

Service of Holy Communion

SEPA Synod Assembly Gathering Worship

Friday, May 3rd, 9:30am



Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Prelude

Sinfonia from Cantata No. 156 for Flute - J.S. Bach, arranged by Gilliam and McCaskill
I Love to Tell the Story - Wm. Fischer arranged by M. McDonald

Land Acknowledgement

The Rev. Dr. R. Guy Erwin
President, United Lutheran Seminary

Thanksgiving for Baptism

The assembly is invited to stand. The presiding minister leads the Thanksgiving as the assisting minister pours water into the font.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism: God who stretched the spangled heavens, whose breath swept over the waters,

You send rains to sustain our synod – from Lake Nockamixon to Marsh Creek Lake, from Ridley Creek to Pennypack Creek, through the Schuylkill and Delaware Rivers.

These waters bring nourishment, refreshment, and promise to all. From farmlands to concrete jungles, we hear you calling us to be the Body of Christ, not in spite of our differences, but because of them.

Let these waters wash over us and resolve us to live out the promises we made at our baptism: to **live** among God's faithful people, **hear** God's word and share in the Lord's supper, **proclaim** the Good News of God in both word and deed, **serve** all people following the example of Jesus, and **strive** for justice and peace in all the earth.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ, our living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**



Gathering Song

Come, All You People Uyai mose

ELW 819



U - ya - i - mo - se, ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri;
1 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Most High;
2 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Sav - ior;
3 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Spir - it;



u - ya - i - mo - se, ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri;
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u - ya - i - mo - se Zvi - no.
come now and wor - ship the Lord.
come now and wor - ship the Lord.
come now and wor - ship the Lord.

Text: Alexander Gondo; tr. I-to Loh, b. 1936, alt.

Music: UYAIMOSE, Alexander Gondo

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Greeting

The presiding minister offers the 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.

Prayer

The presiding minister prays.

Let us pray. O God, you give us your Son as the vine, and call us, your church, as the branches. Send your Spirit to guide this assembly, and raise up wise and discerning leaders, that we may abide in you and overflow with your love, throughout this region and around the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The assembly may be seated.

Word

God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching, and song

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4

NRSV

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;
² to proclaim the year of the LORD'S favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³ to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
⁴ They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

Word of God, Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Refrain



When you send forth your Spir - it, we are re -



newed, we are re-newed. When you send forth your



Spir - it, we are re - newed, we are re-newed.



1 Man - i - fold your works, O God of might:



2 When we look to you to give us food,



3 May the glo - ry of our God en - dure.



4 Now may e - vil cease up - on the earth;



Mak - er of the earth, the air, the light.



you o - pen your hand, fill us with good.



May our God be glad, be strong, be sure.



wick - ed - ness no more shall be of worth.



Wa - ters great and wide and all there - in,



When you hide your face, we are dis - mayed;



Un - to you, O God, our praise we give:

Pleas - ing God shall be our on - ly goal.

Refrain
crea - tures that a - bide, let life be - gin.

when you take a - way our breath, we fade.

we will sing your glo - ry while we live.

Al - le - lu - ia! Blest be God, my soul.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943

Music: PSALM 104 (MAKEEVER), Ray Makeever

Text and music © 1987 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:9

Inclusive Bible Translation

⁹You, however, are a “chosen people, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart” to sing the praises of the One who called you out of the darkness into the wonderful, divine light.

Word of God, Word of life, **Thanks be to God.**

The assembly is invited to stand.

Gospel Acclamation

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

ELW 172

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

Music: Caribbean traditional

Gospel: John 15:1-8

NRSV

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly may be seated.

Message

Bishop Yehiel Curry

Hymn of the Day

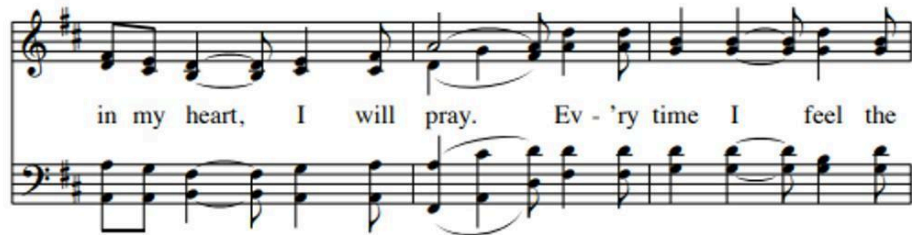
Every Time I Feel the Spirit

Lead Me, Guide Me 2nd. Ed.

Refrain



Ev - 'ry time I feel the Spir - it mov - ing

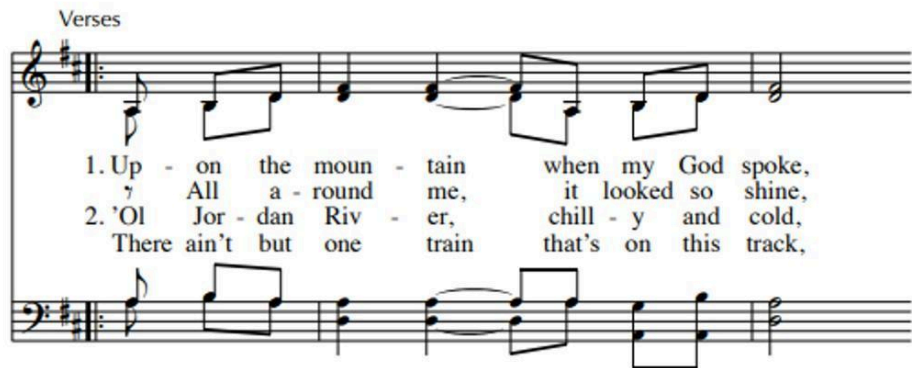


in my heart, I will pray. Ev - 'ry time I feel the



Spir - it mov - ing in my heart, I will pray.

Verses



1. Up - on the moun - tain when my God spoke,
7 All a - round me, it looked so shine,
2. 'Ol Jor - dan Riv - er, chill - y and cold,
There ain't but one train that's on this track,



D.C.
Out of God's mouth came fire and smoke.
I asked my Lord if all was mine.
It chills the bod - y, but not the soul.
It runs to heav - en and runs right back.

Text: African-American Spiritual

Tune: FEEL THE SPIRIT, 98 98 with refrain; African-American Spiritual; arr. by Nolan Williams, Jr., b. 1969.

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Prayers of Intercession

The assisting minister offers the prayers.

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

Petitions conclude: God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

Amen.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

Offering

The assembly may be seated. The offering is designated for the North Eastern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, our Companion Synod. Please make checks payable to the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod.



Offering Song

One at the Feast by Craig Courtney

Assembly Choir

He ate the bread at their tables, He joined them in their feasts,
and many asked the Savior, “Why do You dine with these,
the outcast and the sinner, the dying and the poor?
There are many greater than these You sit before.”

Refrain

Break the bread and pour the wine, let them drink, let them dine,
none is greater than the least, all are one, one at the feast.

So let the poor and the wealthy be seated side by side,
the sick among the healthy, the widow by the bride,
the hungry and the thirsty with those who have been fed
and share the feast together, come share the wine and bread. *Refrain*

Gather at the table, come and take your place,
there is room for many at the feast of grace.
With the bread remember, with the wine recall
Jesus gave his body and his blood for all. *Refrain*

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Offering Prayer

The assembly is invited to stand. The assisting minister leads the prayer.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The presiding minister leads...

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

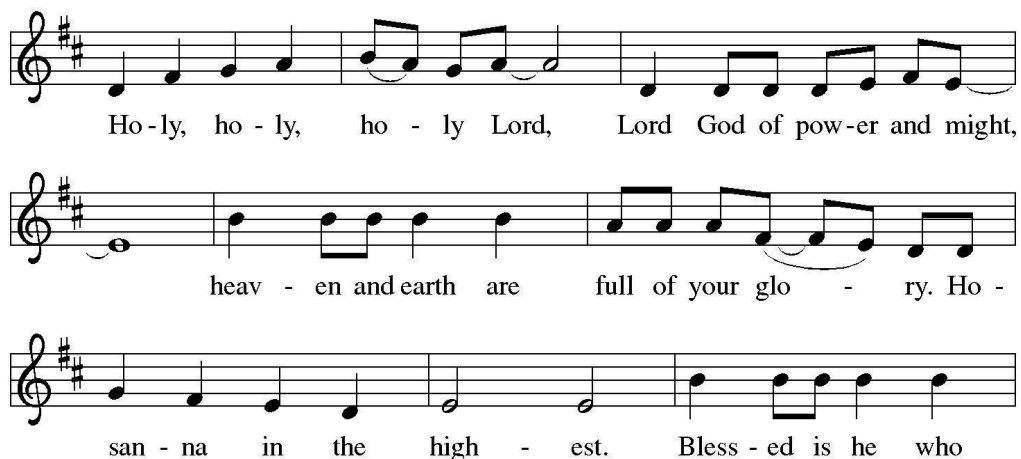
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

TFF River of Life & ELW Setting 6



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



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

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.

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.

Communion

Taste and see that the Lord is good. **Thanks be to God.**

The assembly may be seated as we come forward for communion, guided to stations by the ushers. The bread is gluten-free. Take a small cup to receive either wine (darker liquid, offered first) and grape juice (lighter liquid, offered second) from the pouring chalices.

Lamb of God

TFF Liturgy of Joy and ELW Setting 6

☐ 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 Songs

We Come to the Hungry Feast

ELW 479

1 We come to the hun-gry feast hun-gry for a word of peace.
 2 We come to the hun-gry feast hun-gry for a world re - leased
 3 We come to the hun-gry feast hun-gry that the hun - ger cease,
 To hun - gry hearts un - sat - is - fied the love of God is
 from hun - gry folk of ev - 'ry kind, the poor in bod - y,
 and know - ing, though we eat our fill, the hun - ger will stay
 not de - nied. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
 poor in mind. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
 with us; still we come, we come to the hun - gry feast.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943
 Music: HUNGRY FEAST, Ray Makeever
 Text and music © 1982 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

For Everyone Born, a Place at the Table

The musical score is written in treble and bass clefs with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The lyrics are arranged in two columns per system. Chord symbols are placed above the vocal line.

System 1: Chords: E, A2. Lyrics: 1 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble, 2 For wom - an and man, a place at the ta - ble, 3 For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble, 4 For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble, 5 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble.

System 2: Chords: E, A2, Bsus4, B. Lyrics: for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread, re - vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the share, a voice to be heard, a part in the song, a - bus - er, a - bused, with need to for - give, to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,

System 3: Chords: F#m7, E/G#, A2, Bsus4. Lyrics: a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing, with wis - dom and grace di - vid - ing the pow - er, the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled, in an - ger, in hurt, a mind - set of mer - cy, to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,

System 4: Chords: E, Bsus4. Lyrics: for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver - for wom - an and man, a sys - tem that's for young and for old, the right to be - for just and un - just, a new way to for ev - ery - one born, the right to be

Words: Shirley Erena Murray, 1931- ; Sp. tr. John Glaser, 1961- ; Fr. tr. Ervelyne Bernard, 1973-
 Music: Brian Mann, 1979-
 Words © 1998 Hope Publishing Company
 Music © 2006 Brian Mann (admin. General Board of Global Ministries, GBGMusik)

New Zealand/U.S.A.
 11.10.11.10. and refrain
 FOR EVERYONE BORN

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.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

Santo, Santo, Santo ELW 473

San - to, san - to, san - to, mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra.
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you.

Mi co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: San - to_e-res Se - ñor.
My heart is glad to say the words: You are ho - ly, God.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Santo, Santo, Santo'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The lyrics are written below the treble clef staff. The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics, and the second system covers the next two lines. The music is in a simple, homophonic style with block chords and moving lines.

Text: Argentine traditional
Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, Argentine traditional

Prayer after Communion

The assisting minister prays.

Let us pray: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

Blessing of LWR Quilts and Kits

We invite you to join us now blessing the quilts and kits assembled by this synod:

Participants are invited to extend their arms out in front of them as an act of blessing as the presiding minister blesses the quilts and kits.

God, our neighbors around the world are in need of hope. Your Spirit is a mighty force, your whispers of hope bring light into the world. Open our hearts and hands to see your presence in our neighborhoods and across the world.

Jesus, help us speak words of hope to our neighbors.

God, we give you thanks for the pieces of fabric, thread, sewing machines, and the items collected for the kits. May their presence be a sign of hope, may these quilts wrap our neighbors in unending love, and may these kits offer dignity and healing.

Jesus, help us reach out in hope to our neighbors.

God, we give thanks for all the hands that fashioned hope into a quilt, for the hands that collected and sorted, for the hands that continually open wider so that no one feels left out.

Jesus, help us see hope in our neighbors.

God, we ask you to guide the staff and partners at LWR. May their voices and hands be a beacon of hope. Keep them safe. Keep them filled with your strength and perseverance.

Jesus, help us share a taste of hope with our neighbors.

God, be with our neighbors who will receive these gifts. May they be wrapped in love, may they taste your goodness, may they touch signs of your hope. Whether or not we know their names or where they live, they are our neighbors, our brothers and sisters in Christ. We pray all this in the name of Jesus, the One who is our hope.

Amen.

Blessing

The assembly is invited to stand as the presiding minister blesses the assembly.

People of God,
you have been called to be disciples of Christ.
Whatever you do, in word or deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God through him.

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Song

Guide Me Ever Great Redeemer

ELW 618

1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me
 wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
 fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es

feed me now and ev - er - more, ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
 shield me with your might - y arm, might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.
 I will raise for - ev - er - more, ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

Text: William Williams, 1717–1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722–1796, alt.
 Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

Dismissal

An assisting minister may send the assembly into mission.

Go in peace. Love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Let us share a sign of peace with one another.

Serving in the Service:

Presider: The Rev. Patricia Ann Curtis Davenport
Bishop, Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod

Preacher: The Rev. Yehiel Curry
Bishop, Metro Chicago Synod

Assisting Minister: Michael Staniz, *St. Luke Lutheran Church, Devon*

Musicians: Robin Muse, *piano*; Roberta Goren, *flute*;
Jim Lien, *Augustus Lutheran Church, Trappe, percussion*

Choir Director: Deacon Tom Snyder, *St. John's Lutheran Church, Phoenixville*

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Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America