



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Service of the Word – The Holy Trinity – June 7, 2020

updated June 1, 2020

The following content for a Service of the Word may be used by synods and congregations who wish to assemble a recorded worship service to surround the recorded sermon from ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. Adaptations for local use are encouraged.

An updated sermon is being recorded by Bishop Eaton and will be made available for download or viewing via email to rostered ministers serving congregations. A video with Spanish subtitles and also English and Spanish transcripts will be available as soon as possible. If you are not a rostered minister serving a congregation, please email worship@elca.org to request the links.

For congregations who may not regularly produce an online worship opportunity, **Worship in the Home** resources are available each Sunday at blogs.ELCA.org/Worship for families and individuals to read, pray, and reflect in home. Worship in the Home for June 7 will include a direct link to Bishop Eaton's sermon to view at home.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Gathering

The service may begin with one or more of the following laments, with confession and forgiveness (ELW p. 211), or with thanksgiving for baptism (ELW p. 97). Otherwise, the service begins with a gathering song or with the greeting and prayer of the day.

CONFESSING RACISM: A LAMENT FOR THE CHURCH

This lament was developed for the Commemoration for the Emanuel Nine on June 17 (ELCA.org/EmanuelNine). It may be used or adapted as appropriate for this time.

As church, we confess the sin of racism and condemn racist rhetoric and the ideology of white supremacy. God, have mercy.

God, have mercy.

As church, we confess, repent, and repudiate the times when this church has been silent in the face of racial injustice. God, have mercy.

God, have mercy.

Racism is deeply ingrained within the ELCA, a predominantly white church. It is deeply embedded within the individual congregations whose members continue to foster stereotypes and support policies that actively hurt people of color. God, have mercy.

God, have mercy.

As church, we declare that the enslavement of black bodies and the removal of indigenous peoples established racism in the United States, a truth this nation and this church have yet to fully embrace. God, have mercy.

God, have mercy.

Rooted in slavery, racism is manifested through the history of Jim Crow policies, racial segregation, the terror of lynching, extrajudicial killings by law enforcement, and the disproportionate incarceration of people of color. God, have mercy.

God, have mercy.

As church we lament the institutional racism of discriminatory treatment within the call process; inequitable compensation of clergy of color; racial segregation; divestment from black communities and congregations; systemic policies and organizational practices; and a failure to fully include the gifts of leadership and worship styles of black people, indigenous people, and people of color. God, have mercy.

God, have mercy.

Confessions are empty promises without meaningful actions—actions that are grounded in prayer, education, and soul-searching repentance. The sin of racism separates us from one another. Though we trust that we are reconciled to God through Christ's death and resurrection, we seek such life-giving reconciliation with one another. As we repent, let us not turn back to ideologies that promote white supremacy. We trust that God can make all things new.

Amen.

or

LAMENTING THE GRIP OF MELANCHOLY

With Job of old we cry out:

Everywhere the innocent suffer.

Our desires and efforts achieve us little.

O God, are you good, yet do nothing to help us?

Our answers have holes, and we fall through.

A Kyrie or a Trisagion such as Evangelical Lutheran Worship 151–161 is sung.

Hear us, O God:

Hear us, O God.

Revive us with hope:

Revive us with hope.

Give us your life:

Give us your life.

A time of silence is kept.

Hear these words, and receive their power:

The majesty of God the Father undergirds all that is.

The mercy of God the Son accepts our despair.
The comfort of God the Spirit embraces us in communities of care.

Thanks be to God:
Thanks be to God.

The time of gathering song may be brief or extended, and may include one or more of the following: hymns, psalms; a Kyrie; a canticle of praise.

During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

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 OF THE DAY

The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

God of heaven and earth, before the foundation of the universe and the beginning of time you are the triune God: Author of creation, eternal Word of salvation, life-giving Spirit of wisdom.

Guide us to all truth by your Spirit, that we may proclaim all that Christ has revealed and rejoice in the glory he shares with us. Glory and praise to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Word

FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1--2:4a

A reading from Genesis.

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness God called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." ⁷So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together God called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. ¹²The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed

of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” ²¹So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” ²³And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. ²⁵God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

²⁷So God created humankind in the divine image,
in the image of God humankind was created;
male and female God created them.

²⁸God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” ²⁹God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹God saw everything that had been made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

^{2:1}Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. ²And on the seventh day God finished the work that had been done, and God rested on the seventh day from all the work that had been done. ³So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that God had done in creation.

^{4a}These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 8

The psalm for the day is sung or spoken in response to the first reading.

¹O LORD our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!—
²**you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children;
you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.**
³When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,
⁴**what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them,
human beings that you should care for them?**
⁵Yet you have made them little less than divine;
with glory and honor you crown them.
⁶**You have made them rule over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet:**
⁷all flocks and cattle,
even the wild beasts of the field,
⁸**the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,
and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.**
⁹O LORD our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

A reading from Second Corinthians.

[Paul writes:] ¹¹Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. ¹²Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

¹³The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly may sing to welcome the gospel, using a gospel acclamation from Evangelical Lutheran Worship or another appropriate song.

GOSPEL: Matthew 28:16-20

Bishop Eaton reads the gospel on video prior to her sermon. Or, a local reader may read the gospel and then begin the video at the sermon.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁶Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷When they saw Jesus, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

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

SERMON

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton preaches a sermon on video.

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY

The assembly may proclaim the Word of God in song or other music appropriate for the day may be included.

CREED

The Nicene Creed is especially appropriate on festival days.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,**

and his kingdom will have no end.

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Gathered into the mystery of the Trinity, let us pray for the church, the world,
and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

God of community, you form us as your church. Guide our bishops, pastors, and deacons as they lead the church in these trying times. With all the baptized, may they be strengthened to share the good news of Jesus Christ, and in prayer and action, strive for peace and justice in all the earth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of creation, you called everything into being. Sustain this world with your renewing care. Instill in us a deeper wonder for the created world you've called good, and a greater humility for our place within it. Kindle in us a creative and resilient spirit as we care for the earth and its creatures. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of counsel, all authority belongs to you. Encourage leaders to seek wisdom and respond with courage and compassion to those most in need. We pray for community leaders in this time of unrest (*especially*). Further the work of advocates who pursue justice in often ignored communities (*like Chief Seattle, whom we commemorate today*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of care, you created us in your image; we are your beloved children. May we recognize your likeness in one another. We pray for all mourning the death of your beloved child, George Floyd. Hold in your loving embrace all experiencing trauma, fear, uncertainty, and loss (*especially*). Protect vulnerable children and adults from violence or neglect; provide what is needed for those lacking access to food, shelter, and other services. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of healing, you accompany us in sickness and suffering. Bring relief to all afflicted with the coronavirus and all those isolated now more than ever, especially those in prison or care facilities. Strengthen caregivers, health workers, and all whose work ensures the safety and well-being of others. Console, heal, and nourish all in need this day (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of connection, you call us to make your presence known. Accompany people of faith as they nurture relationships in new ways. Where the sin of racism fractures our relationships, bring repentance and reconciliation. Free us for the difficult work ahead in our congregations and communities. Open our hearts for attentive listening so that our places of connection are filled with your Spirit. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of compassion, you comfort us in our grief with the promise of the resurrection. We give you thanks for the saints of all time and in our lives (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

At the time of the intercessions or at another appropriate time, you may wish to use this prayer for racial justice.

Save us, O God, from ourselves,
from racism often cloaked in pious words,
from the machinations of white supremacy hidden in calls for civility,
from micro aggressions thinly veiled in arrogance,
from apologies when they don't give way to action,
from forgiveness without facing the truth,
from reconciliation without reparation.

Deliver us, O God, from expecting siblings of color to continue to bear this emotional work, which is not theirs to do.

Grateful for the long arc that bends toward justice, we pray:
Grant us wisdom,
give us courage for the facing of these days,
by the power of the Spirit, all for the sake of the kin-dom that we share in Christ Jesus.
Amen.

PEACE

For those using an online platform that allows members of the assembly to see others gathered, the assembly may find ways to greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, such as a wave, bow, gesture, or simply voicing or typing the words Peace be with you or similar words. Alternatively, the peace may be shared at the end of the service in place of or following the dismissal.

This may be preceded by the presiding minister and the assembly greeting each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Thanksgiving

OFFERING

Words and instruction may be shared about an offering, gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

During this time, assembly song or other music may be offered.

CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING

The assembly may sing the canticle at ELW pg. 219 or another appropriate hymn or song.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

The presiding minister leads one of the following or another appropriate prayer.

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things:
you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos,
and brought life into being.
For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts:
freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey,
a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you.
For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness:
forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death,
the way of your self-giving love.
For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us:
renew our faith, increase our hope,
and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need.
Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

or

Let us pray.
O God of justice and love,
we give thanks to you
that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son.

Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others,
and at the end bring all the world to your feast;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory forever.
Amen.

The presiding minister may introduce the 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.**

Sending

Brief announcements may be made, especially those related to the assembly's participation in God's mission in the world.

A PRAYER FOR THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT AMONG THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

The following ecumenical call to common prayer may be prayed at this point, or earlier in the service. More about this prayer can be found on the [Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations Blog](#).

God of all power and love, we give thanks for your unfailing presence
and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss.
Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire.
Revive us to live as Christ's body in the world:
a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life, heal neighbors,
bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit.
Wherever and however we gather,
unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission,
that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

The holy Three, the holy One
increase your hope,
strengthen your faith,

deepen your love,
and + grant you peace.
Amen.

or

God, the Source of glory,
God, the Word of life,
God, the Spirit of truth + bless you all,
now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING SONG

A sending song may be sung.

DISMISSAL

The assisting minister may send the assembly into mission.

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage;
hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honor all people;
love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

or

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

If the greeting of peace was not shared earlier in the service, it may be shared at this time.

Music for the Day

Places where music may be included are noted throughout the service. Additional service music for the Service of the Word is available from sundaysandseasons.com.

Service music including a Kyrie, Canticle of Praise, and Gospel Acclamation may be used from the ELW Service of the Word, or from ELW Holy Communion Settings One-Ten, or other appropriate songs.

The following hymns and songs are especially fitting for The Holy Trinity and are in the public domain or under copyright administration to Augsburg Fortress which may be freely shared on video per [Augsburg Fortress Temporary Expanded Licensing](#). Music scores may be downloaded from sundaysandseasons.com.

All Creatures, Worship God Most High!, ELW 835 **
All Glory Be to God on High, ELW 410
Alleluia! Sing to Jesus, ELW 392 **
Come, Gracious Spirit, Heavenly Dove, ELW 404
Come, Thou Almighty King, ELW 408
Creator Spirit, Heavenly Dove ELW 577, 578
Eternal Father, Strong to Save, ELW 756
Father Most Holy, ELW 415
God, Whose Almighty Word, ELW 673
Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading, ELW 401, TFF 103
Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty! ELW 413 **
I Bind unto Myself Today, ELW 450
Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise, ELW 834
Isaiah in a Vision Did of Old, ELW 868
Lord God, We Praise You, ELW 558
Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now, ELW 527
Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word, ELW 517
Lord, Your Hands Have Formed, ELW 554
Many and Great, O God, ELW 837
Now Thank We All Our God, ELW 839, 840
O Trinity, O Blessed Light, ELW 571
Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow, ELW 884, 885
Spread, Oh, Spread, Almighty Word, ELW 663
The God of Abraham Praise, ELW 831

Many additional selections may be covered by synod or congregation licenses from onelicense.net or CCLI.

** The following recordings encourage singing-along and are available from the Covidhymns project available via [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

[All Creatures, Worship God Most High!](#) ELW 835
[Alleluia! Sing to Jesus](#), ELW 392
[Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!](#) ELW 413

The following recordings of choral music from Augsburg Fortress may be freely used in online worship:

[Come Join the Dance of Trinity](#)

[Creating God, Your Fingers Trace](#)

[Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth](#) (Trenney)

[Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth](#) (Highben)

[O Christ, Surround Me](#)

[When Long Before Time](#)

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