order for the Closing and Sending of the Synod Assembly

Leader: *The Rev. Dr. Phyllis Blair Milton, Bishop, Virginia Synod*

Jesus said,
*"You will be my witnesses to the ends of the earth.
I have called you by name, and chosen you
to bear lasting fruit.
Remember—
I am with you always,
even to the end of time."*

The Holy One be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.
Loving and guiding God,
go with us now as we leave this sacred gathering.
In all we do—whether quiet or bold,
routine or extraordinary—
may your grace lead us,
your wisdom ground us,
and your mercy sustain us.
Let all our work begin, continue, and end in your love,
that it may be a reflection of your goodness in the world.
Through Christ, our companion and guide.
Amen.

God of journeys,
you watched over Sarah and Abraham in their wanderings,
you led your people through seas of change,
and your light shone bright for those seeking hope.
Watch over us now as we go our separate ways.
Make our paths safe,
our hearts open,
and our homecomings joyful.
And when all journeys are complete,
bring us at last into your dwelling of peace,
where love has no end.
Amen.

Now, go forth into the world:
Walk gently and live with courage.
Hold fast to what is good.
Lift up the weak, and honor each person you meet.

Let kindness be your guide,
and may the Spirit move through all you do.

Amen.

With gratitude and blessing,
I now declare the Thirty-Sixth Assembly of the Virginia Synod
closed in the name of the Creator, the Christ,
and the ever-present Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve.

Thanks be to God.

Dismissal

Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Hornpipe



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Litany for Sending Worship, Greeting, Prayer of Day, Thanksgiving for the Word: The Rev. Viktoria Parvin

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