The 32nd Assembly of the Upstate New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

WORSHIP RESOURCE

May 30 – June 1, 2019
Prayer of Illumination
Walter Brueggemann

Truth-telling, wind-blowing, life-giving spirit -
we present ourselves now
for our instruction and guidance;
Breathe your truth among us,
breathe your truth of deep Friday loss,
your truth of awesome Sunday joy.

Breathe your story of death and life
that our story may be submitted to your will for life.
We pray in the name of Jesus risen to new life -
and him crucified. Amen.
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OPENING OF THE ASSEMBLY: WELCOME, WORSHIP, WITNESS!

Gathering Music

The Assembly is invited to stand.

Hymn:  “God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind”  ELW #400

God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind

1 God of tem - pest, God of whirl - wind, as on Pen - te -
2 God of blaz - ing, God of burn - ing, all that blocks your
3 God of earth - quake, God of thun - der, shake us loose from
4 God of pas - sion, God un - sleep - ing, stir in us love’s

cost de - scend! Drive us out from shel - tered com - fort;
pur - pose, purge! Through your church, Christ’s liv - ing Bod - y,
leth - ar - gy! Break the chains of sin a - sun - der,
rest - less - ness! Where the peo - ple cry in an - guish,

past these walls your peo - ple send! Sweep us in - to cost - ly ser - vice,
let your flam - ing Spir - it surge! Where de - ceit con - ceals in - jus - tice,
for earth’s heal - ing set us free! Crum - ble walls that still di - vide us;
may we share your heart’s dis - distress. Rouse us from con - tent with e - vil;

there with Christ to bear the cross, there with Christ to bear the cross!
kin - dle us to speak your truth, kin - dle us to speak your truth!
make us one in Christ our Lord, make us one in Christ our Lord!
claim us for your king-dom’s work, claim us for your king-dom’s work!
Opening:

On this Festival of the Ascension of our Lord, we gather to welcome, to worship, to witness - and to reflect anew on the mission to which we are called and the holy name entrusted to us.

You will be my witnesses.

Open to God’s will and direction, we listen for your call as it comes to us today. 

We will be your witnesses.

Called in baptism and enlivened by the Holy Spirit, we dare to share the good news of Jesus Christ and to speak God’s name with courage and compassion.

I will be your witness.

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses…” (Acts 1: 8a)

Let us pray. Direct our vision, Lord, that we might see those paths that you would have us walk. Be with us in this mission we share with disciples of Christ of every time and place. And be with us on our journey. This we ask in the name of Jesus, our risen and ascended Lord.

Amen.

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

Amen.
Please be seated

Welcome and Reception: 
St. John’s Lutheran Church, Allegany
St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Ellicottville

St. John’s Lutheran Church and St. Paul’s Lutheran Church have made application for membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. I now ask for a copy of the congregation’s charter and a copy of its constitution.

Will you, the people of God of St. John’s Lutheran Church and St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, join with us in work and witness, living under the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and in accordance with the constitutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America?

Response: We will, and we ask God to help us.
Will you strive to carry out the mission of Christ in the bond of unity and love, both in the life of this assembly and in the work of the whole church?

*Response: We will, and we ask God to help us.*

Will you accept the rights and privileges of membership in this church, participating fully in its deliberations and its ministry?

*Response: We will, and we ask God to help us.*

Upon these your promises, I hereby declare that St. John’s Lutheran Church, Allegany, and St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Ellicottville, are duly organized and constituted congregations of the Upstate New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People of God in this Assembly, I ask you:

Will you support and encourage your sisters and brothers of St. John’s and St. Paul’s Lutheran Churches in the common mission to which Christ has called us?

**We will, and we ask God to help us.**

Let us pray. Almighty God, your people serve you in many ways. We thank you for these sisters and brothers who join in the work and witness of your one holy church. Unite us in mission and praise, that your way made be known on earth and your saving grace among all peoples; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

Please stand

<table>
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Please be seated

*Plenary Session One Begins*
HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER

The Assembly is invited to stand. Lights will dim as the candles are lit.

SERVICE OF LIGHT

Leader:

Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world;

All:

the light no darkness can overcome;

Leader:

Stay with us now, for it is evening,

All:

and the day is almost over.

Leader:

Let your light scatter the darkness,

All:

and shine within your people here._
EVENING HYMN

All: *a tempo*

1. Joy-ous light of heav’nly glo-ry, lov-ing
glow of God’s own face, you who sing cre-a-tion’s
story, shine on ev’ry land and race. Now as
eve-ning falls a-round us, we shall raise our songs to
you, God of day-break, God of shad-ows, come and
light our hearts a-new.

2. In the stars that grace the dark-ness, in the
blaz-ing sun of dawn, in the light of peace and
wis-dom, we can hear your qui-et song. Love that
love that bursts all chains a-sun-der, set us
free and make us whole.

3. You who made the heav-en’s splen-dor, ev’ry
danc-ing star of night, make us shine with gen-tle
 jus-tice, let us each re-flect your light. Might-y
way, Lov-ing Spir-it of sal-va-tion, lead us
on to end-less day.
EVENING THANKSGIVING

Leader: 

May God be with you all, and also with you;

Leader:

Let us sing our thanks to God,

All:

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Leader: Blessed are you, Creator of the universe—from old you have led your people by night and day. May the light of your Christ make our darkness bright, for your Word and your presence are the light of our pathways, and you are the light and life of all creation.

All: Amen.

Please be seated

SCRIPTURE/SONG/CANDLELIGHTING

Tonight we gather in darkness around a map of the world, to hear God’s Word for us; and to pray for ourselves, for those in need of healing and hope, and for the needs of this wounded world.

During the reading of Scripture and singing of songs, all are invited to come forward and place a candle on the map upon places of concern around the world.

John 14: 25 – 27

I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Yet not as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.
Psalm 139: 1-3, 7-12
O Lord, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
    you discern my thoughts from far way.
You search out my path and my lying down,
    and are acquainted with all my ways.
Where can I go from your Spirit?
    Or where can I flee from your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
    if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
If I take the wings of morning
    and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
even there your right hand shall lead me,
    and your right hand shall hold me fast.
If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me,
    and the light around me become night,”
even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day,
    for darkness is as light to you.
Romans 8: 26 – 27
Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.
When this time has come to an end,
the prayers of the Assembly are gathered up with this prayer:

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work or watch or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, comfort the afflicted, shield the joyous; all for your love’s sake. Amen.

The Assembly is invited to stand.
MAGNIFICAT

1., 3. My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in down from their thrones, and uplifted the humble of you.

2. You have cast the mighty serv - vant here, and blessed me all my life through. won - drous things, and left the wealth - y no part.

Great and mighty are you, O Ho - ly One,

Great and mighty are you, O Faith - ful One,

strong is your kind - ness ev - er - more.

strong is your jus - tice strong your love,

How you fa - vor the weak and low - ly one,

As you prom - ised to Sar - ah and A - bra - ham,

hum - bling the proud of heart.

kind - ness for - ev - er - more.

Text and Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.
LITANY AND PRAYERS

Leader: A  Repeat continuously

1. In peace, in peace, we pray to you:

Leader: A

2. For peace and salvation, we pray to you:

Leader: A

3. For peace between nations, for peace between peoples:
4. For us who are gathered to worship and praise you:
5. For all of your servants who live out your gospel:
6. For all those who govern, that justice might guide them:
7. For all those who labor in service to others:
8. Grant weather that nourishes all of creation:
9. Keep watch on our loved ones and keep us from danger:
10. For all the beloved who rest in your mercy:

Text and Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.
LORD’S PRAYER
God, remember us in your love, and teach us to pray:
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.

BLESSING

Go in peace, sent into the world as instruments of God’s mercy, healing and peace.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Please join us for a time of Fellowship in the Galleria area on the lower level.
SERVICE OF MORNING PRAYER: SPIRIT OF GOD, FALL FRESH!

Gathering Music

The Assembly is invited to stand.

Hymn: “The Son of God, Our Christ” ELW #584

1 The Son of God, our Christ, the Word, the Way,
these servants witnessed, by their faith made bold;
from common folk he called the twelve to be
the church was founded and God’s message taught.

2 In every test, in trials manifold,
to follow boldly and his work to share,
and with the gifts and talents which they brought
de-claring to the world his holy name.

3 Today, as then, Christ summons us to dare
may each serve Christ in faithful daily toil,
and in each thought and kindly word and deed,
o bey Christ’s call and go where he shall lead.

4 In city street, in town, or on the soil,
what’er our task, be thou, O Christ, our aid,
that we may gladly give for thee our best
and find each task divinely sent and blest.

5 Wher’er we find our witness should be made,
shared human life and toiled throughout the day;
from common folk he called the twelve to be
the church was founded and God’s message taught.
Opening Responses

Come, Holy Spirit, Come!
   Breath of God,
   Breath of life,
   Breath of deepest yearning,

Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

Comforter,
   Disturber,
   Interpreter,
   Inspirer,

Come Holy Spirit, Come!

Heavenly Friend,
   Lamplighter,
   Revealer of truth,
   Midwife of change,

Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

Holy Wind around us, within us, with us.
   God’s Spirit is here.

Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

Prayer
Let us pray: Truth-telling, wind-blowing, life-giving Spirit; we offer ourselves this day for instruction and guidance. Breathe your wise thoughts among us. Fill us with the story of Jesus’ death and risen life, that our story may be summoned to respond. Move us to where we have never been before. And may the blessing of God, Father, Son + and Spirit, abide with us always.

Amen.

Please be seated
A reading from Acts.

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a wilderness road. So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.

Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, Do you understand what you are reading?” He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.

Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe this generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” The Eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.

As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.
Prayers

Let us pray: Because God is good, and has intended us to share in this goodness, we ask for nothing less than transformation, as together we pray:

Spirit of the living God; **Fall afresh on me.**

Open us up, we, whose lives are locked, whose thoughts are well rehearsed, whose prayers are predictable.

Spirit of the living God; **Fall afresh on me.**
Open us up to depths of faith we have not explored,
Truths we have avoided,
Paths we have not followed.
Spirit of the living God; Fall afresh on me.

Convince us to heed the urgent summons of Jesus to make your Gospel known and your Word proclaimed.
Spirit of the living God; Fall afresh on me.

Teach us to silence our own hearts and minds that we may listen for the movement of your Living Breath, and feel your presence in the depths of our being.
Spirit of the living God; Fall afresh on me.

Change us and make us new, O God; give us a fresh vision of experiencing your holy presence and of finding a calling in it; and lead us out to be agents of your life-giving purpose in all the world.
Spirit of the living God; Fall afresh on me.

Breath, Wind, Spirit; fall afresh on us. Amen.

Blessing
Now may the Spirit of God,
Who brooded over the waters,
Brought order out of chaos,
Descended like a dove,
And filled the room like a rush of violent wind,
Find room in our hearts,
That we might be witnesses to the love shown to us in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Amen.
1 O living Breath of God, wind at the beginning upon the waters;
2 O living Breath of God, by whose pow’r the Son came to birth among us;
3 O living Breath of God, bearing us to life through baptismal waters;

O living Breath of God, bearing the creation to wondrous birth:
O living Breath of God, who to the creation gives life anew:
O living Breath of God, sighing with creation for freedom’s birth:

Refrain

Come now, and fill our spirits; pour out your gifts abundant.

O living Breath of God, Holy Spirit, breathe in us as we pray.

Please be seated
Plenary Session Two Begins
SINGING THE CHURCH YEAR: SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

We enter the Church Year; in our singing, we keep the saints’ words among us. **Advent/Christmas/Epiphany**: God comes to us in Emmanuel, in the form of a child holy, meek and mild, in order that we may walk as children of the light. **Lent/Easter/Pentecost**: Our journey with Jesus in a weary land leads us away from sin and death, to alleluias of joy proclaiming a Redeemer burst from the tomb; and onward towards endless life with a Gracious Spirit to whom we pray and sing: Come, Holy Spirit, Come! **The long Season of Pentecost** moves us forward in our life in Christ: to take our place each week at the feast ready to begin; to ponder anew the saving act of a Holy God found on the cross dying for his friends; and to taste and see the goodness of the Lord in holy food. **The festivals of All Saints and Christ the King** unite us in love with the saints at a river, flowing by the throne of God; and as the end time approaches, we live by faith in the hope of a kingdom, power, and glory coming soon and very soon. And so the year ends… only to begin again… as a Church, blessed with talents and speech to employ, is sent forth to witness and serve with a shout of joy! Alleluia!

Gathering Music

**The Rita Collective**

**Dean Keller**, Bass Clarinet; **Kyle Vock**, Bass; **Kristen Shiner McGuire**, Marimba; and **Joe Parker**, Percussion

With

**Grace Frarey**, Alto Saxophone; **Rachel Sanguinetti**, Vocalist; and **Joshua Brown**, Piano

INSTALLATION OF SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS AND DEANS

*The Assembly is invited to stand*

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen**.

When we come into the presence of God, our own humanity is laid bare. When we stand in the living presence of God’s truth, our own sinfulness is revealed.

Let us acknowledge who we are and ask for God’s forgiveness:
In this community of Christ’s Church
and in the presence of God’s people,
I confess to God that I have sinned in thought, word and deed.
I have not loved God, cared for God’s people,
or respected God’s world as I should.
Pardon my sins, and with the help of the Holy Spirit,
set me on the path to a new life in Christ. Amen.

Believe the Good News! For the sake of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven and
your burden of guilt is lifted. May God fill you with love, mend you with mercy, and
grant you abundant life now and forever. Amen.

Processional Hymn: “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” ELW #257

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.
Hymn of Praise: “Jesus, What a Wonderful Child”

Sung Twice

ELW #297

Jesus, Jesus, oh, what a wonderful child.

Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek, and mild;
new life, new hope the child will bring.

Listen to the angels sing: “Glory, glory,
glory,” let the heavens ring!
Prayer of the Day
Let us pray. God our advocate, who supports and guides us in all good works, make the presence of your Spirit known in your Church and your world. Open our eyes to your path and our ears to your call, that we might do the mighty work of bearing witness to the Good News of Jesus for all people; in whose name we pray. Amen.

Please be seated

Instrumental Interlude  “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”  ELW #815

First Lesson: A Dramatic Reading of Exodus 3:1 – 15
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn:  “Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land”  ELW #333
Second Lesson: Romans 10:10 -18
The Word of the Lord.  Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Processional Gospel Hymn:
Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia”  ELW #364

The Gospel of the Lord.  Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

Sermon  Bishop John Stanley Macholz

Please stand
**Hymn of the Day:**

“Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading”  
**ELW #401**

**Stanzas 1, 2, 5  All**

**3 Women's Voices  4 Men's Voices**

**Refrain All**

1. **Gracious Spirit, heed our pleading,** fashion us all anew.
2. **Come to teach us,** come to nourish those who believe in Christ.
3. **Guide our thinking** and our speaking done in your holy name.
4. **Not mere knowledge,** but discernment, nor rootless liberty;
5. **Keep us fervent** in our witness; unwavered by earth’s allure.

It’s your leading that we’re needing, help us to follow you.
Bless the faithful, may they flourish, strengthened by grace unpriced.
Motivate all in their seeking, freeing from guilt and shame.
Turn discontent to contentment, doubt into certainty.
Ever grant us zealous fitness, which you alone assure.

**Refrain**

Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come.
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 again 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

Each prayer petition will end with the words:
Life-giving God; Send forth your Spirit.

Peace

Christ is our Peace.
Strangers and friends, old and young,
Christ has broken down the barriers to bind us to himself and to each other.
The peace of Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

A sign of Christ’s peace is shared.

Please be seated for the offering

Offering

Today’s offering to the Upstate New York Synod is designated to support:

50% Bishop’s Discretionary Fund
(Used at the Bishop’s discretion to assist rostered leaders in times of need, to contribute to medical co-pays or deductibles when needed, and to send flowers in times of illness or death.)

50% New Mission Starts
(Used to assist start-up congregations in exploring long-term viability.)
Music During the Offering  “Magnificat in Blue”
Tune: All Blues, Miles Davis; Arr. P.H. Brown & J.H. Brown
Please stand

Offertory Hymn:  “The Trumpet Sounds”  ELW #531

Offertory Prayer
Let us pray. In deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, and these people, we give our gifts and ourselves to you, O God. Feed us with your gifts of bread and wine, that they may become for us your body; healing us, forgiving us, and making us whole in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.
Great Thanksgiving
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 to give you thanks, most loving God, through Jesus Christ our
Savior, crucified, risen and ascended; who is one with us always, one of us, yet from
the heart of God. Therefore with saints and evangelists, apostles and prophets, and all
the redeemed, we praise your holy name and sing:

Sanctus

“Holy God, Holy and Glorious”  ELW #637

Holy God, holy and glorious,
Holy God, holy and powerful,
Holy God, holy and living one,
glory most sublime, you come as one among us
power without peer, you bend to us in weakness;
life that never ends, you show your love by dying,
in to human time, and we behold your glory.
emptied you draw near, and we behold your power.
dying for your friends, and we behold you living.
Eucharistic Prayer

Holy God,
You alone are holy,
You alone are God.
We give you thanks for your dear Son; at the heart of human life,
near to those who suffer,
beside the sinner, among the poor,
and among us now.

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.

Remembering his love for us
on the way,
at the table,
and to the end,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:
**Christ has died,**
**Christ is risen.**
**Christ will come again.**

Send your Holy Spirit to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup
with courage and wisdom
to pursue love and justice in all the world.
Blessing, praise and thanks to you, Holy God,
Through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your Church, without end. **Amen.**
Lord’s Prayer
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:
Our Father who art in heaven
Hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Please be seated

Distribution
There are six communion stations at the sides of the Assembly Room. The Pages will direct you to the station closest to you. All stations are serving bread and wine, as well as gluten-free wafers and white grape juice. Please refrain from intinction so that all who are gluten-sensitive may freely come to the table.

Hymn: “Taste and See” ELW #493

Verses—Cantor
1. I will bless the Lord at all times.
   Praise shall always be on my lips;
   my soul shall glory in the Lord;
   for God has been so good to me.
   Refrain

2. Glorify the Lord with me.
   Together let us all praise God’s name.
   I called the Lord, who answered me;
   from all my troubles I was set free.
   Refrain

3. Worship the Lord, all you people.
   You’ll want for nothing if you ask.
   Taste and see that the Lord is good;
   in God we need put all our trust.
   Refrain
Hymn: “Shall We Gather at the River” ELW #423

1 Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,
   with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?
we will walk and worship ever, all the happy gold-en day.

2 On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,
grace our spirits will de-liver, and provide a robe and crown.

3 Ere we reach the shining river, lay we ev’ry bur-den down;
soon our hap-py hearts will quiv-er with the mel-o-dy of peace.

4 Soon we’ll reach the shining river, soon our pil-grim-age will cease;
gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.
Hymn: “Soon and Very Soon” ELW #439

1. Soon and very soon
2. No more cryin’ there,
3. No more dyin’ there,
4. Soon and very soon

soon and very soon
no more cryin’ there,
no more dyin’ there,
soon and very soon

soon and very soon
no more cryin’ there,
no more dyin’ there,
soon and very soon

soon and very soon
no more cryin’ there,
no more dyin’ there,
soon and very soon

I, 2, 3

Hal-le-lu-jah, hal-le-lu-jah, we’re goin’ to see the King!

Coda after stanza 4

Hal-le-lu-jah, hal-le-lu-jah, hal-le-lu-jah, hal-le-lu-jah.

Please stand
Post Communion Prayer
Let us pray. Ever-present God, giver of all good things, we thank you for your gift of holy food, feeding and nourishing humankind. Refresh our faith and renew our desire to witness to the abundance of the love you have shown us in your Son, Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

Blessing
Bless us, send us, and bind yourself to us in love, O God; that we may walk in the life and peace of your Spirit, this day, and always; through Jesus Christ, + our hope and our salvation. Amen.

Please turn to face the cross as it leads us from worship into God’s beloved world.

Sending Hymn: “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ” ELW #674

1 Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy;
2 Christ is able to make us one, at the table he sets the tone,
3 Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.
teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express.
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) every where!

Refrain
Je-sus lives a-gain, earth can breathe a-gain, pass the Word a-round: loaves a-bound!

Dismissal
Go in peace; sent by the power of the Spirit. Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Please join us for a time of Fellowship following the worship service.
SERVICE OF MORNING PRAYER: FOR THE HUNGRY AND THE FED

Gathering Music

The Assembly is invited to stand

Opening Responses:

Blessed be God, the Holy One, + Three in One,
Who forgives our sin, saves us from death,
Enfolds us with tender care, and crowns us with steadfast love. Amen.

All of you who are thirsty, come to the water.
Whoever has no money, come, buy food and eat.
Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

Why spend your money for what isn’t food,
And your earnings for what doesn’t satisfy?
Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

Listen carefully to me and eat what is good; enjoy the richest of feasts.
Listen and come to me; listen, and you will live.
Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

Prayer
Let us pray: Creator of the seed and vine, you come among us as food for all our hungers, and as the One who hungers and thirsts for the needy. You set before us daily bread, and the banquet of your love. Lead us daily to seek the bread of life and to share it freely in Jesus’ name. Amen.
Hymn: “We Come to the Hungry Feast” ELW #479

1 We come to the hungry feast hungry for a word of peace.
2 We come to the hungry feast hungry for a world released
3 We come to the hungry feast hungry that the hunger cease,

To hungry hearts unsatisfied the love of God is
from hungry folk of every kind, the poor in body,
and knowing, though we eat our fill, the hunger will stay
not denied. We come, we come to the hungry feast.
poor in mind. We come, we come to the hungry feast.
with us; still we come, we come to the hungry feast.

Please be seated

Readings:

A reading from M.F.K. Fisher:
It seems to me that our three basic needs
for food and security and love
are so mixed and mingled and entwined
that we cannot straightly think of one without the others.
So it happens that when I write of hunger, I am really writing about love and the hunger for it,
and the warmth and the love of it and the hunger for it…
and then the warmth and the richness and fine reality of hunger satisfied…
and it is all one.

A reading from Susan Briehl:
Jesus’ ministry was marked by meals and promises that all the hungry would be fed.
He told stories with images of hunger, feasts, vineyards and harvests, living water,
wine, and bread. In his temptation, he rejected turning stones into bread, and as Jesus was dying, he cried out from the cross that he was thirsty.
What kind of hunger did Jesus promise to feed?
What kind of thirst did Jesus himself know?
A reading from Isaiah: (The Message  Isaiah 58: 6 – 11)

“This is the kind of fast day I’m after:
to break the chains of injustice,
get rid of exploitation in the workplace,
free the oppressed,
cancel debts.

What I’m interested in seeing you do is:
sharing your food with the hungry,
inviting the homeless poor into your homes,
putting clothes on the shivering ill-clad,
being available to your own families.

Do this and the lights will turn on,
and your lives will turn around at once.

Your righteousness will pave your way.
The God of glory will secure your passage.

Then when you pray, God will answer.
You’ll call out for help and I’ll say, ‘Here I am.’

“If you get rid of unfair practices,
quit blaming victims,
quit gossiping about other people’s sins,
If you are generous with the hungry
and start giving yourselves to the down-and-out,
Your lives will begin to glow in the darkness,
your shadowed lives will be bathed in sunlight.

I will always show you where to go.
I’ll give you a full life in the emptiest of places—
firm muscles, strong bones.
You’ll be like a well-watered garden,
a gurgling spring that never runs dry.

Silence for reflection

Your word, O God, is a lamp to my feet;
And a light to my path.

Prayers:
Hear now the prayers of your people for the hungers of this world, and for the hungry and the fed. Lord, have mercy.
We pray for all who hunger in this and every land; Whose only kitchen is a soup kitchen, whose only food is what others give away, Whose diet depends on charity, not choice, Whose tears are their food. Help us remember the hungry and the fed; Lord, have mercy.

We pray for all who labor but go hungry to their beds; For those who cannot find work for their hands, clean water to drink, shelter for the night, For all whose children fall asleep unfed. Help us remember the hungry and the fed; Lord, have mercy.

Lord, feed your people, even if governments must cancel debt, or shareholders lose profits. Teach us the difference between abundance and enough, between need and greed. Shower your world with justice, quench the thirst of poverty, and open the dry places in the hearts of your people, that we may give with generosity to the hurting ones among us. Help us remember the hungry and the fed; Lord, have mercy.

As we remember the suffering and want of others, we acknowledge our own hunger and need. Bring us to your table and feed us for the journey, That our lives might be as bread that is broken and wine that is poured, as we work in hope for that day when all will be nourished. Help us remember the hungry and the fed; Lord, have mercy. This we ask in the name of Christ; Amen.

Lord’s Prayer
Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray: 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.
Blessing
Lord, set your blessing upon us as you gather us under the warmth of your wings; Then send us, for the sake of the needs of the world. Amen.

Please stand

Hymn: “For the Fruit of All Creation” ELW #679

Please be seated

Plenary Session Three begins
SENDING LITURGY: CALLED, COMMISSIONED, SENT!

The Assembly is invited to stand

During the singing of the hymn, the Assembly is asked to follow the Processional Cross to the lower level of the Galleria area. Please reassemble around the four sides of the world map.

Hymn: “Rise, Shine You People” ELW #665

1 Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered
2 See how he sends the powers of evil reeling;
3 Come, celebrate; your banners high unfurling,
4 Tell how the Father sent the Son to save us.

our human story; God in him is centered. He comes to
he brings us freedom, light and life and healing. All men and
your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling. To all the
Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us. Tell how the

us, by death and sin surrounded, with grace unbound.
women, who by guilt are driven, now are forgiven.
world go out and tell the story of Jesus’ glory.
Spirit calls from every nation God’s new creation.

Called…
There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush. When the Lord saw that he had turned to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And Moses said, “Here I am.” Exodus 3:2, 4

Commissioned…
And Jesus came and said to them, all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. Matthew 28: 18 -20
Sent…
He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you? To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.  

_Micah 6:8_

…With Our Walking Shoes
We stand with Moses on holy ground and reflect anew on the mission to which we are called today, and the holy name entrusted to us.

Enlivened by the Spirit, we dare to share the Good News of Jesus with all who would hear; and to speak God’s name with courage and compassion.

Claimed in baptism, re-shaped by the Spirit, we share in the mission of Moses, of the prophets, of disciples of Christ of every place and time.

Open to God’s direction, we are sent forth with our walking shoes to the streets of this world, believing:

**We are called to DO JUSTICE.**
**We are commissioned to LOVE KINDNESS.**
**We are sent to WALK HUMBLY with God.**

Let us pray. Enlarge our vision, O God, that we might take up the commission before us: to do, love, walk and preach the Good News. Point us outward to the journey, to your mission, to the paths that you would have us travel. And ground us in this promise: I will be with you always. 

_Amen._

From where we are to where you need us,

**We will be your witnesses.**

From what we are to what you can make of us,

**I will be your witness.**

Surround us with your presence,

Inspire us with your purpose,

Equip us by your love,

Send us out in faith, assured:

**Christ has promised to be with us.**

For all the Spirit wants to bring us, and for where the Spirit wants to send us, I declare this Assembly closed in the name of the Father, and the of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. 

_Amen._

_The Assembly is invited to depart._
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