



2025 Synod Assembly Worship Booklet



Northern Illinois Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

2025 Synod Assembly Bulletin

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You are welcome to use these services back in your community. Please note the copyright information at the end of each service.

Our Festival Worship utilizes the *Readings for the Assembly*, which follows the encouragement from the 2002 ELCA document entitled *Principles for Worship*, to use a translation that is faithful to the original, appropriate to the assembly, and suitable for public reading. In 2009, after the adoption of *Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Call to Action*, an ELCA social statement, *Readings for the Assembly* were updated to follow their recommendation to use worship resources that are characterized by inclusive language, including in the proclamation of scripture in the assembly. These readings are covered under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies License and can be found on the Sundays and Seasons website.

Thank you to Mr. Robert Rub from St. Mark Lutheran Church in Rockford for serving as our organist and choir director for Synod Assembly. Thank you to those who offered their gifts in this year's choir.

Thank you to those who helped plan these thoughtful services and to those who helped them come to life.

Friday, June 13, 2025

Festival Worship

The assembly is invited to rise in body or spirit.

PRELUDE

OPENING WORDS

Grounded in our relationship with God,

We are called to pray.

Desiring to know more,

We are called to study.

Gathering as people together,

We are called to worship.

Jesus didn't just call one but called many;

We are called to invite.

Connected as the body of Christ,

We are called to encourage.

Reminded that Jesus came first to serve the least of us,

We are called to serve.

Entrusting what we have been given,

We are called to give.

Trusting in the one who creates, redeems, and sustains us, we acknowledge and

honor the Kiikaapoi (Kickapoo), Peoria, oθaakiiwaki·hina·ki (Sauk) &

Meškwałki·aša·hina (Fox), Hoocąk (Ho-Chunk), Myaamia, and Očhéthi Šakówin

(Sioux) peoples upon whose ancestral homelands we gather on, as well as all our

Indigenous siblings who continue to for this place – this land – and call it their

home.

As we grow as disciples, may we tell the whole story, for in knowing the truth

of who we have been, we come to know more fully who we are called to be.

We join together in our opening hymn Christ, Be Our Light.

GATHERING HYMN

Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Now the Feast and Celebration

Refrain



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free - dom;



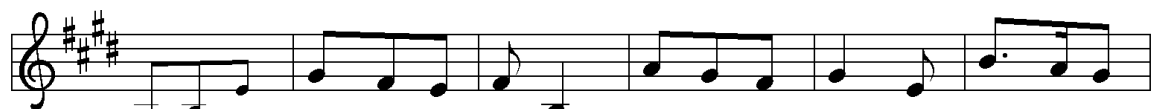
praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit - ed us to be one great peo - ple of God. *Refrain*



2 Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er. *Refrain*



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo - ple of



God; to make all things new. *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, eternal goodness, immeasurable love, you place your gifts before us; we eat and are satisfied. As we grow as disciples, fill us and this world in all its need with the life that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is invited to be seated.

FIRST READING

Acts 1:1-11

A reading from the book of Acts.

¹ In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach ² until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the dominion of God. ⁴ While staying with them, Jesus ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” Jesus said, “is what you have heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by divine authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, “You Galileans, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE

All Creatures, Worship God Most High!



1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev - 'ry voice in earth and
 2 Sing, broth - er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and
 3 Sing, broth - er fire, so mirth-ful, strong; drive far the shad-ows, join the
 4 All who for love of God for - give, all who in pain or sor - row



sky: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Sing, broth - er sun, in splen-dor
 grain: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear sis - ter wa - ter, use - ful,
 throng: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear moth - er earth, so rich in
 grieve: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night:
 clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le - lu - ia, al-le -
 care, praise God in col - ors bright and rare:
 fears; still make your song a - mid the tears:



lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

SECOND READING

Ephesians 4:1-6

A reading from Ephesians.

¹ I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: ⁴ there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly is invited to rise in body or in spirit.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

John 21:12-19

The holy gospel according to St. John, the 21st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹² Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” because they knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

¹⁵ When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” ¹⁶ A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. ¹⁸ Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” ¹⁹ (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is invited to sit.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Will You Come and Follow Me

The assembly is invited to rise in body or in spirit.



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for cruel and
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 free and nev - er be the same?
 side and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 mean in you and you in me?"
 sound in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.

APOSTLES' CREED

Let us affirm our faith using the words of the Apostles Creed

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

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

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

For the Prayers of Intercession, we invite you to be in a posture of listening, meditation, and prayer.

Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

O Wise One, your wisdom has been present in the world since its beginning. Pour out your wisdom into the hearts of the whole church, especially the newly baptized, lay leaders, deacons, pastors, and bishops.

After each petition

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

You are invited to share a sign of peace with those around you as you feel comfortable.

The assembly is invited to sit.

OFFERING

Today's offering is designated for Global Refuge.

To give online, please visit www.nisynod.org/give and select "2025 Synod Assembly Offering" from the drop-down menu.



Global Refuge

Welcoming Newcomers Since 1939

Global Refuge, formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS), is a nonprofit serving newcomers seeking safety, support, and a share in the American dream. For 85 years, we have welcomed those seeking refuge, upholding a legacy of compassion and grace for people in crisis.

We walk alongside individuals, families, and children as they begin their new lives in the United States through our work in refugee resettlement, welcome and respite services, economic empowerment and employment, and family unification for unaccompanied children.

To learn more about the work of Global Refuge, please visit www.globalrefuge.org

OFFERTORY

Standin' in the Need of Prayer

OFFERING RESPONSE

For Everyone Born

The assembly is invited to rise in body or in spirit.

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

Refrain: And God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!

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

Refrain: And God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!

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

Refrain: And God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!

Verse 5: For everyone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
for everyone born, the right to be free,

Refrain: And God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Creator God, in your wisdom, you bring forth all that is good, and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

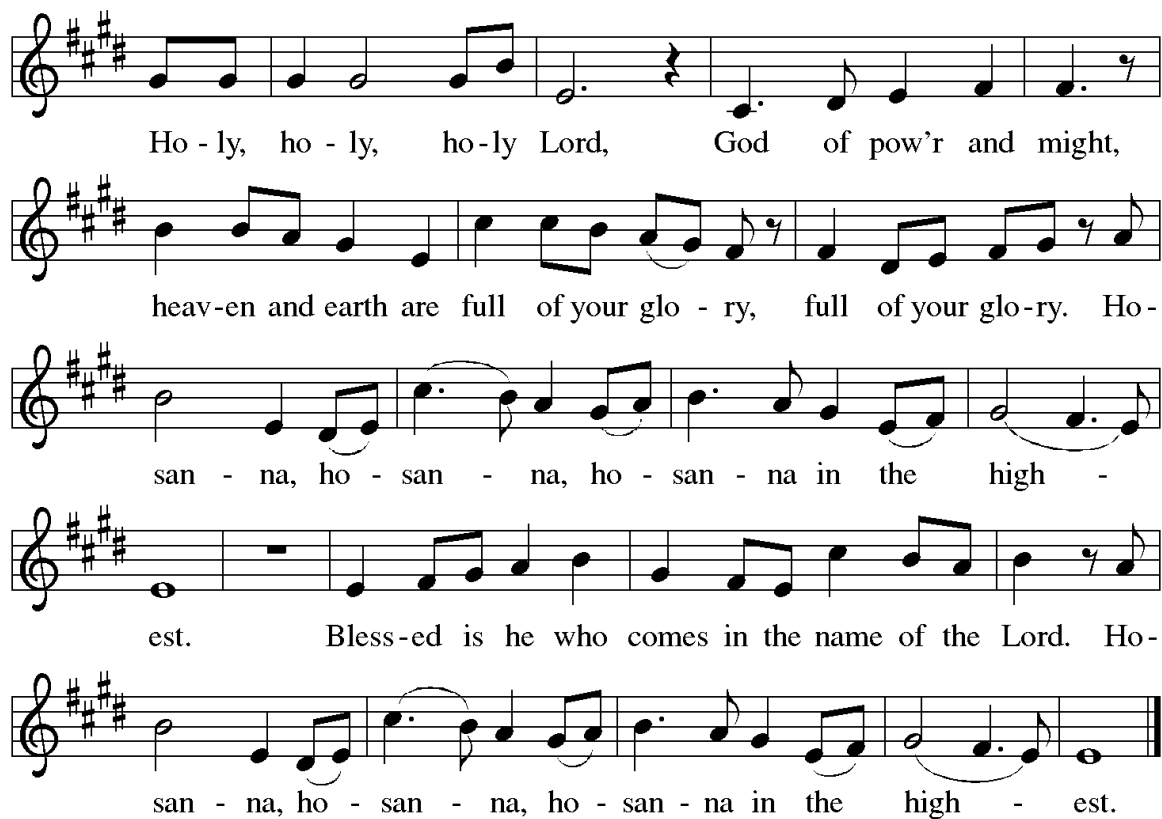
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe....

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With hearts full of memories and hopes,
we break this bread and share this cup,
remembering the death and resurrection of Christ,
and his promise to be with us always
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O Divine Lover...You are the garden of paradise.

Come down...Come, Holy Spirit.
Come, Holy Spirit.

Bless us, O Lord...Come, Holy Spirit.
Come, Holy Spirit.

At this table make us your body...Come, Holy Spirit.
Come, Holy Spirit.

Praise to you...one God, now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into on by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us, in the language most comfortable to you

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' table.
All are welcome at Christ's table. No exceptions.

The assembly is invited to be seated.

The ushers will invite you forward, where you will receive gluten-free bread and choose either wine or grape juice.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION MUSIC

Lamb of God



Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



ten pie-dad de no - so-tros, ten pie-dad de no - so-tros.
have . . mer-cy up - on us, have . . mer-cy up - on us.



Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



ten pie-dad de no - so-tros, ten pie-dad de no - so-tros.
have . . mer-cy up - on us, have . . mer-cy up - on us.



Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



da - nos tu paz, da - nos tu paz.
grant us your peace, grant us your peace.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Let Us Go Now to the Banquet

Refrain / Estribillo



Va - mos to - dos al ban - que - te, a la
Let us go now to the ban - quet, to the



me - sa de la crea - ción; ca - da cual con su ta - bu -
feast of the u - ni - verse. The ta - ble's set and a place is



re - te tie - ne un pues - to y u - na mi - sión.
wait - ing; come, ev - 'ry - one, with your gifts to share.



1 Hoy me le - van - to muy tem - pra - no; ya me es -
1 I will rise in the ear - ly morn - ing; the com -
2 God in - vites all the poor and hun - gry to the
3 May we build such a place a - mong us where all



pe - ra la co - mu - ni - dad; voy su - bien - do a le - gre la
mu - ni - ty's wait - ing for me. With a spring in my step I'm
ban - quet of jus - tice and good where the har - vest will not be
peo - ple are e - qual in love. God has called us to work to -

Refrain / Estribillo



cues - ta, voy en bus - ca de tu a - mis - tad.
walk - ing with my friends and my fam - i - ly.
hoard - ed so that no one will lack for food.
geth - er and to share ev - 'ry - thing we have.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Let Us Break Bread Together

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
 2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
 3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

Refrain

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Give Me Jesus

1 In the morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I rise,
 2 Dark . . . mid-night was my cry, dark . . . mid-night was my cry,
 3 Just a - bout the break of day, just a - bout the break of day,
 4 Oh, . . . when I come to die, oh, . . . when I come to die,
 5 And . . . when I want to sing, and . . . when I want to sing,

in the morn-ing when I rise, give me Je - sus.
 dark . . . mid-night was my cry, give me Je - sus.
 just a - bout the break of day, give me Je - sus.
 oh, . . . when I come to die, give me Je - sus.
 and . . . when I want to sing, give me Je - sus.

Refrain

Give me Je - sus, give me Je - sus.

You may have all the rest, give me Je - sus.

The assembly is invited to rise in body or in spirit.

TABLE BLESSING

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Blessed by your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by his food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

The God of glory,

✝ Jesus Christ, name above all names,
and the Spirit who lives in you,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises

Hymn is printed on the next page

SENDING

Go in peace. Grow as disciples.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

SENDING HYMN

Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises

Refrain— sung twice each time

Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa ro - na, di tha -
Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your prais - es, all our

bi - le ka - o - fe - la. Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa
hearts are filled with glad - ness. Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your

ro - na, di tha - bi - le ka - o - fe - la. *End*
prais - es, all our hearts are filled with glad - ness.

1 Christ the Lord to us said: I am wine, I am bread,
2 Now he sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt,

Repeat stanza, then sing refrain

I am wine, I am bread, give to all who thirst and hun - ger.
strong in faith, free of doubt. Tell to all the joy - ful gos - pel.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	The Rev. Stacie Fidler, Bishop of the Northern Illinois Synod
Assisting Minister	Ms. Sage Ray, Trinity Moline
Reader	Mr. Daryl Stienstra, Shepherd of the Hills Scales Mound
Communion Assistants and Ushers	Northern Illinois Synod Council
Processional Leaders	Ms. Kiersten Hancock, Bethany Woodhull The Rev. Laurie Hensley, Bethany Woodhull Mr. Brandon Graves, Salem Sycamore Mrs. Tracy Laws, Living Waters Crystal Lake

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Saturday, June 14, 2025

Service of Recognition

PRELUDE

The assembly is invited to rise in body or in spirit.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

As we gather at this font, remembering our Rostered Ministers who have gone before us and celebrating milestone anniversaries, we are reminded that we are joined to Christ in the waters of baptism. We are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness; let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God... Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your love flows through water, satisfying the thirst of all living things ...

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your love flows through water, a sign of your saving power...

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your love flows through the water of baptism joined to your life-giving Word...

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Shower us with your Holy Spirit. Fill us with your love. Clothe us and all your people with grace. Embolden us to do justice. Bless us to love mercy. Guide us to walk humbly with you, whom we thank and praise, through Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

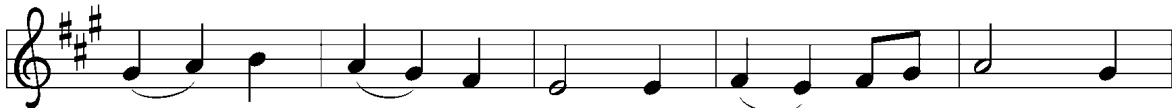
Amen.

HYMN

The Church of Christ, in Every Age



1 The church of Christ, in ev - 'ry age be - set by
2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims
3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing
4 For he a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the
5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



change, but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's
fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to
be - dience to our Lord; to care for all, with -



her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.
sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
out re - serve, and spread his lib - er - at - ing word.

REMEMBERING OUR SAINTS

As we gather today, we remember our saints, those who have guided our lives to this point, to those whom we remember in our hearts, to those Rostered Ministers who have died in the past year. We give thanks for their gifts of ministry, for their dedication to the church, and their tireless witness to the resurrection.

A reading from Hebrews: Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:1-2)

Let us pray. O God, our help in ages past and our hope for years to come: We give you thanks for all your faithful people who have followed the light of your word throughout the centuries into our time and place, especially:

The Rev. Milton Whitney (April 15, 1925 – July 18, 2024)
 The Rev. Lyle Lutz (June 18, 1937 – August 8, 2024)
 The Rev. Dr. Norman Nelson (February 11, 1926 – September 2, 2024)
 The Rev. Ann Baither (July 1, 1937 – March 21, 2025)
 The Rev. Gary Heedum (September 11, 1947 – March 30, 2025)
 The Rev. Gregory Mayer (November 30, 1947 – April 24, 2025)

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.

HYMN

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

READING

2 Timothy 4:1-5

A reading from 2 Timothy.

¹I'm giving you this commission in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is coming to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearance and his kingdom.

²Preach the word. Be ready to do it whether it is convenient or inconvenient.

Correct, confront, and encourage with patience and instruction. ³There will come a time when people will not tolerate sound teaching. They will collect teachers who say what they want to hear because they are self-centered.

⁴They will turn their back on the truth and turn to myths. ⁵But you must keep control of yourself in all

circumstances. Endure suffering, do the work of a preacher of the good news, and carry out your service fully.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

RECOGNITION OF ROSTERED MINISTER ANNIVERSARIES

Joined in the waters of baptism, we give thanks for those celebrating ordination milestones:

For those celebrating 5 years of ordained ministry:

Deacon Laura Gorton, The Rev. Tom Redig

For those celebrating 10 years of ordained ministry:

The Rev. Carolyn Carnes, The Rev. Julane Nease

For those celebrating 15 years of ordained ministry:

The Rev. Gwen Sefrhans-Murphy

For those celebrating 20 years of ordained ministry:

The Rev. Jennifer Beamsley, The Rev. Joshua Ehrler, The Rev. Trudy Foote,
The Rev. Susie Hill, The Rev. Jane Perkolup, The Rev. Melinda Pupillo,
The Rev. Dorthoy Wilcox

For those celebrating 25 years of ordained ministry:

The Rev. Thomas Rogers, Jr.

For those celebrating 30 years of ordained ministry:

The Rev. Stacie Fidler, The Rev. Kenneth Gibson, The Rev. Thomas Jacoby,
The Rev. Mark Juliot, The Rev. Jon Pedersen, Deacon Carla Vanatta

For those celebrating 35 years of ordained ministry:

The Rev. Mark Boster, The Rev. William Callister,
The Rev. Kendall Koenig, The Rev. Jay Quinn

For those celebrating 40 years of ordained ministry:

Deacon Jean Anderson, The Rev. Howard Buchholz II,
The Rev. Thomas Schattauer

For those celebrating 45 years of ordained ministry:

Deacon Jonathan Chell, The Rev. Timothy Kenyon

For those celebrating 50 years of ordained ministry:

The Rev. Paul Carlson, The Rev. Lenoard Hoffmann,
The Rev. Dale Peterson Jr.

For those celebrating 55 years of ordained ministry:

Deacon Robert Haak, The Rev. John Heins, The Rev. Robert Kinnear,
The Rev. Neville Kretzmann, Deacon Carol Ostrom,
The Rev. James Roberts

For those celebrating 60 years of ordained ministry:

The Rev. Roger Schneider, The Rev. David Vidler

For those celebrating 65 years of ordained ministry:

The Rev. Lee Luebke, The Rev. William Welk

We give thanks for the ministers who serve daily among us, and I invite all Rostered Ministers and Synod Authorized Ministers to please rise in body or in spirit.

Dear Ones, there is holy tension in this call to be set apart but not above, making promises that strain your faith and get bent by the fullness of people you are called to love uniquely.

They are looking for Jesus, and instead they get you, an ordinary person with sacred, restless nerve that manifests a thousand different ways over time.

Pastors, just remember that you are not called to make them happy or to save the church, but to preach the good news and administer the sacraments.

Deacons, you are ordained for action that embodies God's love on the margins and moves people toward purpose and love.

All you who minister are called to show people how God lived in a body, wrapping a towel at your waist, stooping down to fill a basin with water, and washing and drying your neighbor's feet with such care, they are certain they've seen Jesus.

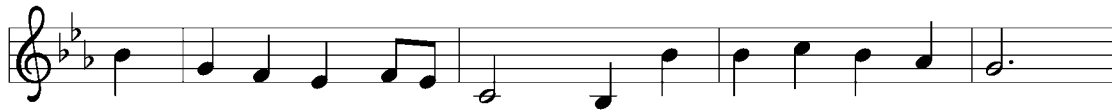
Lives are moved by the real presence of Jesus who is still here, who cares more about changing the church than saving it.

Let us pray. O God, full of compassion, we commit and commend ourselves to you, in whom we live and move and have our being. Guide us as we continue to grow as your disciples, opening your story, resting in your love. Give us refuge from the turmoil of worldly distractions beneath the shadow of your winds. Let our hearts, so often a sea of restless waves, find peace in you, O God; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

HYMN

We Are All One in Mission



1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,
2 We all are called for ser - vice, to wit-ness in God's name.
3 Now let us be u - nit - ed, and let our song be heard.



our var-ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
Our min - is - tries are dif - f'rent; our pur - pose is the same:
Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem-ing Word.



A sin - gle great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
to touch the lives of oth - ers with God's sur - pris-ing grace,
We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,



to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.
so ev - 'ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.
our var-ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

SENDING

Go in peace. Grow as disciples.

Thanks be to God.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister

The Rev. Stacie Fidler,

Assisting Minister

Bishop of the Northern Illinois Synod
Mr. Hector Mendoza, Bethany Crystal Lake

Water Purer

The Rev. Paul Carlson, Grace Wilmington
The Rev. Len Hoffmann, St. John's Peral City

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Saturday, June 14, 2025

Service of Sending

GATHERING HYMN

Ten Thousand Reasons

Refrain



Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;



wor-ship God's holy name. Sing like nev-er be-fore,



O my soul; I'll wor-ship your ho-ly name.



1 The sun comes up, it's a new day dawn-ing;
 2 You're rich in love, and you're slow to an-ger. Your
 3 And on that day when my strength is fail-ing, the



. . . it's time to sing your song a-gain. What-ev-er may name . . . is . . . great, and your heart is kind. For all . . . your end . . . draws near, and my time has come; . . . still, my



pass, and what-ev-er lies be-fore me, let me be good-ness, I will keep . . . on . . . sing-ing— ten thou-sand soul will sing your praise un-end-ing— ten thou-sand

Refrain



sing-ing when the eve-ning comes. rea-sons for my heart to find. years and then for-ev-er-more!

OPENING WORDS

Grounded in our relationship with God,

We are called to pray.

Desiring to know more,

We are called to study.

Gathering as people together,

We are called to worship.

Jesus didn't just call one but called many;

We are called to invite.

Connected as the body of Christ,

We are called to encourage.

Reminded that Jesus came first to serve the least of us,

We are called to serve.

Entrusting what we have been given,

We are called to give.

Trusting in the one who creates, redeems, and sustains us, we are sent out with endless blessings,

to grow as disciples.

BLESSING OF OUTGOING COUNCIL MEMBERS

COMMISSIONING OF CHURCHWIDE VOTING MEMBERS

Dear ones, it is my pleasure to present those who will be representing the Northern Illinois Synod at the 2025 Churchwide Assembly as voting members. I invite you to step forward when your name is called.

Mrs. Paula Ebener, Trinity Moline

Mr. Melvin Ehrler, Shepherd of the Hills Scales Mound

The Rev. Jamie Gallagher, First Monmouth

Deacon Laura Gorton, Christ Belvidere

Mr. Brandon Graves, Salem Sycamore

Mrs. Rita Gustafson, Salem Moline

The Rev. Chad McKenna, St. Mark Rockford

Mr. Hector Mendoza, Bethany Crystal Lake

Deacon Shari Simon, Peace New Lenox

Mx. Luke Snyder, St. Mark Rockford

Ms. Clara Solak, Bethany Crystal Lake

Mr. Bill Wescott, Immanuel Rock Falls

Vice President Minnette Willard, Northern Illinois Synod

Bishop Stacie Fidler, Northern Illinois Synod

Today, we give thanks to God and seek God's blessings as we send these people at voting members to the ELCA's Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix, Arizona.

Friends in Christ, I ask each of you: Will you accept and faithfully carry out the responsibilities to which you have been elected as a voting member to the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly? Will you prayerfully and thoughtfully work with those gathered to continue to spread the good news of Christ to all of creation?

Voting Members: I will, and I ask God to help me.

People of God, gathered here today, will you prayerfully support these voting members as they go forth to be a part of the work of the whole church?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Let us pray. By your Holy Spirit, direct and guide our voting members and all who will gather in assembly in Phoenix. Lead our church with the peace and love that comes only from you, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

BLESSING OF THE BODY OF CHRIST

Dear ones, I invite you to rise in body or spirit.

Throughout the year, we are focusing on growing disciples. It is through the opening of God's story and trusting that there is an ever-growing body of Christ that we can live into God's call in our lives. As we continue to go deeper as we grow, I invite you to receive this blessing:

God bless your showing up and the details of your doing.

God bless your willingness to fail and learn from the process.

God bless your humility and humor in the heart of what you do best.

God bless your duty and joy for this community and impact.

God bless your candor about what really matters to you.

God bless your flexibility about the details and outcome alike.

God bless your observation about who else might be invited to help.

God bless your stepping back so another can participate more fully.

God bless your openness to a process of becoming together.

For these are the gifts of God. And so are you.

May the God who has called you in baptism and given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

Amen.

Let us pray. Gathering God, you knit your people together in the body of Christ and form congregations to do your good work. As we are sent out of this Assembly, be present in our feasting and praying and our worship and service, so that we reflect your abundance and desire for the church on earth today and always.

Amen.

I declare this assembly closed, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

SENDING HYMN

The Lord Now Sends Us Forth



En - via - do soy de Dios, mi ma - no lis - ta es - tá
The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,
pa - ra cons - truir con él un mun - do fra - ter - nal.
to make of all the earth a bet - ter place to live.
Los án - ge - les no son en - via - dos a cam - biar
The an - gels are not sent in - to our world of pain
un mun - do de do - lor por un mun - do me - jor;
to do what we were meant to do in Je - sus' name;
me ha to - ca - do a mí ha - cer - lo rea - li - dad.
that falls to you and me and all who are made free.
A - yú - da - me, Se - ñor, a ha - cer tu vo - lun - tad.
Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will to - day.

SENDING

Go in peace. Grow as disciples.

Thanks be to God.

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