



Open God's Story

2024 Synod Assembly Worship Booklet



Northern Illinois Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

2024 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 Sundays and Seasons website.

Thank you to Rev. Jennifer Ohman-Rodriguez, pastor of St. John’s Lutheran Church, Rock Island, for crafting our Service of Lament and Healing.

Thank you to Mrs. Jean Anderson from Trinity Lutheran Church in Rockford for serving as our organist and choir director for our Festival Worship. Thank you to Mrs. Julie McCafferty from St. John’s Lutheran Church in Rock Island for serving as our accompanist for the rest of our time together.

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

Friday, June 14, 2024: Opening of Assembly

Friday, June 14, 2024 Opening of Assembly

OPENING OF THE ASSEMBLY

From the rising of the sun till its setting in the west,

God's holy name be praised.

On the lips of children, by babies at the breast,

God's holy name be praised.

In the visions of the old and the dreaming of the young,

God's holy name be praised.

In the banquet hall of heaven and the forgotten corners of your hearts,

God's holy name be praised.

Let all that has life and breath praise the Lord.

Amen. We praise the Lord.

PRAYER

Let us pray. Lord, set your blessing on us as we begin this day together. Confirm in us the truth by which we rightly live; confront us with the truth from which we wrongly turn. We ask not for what we want but for what you know we need, as we offer this day and ourselves for you and to you through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

All Are Welcome

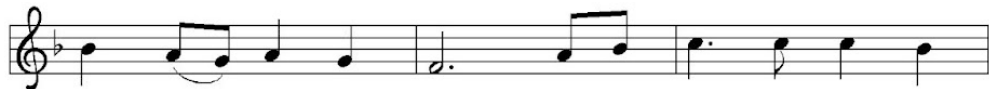
The assembly is invited to rise in body or in spirit.



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
claim the faith of Je - sus:
Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
end to fear and dan - ger:
claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

BLESSING OF THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS SYNOD BANNER

Friday, June 14, 2024: Opening of Assembly

OPENING OF SYNOD ASSEMBLY

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

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

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

Let us pursue what makes for justice and peace, and for mutual upbuilding.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Amen.

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

Amen.

The assembly is invited to be seated.

Friday, June 14, 2024: Opening of Assembly

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Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister

The Rev. Stacie Fidlar,

Bishop of the Northern Illinois Synod

Processional Leaders

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The Rev. Evan Mayhew, St. John Joliet

Mr. Nathi Perkins-Gma, Zion Rockford

Mr. Brandon Graves, Salem Sycamore

The Rev. Stacy Grau Christianson, Trinity Moline

Ms. Nicole Ruthaivillivan, Augustana Andover

Friday, June 14, 2024: Festival Worship

Friday, June 14, 2024 Festival Worship

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

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

We gather at this font, O God,
creator of oceans and rivers, rain and snow.
We praise you for the Mississippi River,
Kishwaukee River, Illinois River, Fox River,
Spoon River, Des Plaines River, Rock River,
Pecatonica River, and for the water you provide us each day.

We praise your Spirit, hovering over this font.
We bless you for this cleansing water of rebirth,
this flood of endless mercy,
and for all the baptized around this blue planet.

We ask you, almighty Provider,
to give us the water we need,
and we praise you for the sustenance you grant at this font.
By the water of our baptism empower us
to pour out ourselves for others
and to safeguard the waters of your earth.

To you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Sea of holiness, Spring of salvation, Cloud of mystery,
be all praise and thanksgiving,
now and forever.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the God of cre - a - tion!
2 Praise the Al - might - y, o'er all life so won - drous - ly reign - ing,
3 Praise the Al - might - y, who pros - pers your work and de - fends you;
4 Praise the Al - might - y! In won - der my spir - it is soar - ing!



My heart is long - ing to of - fer up sweet ad - o - ra - tion.
and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.
see from the heav - ens the show - ers of mer - cy God sends you.
All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es out - pour - ing.



Mel - o - dy make; dul - ci - mer, harp, now a - wake.
Have you not seen? All that is need - ful has been
Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do;
Let the a - men sound from God's peo - ple a - gain,



Sound forth your praise, ev - 'ry na - tion.
sent by God's gra - cious or - dain - ing.
in - fi - nite Love here be - friends you.
glad - ly for - ev - er a - dor - ing!

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

This is the Feast



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and



hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and



join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to



God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth through the opening of your story so that we may bear your truth and love to those in need through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is invited to be seated.

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 17:22-24

A reading from Ezekiel the 17th chapter.

²²Thus says the Lord God:

I myself will take a sprig
from the lofty top of the cedar;
I will set it out.

I will break off a tender shoot
from the topmost of its young twigs;

I myself will transplant it
on a high and lofty mountain.

²³On the mountain height of Israel
I will transplant it,
and it will produce boughs and bear fruit
and become a noble cedar.

Under it every kind of bird will live;
in the shade of its branches will nest
winged creatures of every kind.

²⁴All the trees of the field shall know
that I am the Lord.

I bring low the high tree;
I make high the low tree;

I dry up the green tree
and make the dry tree flourish.

I the Lord have spoken;
I will accomplish it.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE

O AUTHOR OF FAITH



O Au - thor of Faith, yet at work in our hearts, come
O Great Sto - ry - tel - ler, weave us through your tale. En -
As we are sur - round - ed with saints all a - round, im -
O Je - sus our Christ, lead the way for our faith to



make of our life - times a great work of art. You're
joy who we are and for - give when we fail. For,
mersed in the glow of their glo - ri - ous song, we
give per - sev - er - ance for run - ning the race. You've



writ - ing a mys - t'ry, each day a new start. We
gift - ed, cre - a - tive and made for your sake, we're
throw off the tan - gle by which we were bound. With
gone on a - head for to stake out a claim. We



wel - come the call to par - take of your tal - ent, O
ev - er re - ceiv - ing your un - fold - ing stor - y, O
wind on our fac - es we run free - ly on - ward, as
trust in the jour - ney and look for your foot - steps. O



Au - thor of Faith yet at work in our hearts.
Great Sto - ry - tel - ler, weave us through your tale.
we are sur - round - ed with saints all a - round.
Jes - us our Christ, lead the way for our faith!

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:14-20

A reading from Second Corinthians the 5th chapter.

¹⁴For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves but for the one who for their sake died and was raised.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view;

even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we no longer know him in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being!

¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us through Christ to God and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to God's own self, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is appealing through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

LISTEN, GOD IS CALLING

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

The choir will sing the parts labeled "leader," the assembly will sing the parts labeled "all."

Refrain
Leader All

Ne - no, ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la - ku - i - ta we - we,
Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing, through the Word in - vit - ing,

1 2

ne - no la wo - ko - vu, te - na je - ma. ma.
of - fer - ing for - give - ness, com - fort, and joy. joy.

Leader All

3 Help us to be faith - ful, stand - ing stead - fast,

Leader All Refrain

walk - ing in your pre - cepts, led by your Word.

GOSPEL

Mark 4:26-34

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁶[Jesus said,] “The dominion of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground ²⁷and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, the sower does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once the sower goes in with a sickle because the harvest has come.”

³⁰Jesus also said, “With what can we compare the dominion of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

³³With many such parables Jesus spoke the word to them as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is invited to sit.

SERMON

Bishop Stacie Fidler

Friday, June 14, 2024: Festival Worship

HYMN OF THE DAY

God, In Christ You Give Salvation

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

This hymn is sung to the tune of God of Grace and God of Glory.

God, in Christ you give salvation,
And in him, the old has gone.
We are made a new creation;
Now we sing: the new has come!
Side by side, we serve together,
Telling news of what you've done,
Telling news of what you've done!

Called by Christ, we live as siblings,
Strong and faithful, bound to you.
May we reach to lift up others
So that they will know Christ, too.
Side by side, we serve together,
Salt and light in all we do,
Salt and light in all we do!

Sent by Christ, we go with courage,
Feed the hungry, help the poor,
Strengthen families, live your message,
Work for justice, heal, restore.
Side by side, we serve together:
May we daily serve you more,
May we daily serve you more!

Friday, June 14, 2024: Festival Worship

APOSTLE'S 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.

We come before the triune God to pray for our communities, ourselves, and our world.

A brief silence.

Nourish your faithful people through gifts of word and worship. Guide the church in listening to and interpreting your message of grace for this time and place in history. In your wisdom, lead us in expanding the reach of your love.

After each petition

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Friday, June 14, 2024: Festival Worship

Receive our prayers, O God, and come quickly to our aid, through the power of the Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Let us share Christ's peace with each other through a nod, a smile, a sign of peace, or a handshake.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The assembly is invited to sit.

OFFERING

Today's offering will be split between Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center in Oregon, IL and ELCA World Hunger. Both ministries are celebrating their 50th anniversary.

To give online please visit www.nisynod.org/give and select "2024 Synod Assembly Offering" from the drop-down menu.

OFFERING RESPONSE

Build a Longer Table

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



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
Christ tears down our fenc - es; all are wel - come here.
None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

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.

Friday, June 14, 2024: Festival Worship

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

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

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Du är he - lig, du är hel. Du är all - tid myck-et mer
You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more



än vi nån - sin kan för - stå, du är nä - ra än - då.
than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.



Väl - sig - nad va - re du som kom - mer hit just nu,
Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here



väl - sig - na - de vår jord, blir till bröd på vår jord.
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.

2
Du är he - lig, du är hel - het,
You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,

du är när - het he - la kos - mos lo - var dig!
you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!

Ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na,
Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!

ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na vår Gud.
Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
you have brought us this far along the way.

In times of bitterness, you did not abandon us,
but guided us into the path of love and light.

In every age you sent prophets
to make known your loving will for all humanity.

The cry of the poor has become your own cry;
our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire.

In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant
to preach good news to the afflicted,
to break bread with the outcast and despised,
and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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.

Friday, June 14, 2024: Festival Worship

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.

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

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection,
we await the day when Jesus shall return
to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death.
Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.
Amen.

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate,
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.
Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.
Amen.

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that,
rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection,
we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son.
Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

Friday, June 14, 2024: Festival Worship

**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

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.
Come! 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.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION MUSIC

You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore



1 Tú has ve - ni - do a la o - ri - lla, no has bus -
 1 You have come down to the lake - shore seek - ing
 2 You know full well what I have, Lord: nei - ther
 3 You need my hands, my ex - haus - tion, work - ing
 4 You who have fished oth - er wa - ters; you, the



ca - do ni a sa - bios ni a ri - cos; tan só - lo
 nei - ther the wise nor the wealth - y, but on - ly
 trea - sure nor wea - pons for con - quest, just these my
 love for the rest of the wea - ry - a love that's
 long - ing of souls that are yearn - ing: O lov - ing



quie - res que yo te si - ga.
 ask - ing for me to fol - low.
 fish nets and will for work - ing.
 will - ing to go on lov - ing.
 Friend, you have come to call me.

Refrain / Estribillo



Se - ñor, me has mi - ra - do a los o - jos; son - ri - en - do,
 Sweet Lord, you have looked in - to my eyes; kind - ly smil - ing,



has di - cho mi nom - bre. En la a - re - na he de - ja - do mi
 you've called out my name. . . . On the sand I have a - ban - doned my



bar - ca; jun - to a ti bus - ca - ré o - tro mar.
 small boat; now with you, I will seek oth - er seas.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Beautiful Savior



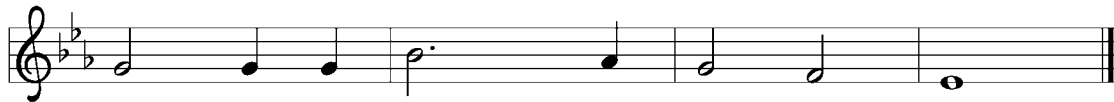
1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,



Son of God and Son of Man!
robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
bright the spar - kling stars on high;
Son of God and Son of Man!



Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er
Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,



light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
than all the an - gels in the sky.
now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

COMMUNION MUSIC

I Am the Bread of Life

The choir leads with the verses, the assembly joins in the refrain.

Leader or All

1 "I am the Bread of life. You who
 2 "The bread that . . . I will give is my
 3 "Un - less you eat of the
 4 "I am the res - ur - rec - tion,
 5 Yes, Lord, I be - lieve that . . .

come to me shall not hun - ger, and who be -
 flesh for the life of the world, and if you
 flesh of the Son of Man and
 I am the life. If you be -
 you are the Christ, the . . .

lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to
 eat of this bread, and you shall . . live for -
 drink of his blood, and drink of his
 lieve in me, e - ven . . though you
 Son of God, who have . . .

me un - less the Fa - ther beck - ons."
 ev - er, you shall live for - ev - er."
 blood, you shall not have life with - in you."
 die, you shall live for - ev - er."
 come in - to the world.

Friday, June 14, 2024: Festival Worship

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

Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.

In your name we pray.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

The blessing of God,
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
✠ be upon you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Thank You God for Past and Present

This hymn is sung to the tune of Come Thou Font

Thank you, God, for past and present, for a future yet unknown
And for countless gifts and talents, ours to use, but your to own.
Thank you for our best traditions, richly able to endow,
Ventures new to find and follow where your love is leading now.

Send us out to work and witness with a message glad and clear:
“Jesus Christ, God’s Word and Wisdom lives, and moves among us here.”
Though we fail, fall short and falter, Christ redeems the way we live
as we learn to care and listen, be forgiven and forgive.

Reconfigured and translated, joy in Christ, our common hope,
shines through varied forms and faces, rich in detail, vast in scope.
Give us, as we serve your mission, faith that welcomes and explores,
guided by a common vision, open hearts and open doors.

Lead us by your Holy Spirit as the way of Christ we trace,
not dividing clean from dirty but aglow with healing grace,

Friday, June 14, 2024: Festival Worship

grace abounding, pure compassion, holy love embracing all,
calling us to holy living, faithful, worthy of your call.

If the world observes and listens, testing if our words ring true,
will our work and worship offer glimpses of a world made new?
Will the souls we gently beckon, never hustled or enticed,
see in us a moving image of your love in Jesus Christ?

SENDING

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister

The Rev. Stacie Fidler,
Bishop of the Northern Illinois Synod

Assisting Minister

Mr. Luke Synder, St. Mark, Rockford

Reader

Ms. Clara Solak, Bethany, Crystal Lake

Communion Assistants

Northern Illinois Synod Council

Water Pourers

The Rev. Chrissy Salser, Christ Stockton
Deacon Shari Simon, Peace New Lenox
Ms. Morgan Dabson, Alpine Rockford
Mr. Jacob Naumowicz, Living Waters Crystal Lake
Ms. Hailey Walker, St. Mark's Polo
Ms. Ariana Sanchez, Becoming Oswego
Ms. Cara Konieczny, Faith Joliet
Mr. Trace Gallagher, First Mommouth

Ushers

Northern Illinois Synod Council

Saturday, June 15, 2024 Service of Lament and Healing

WE GATHER

We gather in this space on this day bringing with us the entirety of our lives. We bring:

Group 1 will lead with the non-bolded parts, and Group 2 will respond with the bolded parts.

Our fatigue

Our well-rested-ness

Our anger

Our compassion

Our anxieties

Our healing

Our sorrow

Our joy

Our sicknesses

Our health

Our weariness

Our excitedness

Our wounds

Our scars

Our worries

Our resolve

Our dashed dreams

Our new dreams

Our questions

Our questions

Our hopelessness

Our hope

The assembly rests in silence before repeating the litany with Group 2 leading with the non-bolded parts and Group 1 responding with the bolded parts.

We bring our full selves here to this place. Both knowing you, God, are here and not knowing if you are here. Both are true for us in what we hold this day. Both are a mystery.

In our ongoing holding, we pray:

Creator God,

Your capacity to love transcends all that we know.

Make your healing and grace-filled presence known to us this day.

Renew us with ample rest. Renew us with relational hope.

Empower us with Spirit's sense.

Open our eyes to awe, open our hearts to mystery,

open our souls to transcendence, open our bodies to rest.

Amen.

WE CENTER

You are invited to feel your feet on the floor or arms against the armrests as you become fully present in this place. You are invited to breathe in slow breaths and breathe out even slower breaths. The silence ends with a bell or chime.

WE SING

Deep Peace

Deep peace of the run - ning waves, deep peace of the
flow - ing air, deep peace of the shin - ing stars to
you, deep peace of the qui - et earth.

WE RECEIVE

Mark 4:1-8

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

Speak, God, to our listening;

Speak, God, to our thinking;

Speak to our soul's deep understanding.

The Word according to Mark:

¹Again he began to teach beside the sea. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the sea and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. ²He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: ³“Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he

Saturday, June 15, 2024: Service of Lament and Healing

sowed, some seed fell on a path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. ⁶ And when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root it withered away. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. ⁸ Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.”

Jesus said: “Listen!”

The assembly is invited to sit in reflective silence.

WE PRAY

God of seed and soil, wind and rain, earth and all creatures,

We see ourselves in the seeds scattered on the path. Instead of birds, the work we do eats us up. Holy Wind blow us off this path and into soil that feeds us.

After each petition

God of good soil,
receive our prayer.

We send these prayers out into your full creation O, God through your anointed one and with Holy Breath.

Amen.

WE SING

WE BLESS

God bless you in your reclaiming of awe, delight, and gratitude.

God keep you in love as you rediscover self-compassion.

God shine on you with hope for all that can be.

God shower you with grace so that you know God is with you.

God give you peace.

Amen.

Go in healing to aid the healing work of the world.

Thanks be to God.

Saturday, June 15, 2024: Service of Lament and Healing

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Worship Leaders

Rev. Jennifer Ohman-Rodriguez, St. John’s Rock Island

Ms. Janice Forest, Zion Rockford

Ms. Hannah Herro, St. Matthew Princeton

Saturday, June 15, 2024
Closing of Assembly

OPENING RESPONSES

Jesus said, “You will be my witnesses
to the ends of the earth.

I chose you and appointed you
to bear fruit that will last.

Remember, I will be with you always,
to the end of time.”

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. O God, our beginning and our end, you kept Abraham and Sarah in safety throughout the days of their pilgrimage, you led the children of Israel through the midst of the sea, and by a star you led the magi to the infant Jesus. Protect and guide us now as we set out to travel. Make our ways safe and our homecomings joyful, and bring us at last to our heavenly home, where you dwell in glory with our Lord Jesus Christ and the life-giving Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

CLOSING OF SYNOD ASSEMBLY

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

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Blessed Assurance

The assembly is invited to rise in body or in spirit



- 1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
- 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
- 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal - va - tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir - it, washed in his blood.
an - gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech - oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
watch-ing and wait-ing, look - ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain



This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long:



this is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

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Worship Leaders

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Bishop of the Northern Illinois Synod

Vicar Leslie Aska, First Rockford

Recessional Leaders

The Rev. Evan Mayhew, St. John Joliet

Mr. Jeff Whalen, First Ohio

Mr. Brandon Graves, Salem Sycamore

The Rev. Stacy Grau Christianson, Trinity Moline

Ms. Jenna Fores, Bethany Woodhull