The 33rd Assembly of the Upstate New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Worship Resource

We Are Church, We Are Called
50•40•10

June 4-5, 2021
Friday, June 4

Gathering Music

OPENING OF THE ASSEMBLY: GATHERED AND GRACED

May this church be like a tree,
Behind your house, there in your garden,
   Meeting place for joy, and feast,
And simple prayer beneath its branches.
   With its roots in earth so fertile,
And its arms raised high to heaven,
May this church bear fruits of justice, acts of loving and compassion.

As one body in separate places, yet one family of faith, we are gathered and graced to
worship, to witness and to reflect anew on the mission to which we are called and the holy
name entrusted to us.

**May this church be like a tree.**

Like oaks planted by streams of water, yielding their fruit in due season, may we dare to
share the good news of Jesus Christ and to speak God’s name with courage and conviction.

**May this church be like a tree.**

Grant us grace to be a church with open doors and wide windows, a Church called to love
and serve both neighbors and strangers, with arms outstretched to all.

**May this church be like a tree.**

A faithful, caring church where tables are set, gifts are shared, and hearts are firmly rooted
in the deep love of Christ.

**May this church be like a tree.**

A community of faith in this place, branching out to the world, where God’s will is done,
and God’s glory is proclaimed.

**May this church be like a tree.**
May this church be like a tree,
O God, that thrives where you have planted;
May it stand to show the way, your way of loving and self-giving,
Off’ring shade, and fruit for sharing,
Giving up its wood for burning.
May this living church that names you
Be a tree of life eternal.

Let us pray: Life-giving God, gather us, your church, to be like a wide-spreading tree; a church bid to work together to bring a living hope to weary travelers; a church giving refuge and shelter to all who seek rest in you; that under its branches, the world may know your grace and salvation. 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.

(Plenary Session One begins)

WORSHIP ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Liturgist
Responsive Reader
Organist/Director of Music
Voiceovers
Hymn Singers

Bishop John S. Macholz
Gary Roller
Jonathan Madden
Members of Atonement Lutheran Church, Rochester
Rachael Sanguinetti Hayes and Members of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Pittsford
With gratitude for those who have gone before, and hope for the future, the ELCA gives thanks to God in celebration of 50 years of Lutheran women ordained, 40 years of women of color ordained, and 10 years of LGBTQIA+ * individuals ordained and able to serve freely in the Ministry of Word and Sacrament.

We have much to celebrate: 50 + 40 + 10 + and beyond!

*LGBTQIA+ stands for Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender/Queer or Questioning/Intersex/Asexual/and Beyond

GATHERING

Call to Worship

1. My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
2. And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
3. You fixed your sight on your servant’s plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,
1. So from East to West
2. Shall my name be blest.
3. Could the world be about to turn?
1. Could the world be about to turn?
2. Could the world be about to turn?
1.2.3. COULD THE WORLD BE ABOUT TO TURN?

Gathering Hymn

Canticle of the Turning

ELW #723

Litany of Thanksgiving

For the vocations of women in the church; for those who lead congregations, faith communities and synods; for those whose life work is ministry in word and sacrament:

We rejoice and give thanks to God.

For 50 years and beyond of women’s ordination in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and its predecessor bodies:

We rejoice and give thanks to God.
For the faithful service of women pastors of color, and for the faithful service of LGBTQIA+ pastors; who have blessed and enriched this church:

**We rejoice and give thanks to God.**

For the work of seminary professors, chaplains and administrators; those in outreach and service ministries; and all who serve through word and sacrament in mission work throughout the world:

**We rejoice and give thanks to God.**

For those who are discerning a call to serve Christ’s church, for those in the candidacy process, and for those who are retired from active ministry:

**We rejoice and give thanks.**

For the dance of Miriam, the leadership of Deborah, the song of Mary, the testimony of Mary Magdalene, and the faithful witness of our biblical foremothers:

**We rejoice and give thanks to God.**

For the clarity of vision and strength of leadership from women in this church, especially our Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton; making it possible for us, through God’s extravagant grace, to offer proclamation, reform and celebration this day:

**We rejoice and give thanks to God.**

**Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray: Gracious and Living God, we celebrate how the Spirit has blessed your church through the service of women. Continue to raise up and strengthen girls and women in the vocations to which you call us. Walk with us as we are being changed, empowered and made new. And at the last, gather us with Miriam and the saints to dance on the safe side of the sea, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**WORD**

**Miriam’s Story  
*Exodus 15:19 – 21***

A reading from Exodus:

When the horses of Pharaoh with his chariots and his chariot drivers went into the sea, the Lord brought back the waters of the sea upon them; but the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground. Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron’s sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them:

“Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.”

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**
Mary’s Story

A reading from the Gospel of Luke:

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

And Mary said,

“My souls magnifies the Lord,
And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
For he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
For the Mighty One has done great things for me,
And holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
From generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
And lifted up the lowly;
He has filled the hungry with good things,
And sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
In remembrance of his mercy,
According to the promise he made to our ancestors,
To Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

Word of God, Word of Life. Thanks be to God.

The Church’s Story

A reading from Galatians:

For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

Word of God, Word of Life. Thanks be to God.
**Reflection**  
Bishop Patricia Davenport  
Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

**Hymn of the Day**  
*How Clear is Our Vocation, Lord*  
*ELW #580*

**Prayers of Intercession**

Recognizing the gifts and calling of the Spirit, let us pray for God’s servants in the church and in the world.

For women clergy of the church, giving thanks to God for their calling as shepherds, servants, preachers, presiders, and Christ-bearers to God’s people.  
Life-giving God, **Hear us, we pray.**

For the women now faithfully serving as bishops, conference deans, parish pastors and rostered leaders; for those among the first to be ordained; those most recently ordained; and for those who have gone before us and now rest from their labors in everlasting glory.  
Life-giving God, **Hear us, we pray.**

For a fuller expression of unity in the church, and for ongoing dialogue and openness of hearts and minds between church bodies that are as yet not in agreement with the ordination of women. Life-giving God, **Hear us, we pray.**

For lay women who do vital work through the ministries of education, faith formation, youth ministry, service, outreach, music and the arts. Life-giving God, **Hear us, we pray.**

For women and girls around the world who are restricted, demeaned, denied or oppressed by their communities for their gender, or treated as less than children of God.  
Life-giving God, **Hear us, we pray.**

For the women who nurtured us in life and in our lives of faith, whether in our family of birth or in the family of God; who have made it possible to hear the Good News of Jesus through them. Life-giving God, **Hear us, we pray.**

For the Word preached; the Body and Blood of Christ blessed, broken and shared; the witness of the Gospel alive in their ministry and in their lives; we lift up our gratitude for the gift and blessing of ordained women within the whole church.  
Life-giving God, **Hear us, we pray.**

Receive our prayers, O God, and give us grace to serve a world in need; through Christ our strength and our song. **Amen.**
Benediction

May the joy of God’s freedom cause your spirit to dance;
May the presence of Christ’s peace bring wholeness to your body and mind.
May the power of the Spirit bless you as you sing God’s praise with your life.
In the name of the holy and life-giving + Trinity we say: Amen.

Sending Hymn  

God of the Women (Tune: Slane)

1. God of the women who answered your call,
   Trusting your promises, giving their all,
   Women like Sarah and Hannah and Ruth –
   Give us their courage to live in your truth.

2. God of the women who walked Jesus’ way,
   Giving their resources, learning to pray,
   Mary, Joanna, Susanna, and more –
   May we give freely as they did before.

3. God of the women long put to the test,
   Left out of stories, forgotten, oppressed,
   Quietly asking: “Who smiled at my birth?”
   In Jesus’ dying you show us our worth.

4. O God of Phoebe and ministers all,
   May we be joyful in answering your call.
   Give us the strength of your Spirit so near
   That we may share in your ministry here.

Postlude  

Psalm-Sonata No. 1  Brenda Portman
WORSHIP ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Liturgists/Readers
The Rev. Pamela Hoh
The Rev. Jordan Miller-Stubbendick
The Rev. Paula Roulette
The Rev. Hannah Benedict
The Rev. Susan Salomone
The Rev. Jo Page
The Rev. Marsha Irmer

Preacher
Bishop Patricia Davenport
Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Organist/Director of Music
Jonathan Madden

Instrumentalists
The Genese Valley String Quartet

Soloist
Rachael Sanguinetti Hayes

Hymn Singers
Members of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Pittsford
and Incarnate Word Lutheran Church, Rochester

Voiceovers
Members of Atonement Lutheran Church, Rochester
Saturday, June 5

Gathering Music

FROM LAMENT TO NEW LIFE: A SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER

GATHERING

Greeting
The love of God poured into our hearts,
The saving grace of Jesus Christ,
And the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Time of Lament
This past year has been a difficult one: Fear, illness and death from a dreaded virus. Separation and isolation from family, friends and the world around us. Communities of faith distanced from one another, from worship, from the sacraments. A loss of education, income, jobs. Rising hatred and acts of violence towards those of different races, cultures, ethnicities, genders. Political discord shaking the very foundation of our nation’s democracy. And so we cry: How long, O Lord?

Listen, O God, and answer me
For I am poor and broken;
Enfold and protect me, your faithful one; save this servant who trusts in you.

I name you my God, show your mercy to me;
I cry out the whole day to you.
Make joyful the heart of your servant,
This heart I raise to you.

Kind and forgiving One, you are loving to those who call upon you;
Listen, then, to my prayer,
Hear my cries and my pleading.

Psalm 86: 1 – 6
Even the sparrow finds a home in your presence, O God,
The wren nests safely in your care,
Look upon me with tender love,
For I, your wounded bird, can neither fly
Nor sing your praise.

My heart is broken,
My strength is gone,
My helplessness laid bare.

Gather me beneath your wings;
Enfold me with your mercy.
Restore in me the image of your love;
Christ, the wounded healer.

_Susan Briehl_

I allowed the tears to flow,
Tears I had held back so long;
I let them flow as much as they desired,
Making them a pillow for my heart,
And my heart found rest on them,
For only you, O God, and no others could hear my lament.

_Augustine of Hippo_

_Litany of Lament_

Gracious God, by day and night we pour out our prayer to you. We are crying out for healing, for wholeness, for justice, yearning for what is right, longing for your peace. Come quickly to help us, O God; save those who call upon your name.

For all who have suffered from the pandemic virus; for the weight of sorrow and crushing loss of life it has brought; for the toll it continues to take on the people of this world; **Hear our lament, O God.**

For church families still scattered and distanced, yearning to sing, pray and worship as one family of God; **Hear our lament, O God.**

For an end to hate-filled violence and senseless killing in our streets and communities; **Hear our lament, O God.**

For the suffering, sorrow and shame of the hungry and the poor, whose tears are their bread; **Hear our lament, O God.**

For justice delayed or denied again and again; **Hear our lament, O God.**

For silent acceptance of practices in our society and in our churches that privilege whiteness over diversity; for failing to welcome the treasures of darkness and difference in God’s good creation; for our complicity in the racism which continues to exclude, dehumanize and harm our siblings of color; **Hear our lament, O God.**
For times of crisis, tragedy, or grave injustice when the powers of evil seem to be winning; **Hear our lament, O God.**

For those times when God seems far away or silent; **Hear our lament, O God.**

For our own personal laments; **Hear our laments, O God.**

*Silent Reflection*

**Gathering Hymn**  
*Only You, O God (Tune: Balm in Gilead)*

**REFRAIN:**
Only you, O God, and you alone, the broken heart console.  
Only you, O God, and you alone, the wounded world make whole.

1. O God, our rock and haven, our stronghold, safe and sure,  
   Though earth be torn and shaken, in you we stand secure.

2. You guard us, faithful father, within your shelt’ring palm;  
   You nurse us, loving mother, with milk and healing balm.

3. We pray, do not abandon the ones you call your own;  
   Our comfort and companion, we trust in you alone.

*Prayer of the Day*

Let us pray: Gracious God, heal our wounded spirits and turn our hurting hearts to the new life you have promised ahead. Keep us working and praying for the day when your justice will roll down like waters, and your righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Replenish our strength and stir up our hope as we look for signs of your coming reign. And fill us with the peace that passes understanding – the deep peace of Jesus Christ our Savior, in whose holy name we pray. **Amen.**

**WORD**

**Scripture Reading**  
*Romans 8:31-35, 37-39*

A reading from Romans.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**
Gospel Acclamation  When We are Living, stanza 1  ELW #639

Holy Gospel  John 10: 25 – 30

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus answered, “I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father’s name testify about me, but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand. I and the Father are one.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Gospel Acclamation  When We are Living, stanza 2  ELW #639

Sermon  Bishop John S. Macholz

Hymn of the Day  My Life Flows on in Endless Song  ELW #763

Musical Interlude  Sheep May Safely Graze  -J.S. Bach/arr. L. Latham

PRAYER

Prayers of Intercession

In Christ Jesus we meet the God who knows our weakness and bears the wounds of the world. Therefore, let us be bold as we pray, trusting that God draws near to those in any kind of need.

Each prayer petition will end with the words: God of grace. Hear our prayer.

Following the intercessory prayers, this petition will be offered:

Into your wide embrace, O God, we place all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, trusting that you will receive them into your heart of mercy, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. Amen.

Installation of Synod Council and Secretary
**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 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.**

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**SENDING**

**Choral Benediction**  
*Do Not Be Afraid*  
**-Philip Stopford**

**Blessing**

Go out into the world in peace; have courage;  
Hold onto what is good; return no one evil for evil;  
Strengthen the fainthearted;  
Support the weak and help the suffering;  
Honor all people;  
Love and serve the Lord,  
Rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit,  
Through + Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

**Postlude**  
*Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 (mvt. 1)*  
**-J.S. Bach**

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**WORSHIP ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- Preacher and Liturgist: Bishop John S. Macholz  
- Assisting Minister: Michelle Josephson  
- Organist/Director of Music: Jonathan Madden  
- Instrumentalists: The Genesee Valley String Quartet  
- Soloist: Rachael Sanguinetti Hayes  
- Hymn Singers: Members of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Pittsford
BLESSING...  
Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God; who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps faithful forever.  
*Psalm 146: 5-7*

ARE...  
The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord’s face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord look upon you with favor, and give you peace.  
*Numbers 6: 24 - 26*

YOU...  
And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.  
*2 Corinthians 9:8-10*

CALLED AND SENT BY GRACE...  
Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing. Let us give thanks for this Assembly; for all that has been accomplished in the name of Christ; for the gift of faithful servant leadership that has brought to this day; and for the blessing of faithful servant leadership which will lead us into the future. We pray for hope, courage, and clear vision of that to which we are called; as we are sent to care for God’s people and to share God’s grace with love and compassion in all we do. Amen.

The love of God gives life to the Church, a Church moving forward toward joy in the midst of struggles, carrying high the Cross of Christ.

**Carry us in our work, carry us by your Spirit, and carry us by the love of Christ;**

Whose love for us will never end. **Thanks be to God!**
May God dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and may the blessing of God be upon you and remain with you always. I declare this Assembly closed in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

IN THE NAME OF THE TRIUNE GOD...

Sending Hymn  Go, My Children, With My Blessing  ELW #543

Postlude  Alleluia  -Theodore Dubois

WORSHIP ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Liturgists  Bishop John S. Macholz and Our Bishop Elect
Organist/Music Director  Jonathan Madden
Sending Hymn  Thatcher Lyman, Organist, and the Choir and Congregation of Incarnate Word Lutheran Church, Rochester

SYNOD ASSEMBLY WORSHIP PLANNING TEAM

The Rev. Gail Swanson, Worship Coordinator
Joanne Lembach, SAPT Chair
The Rev. Lori Nickoloff
The Rev. Dr. Deborah Johnson
The Rev. Elizabeth Ebinger Boesen

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Soli Deo Gloria!
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