



A CELEBRATION OF GOD'S WORD

Synod-Wide Worship

10:00am

Sunday, June 6, 2021



Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

GATHERING SONG

*“Beacons of Hope” Choir
Peace Lutheran Church, Bermuda*

**Holy Spirit Rain Down
by Alvin Slaughter**

Holy Spirit rain down, rain down.
O Comforter and Friend, how we need Your touch again

Holy Spirit rain down, rain down
Let Your power fall, let your voice be heard
Come and change our hearts as we stand on Your Word.
Holy Spirit rain down

Repeat

No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind can know, what God has in store.
So open up heaven, open it wide, over Your Church and over our lives.

Holy Spirit rain down, rain down.
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CONFESSION

The Rev. Lydia Posselt
Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Vienna, VA

Genesis 3:8-15

[Adam and Eve] heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." God said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this,
cursed are you among all animals
and among all wild creatures;
upon your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will strike your head,
and you will strike his heel."

Creative, passionate God,
you delight to shape the world in beauty and harmony.
You invite us to participate in the balance of creation.
We grow in wisdom as our experience unfolds;
we take good learning out of difficult situations yet also
find our well-meant endeavors leading to unintended consequences.
Too often we give in to temptation
that disrupts the joyous, chaotic order of the universe.
We cannot undo all our mistakes,
but we can turn once more to the living presence of Jesus
and find new ways to live and love each other and the earth.
Do not let our hearts be fearful,
but let us in silence acknowledge our sin
and seek the forgiveness that restores your peace.

Silence

WORD OF HOPE

*Robyn K, Bella N, Harper S.P.
Epiphany Lutheran Church, Burtonsville, MD*

Psalm 130

Out of the depths
I cry to you, O Lord;
O Lord, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive to the
voice of my supplication.
If you were to keep watch over
sins,
O Lord, who could stand?
Yet with you is forgiveness,
in order that you may be feared.
I wait for you, O Lord; my soul waits;
in your word is my hope.

My soul waits for the Lord more than
those who keep watch for the morning,
more than those who keep
watch for the morning.
O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the
Lord there is steadfast love;
with the Lord there is plenteous
redemption.
For the Lord shall redeem Israel from all
their sins.

EMBODIED BLESSING AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The leader will guide the assembly in this embodied blessing by first demonstrating the actions with a verbal explanation, then inviting the assembly to repeat the actions together in silence.

Take a deep breath. Exhale.

Place hands on heart. I see myself – acknowledge my own feelings – my own body.

Bow. Acknowledging sacredness, resilience, humanity, strength in myself. Bow.

Look around. I see you.

Cup hands to ears. I hear you.

Fold arms across chest. Mourning, feeling collective sadness, grief, lament, anger.

Bow. Acknowledging sacredness, resilience, humanity, strength in others.

Open hands, palm up, with a breath. Receiving blessings from God and from one another.

Touch with one hand and extend the other hand to another person. Heart-to-heart compassion.

Let us now begin this embodied blessing and healing together in silence.

Let us begin by taking a deep breath.

The blessing is repeated in action without spoken words.

Amen.

(Embodied Blessing created by the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity for an anti-Asian violence protest in Oakland, Calif. on February 13-14, 2021. Asian and black leaders and the entire community gathered embodied this blessing for healing.)

Even as Adam and Eve faced the consequences of their sin,
our God prepared a way for them still to be connected to the earth
and to the living presence of God.

From out of the depths, God gathers our sins and hears our cries. Our soul waits
and keeps watch for the morning.

With our whole selves, our fully perfect and beautifully imperfect bodies, we are
drawn together to be a blessing.

In Christ's life, ministry, death and resurrection,
we are made able to persist, upright and strong,
for our sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

SONG OF PRAISE

*David Babich
Faith Lutheran Church, Arlington, VA*

Move on Up a Little Higher by W. Herbert Brewster

GREETING

*Bishop Leila Ortiz
Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod*

GOSPEL READING

*Deacon Julie Stecker
Assistant to the Bishop for Youth and
Family Ministry, Delaware-Maryland
Synod and Metropolitan Washington,
D.C. Synod*

Mark 3:20-35

Jesus went home;] and the crowd came together again, so that [Jesus and the disciples] could not even eat. When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind." And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons." And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

“Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”—for they had said, “He has an unclean spirit.”

Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.” And he replied, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” And looking at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

SERMON

*Bishop Yehiel Curry
Metropolitan Chicago Synod*

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you.

At this time, you are invited to take a moment and share peace with one another, text one or two people a blessing of peace, carry the peace of Christ with you along your journey.

OFFERING

Today’s offering will be designated for the Synod’s Leadership Academy. To make an online contribution, visit www.metrodcelca.org/give and click on the “Give with Tithe.ly Now” button. Select “Leadership Academy” from the list of options and submit! Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

*Julio Cuellar
St. Mark’s Lutheran Church, Springfield, VA*

Padre Nuestro Cuando (Sonidos en Silencio)

Lyrics by Julio Cuellar Music by Paul Simon

We move into an intentional time of prayer, beginning with this sung prayer to the Lord. You are invited to join in the Lord’s Prayer in the language closest to your heart.

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.

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

*Jennifer Slagle Peck
Epiphany Lutheran Church, Burtonsville, MD*

O God, you form all humanity to bear your divine image, and you intend for everyone to live together in harmonious dignity. We pray for all people, in joy and in sorrow, for such a time as this.

Prayer petitions shared by:

*Chelsey Christensen, Luther Place Memorial Church, Washington, DC
Rev. Franklin Morales, Saint Luke Lutheran Church, Silver Spring, MD
Jackson Droney, Luther Place Memorial Church, Washington, DC
Mike Dixon, Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Bethesda, MD*

CONFESSION OF HOPE AND BLESSING

Bishop Leila Ortiz

2 Corinthians 4:13 – 5:1

Just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—"I believed, and so I spoke"—we also believe, and so we speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Siblings in Christ, go into all the world!
Go forth with forgiveness and grace.
Go forth with compassion and love.
We go as Christ's family for all the world to see.

In the name of the Divine Three-in-One, Amen.

SENDING HYMN

*Hyojin Ahn, The Rev. Mark Brown, Kevin Businsky
All Saints Lutheran Church, Bowie, MD*

Lift Every Voice and Sing



1 Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring,
2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - t'ning rod,
3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,



ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty.
felt in the days when hope un - born had died;
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;



Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - t'ning skies,
yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry feet
thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the light,



let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?
keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.



Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;



sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought us;
we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh - tered,
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get thee;



fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun,
out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at last
shad - owed be - neath thy hand, may we for - ev - er stand,



let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

Text: James W. Johnson, 1871-1938
Music: LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING, J. Rosamond Johnson, 1873-1954

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preacher:

- Bishop Yehiel Curry of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the ELCA

Greeting and Sending:

- Bishop Leila Ortiz of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod of the ELCA

Confession and Embodied Blessing:

- The Rev. Lydia Posselt

Readers and Prayer Leaders:

- Deacon Julie Stecker
- Robyn K.Bella N.Harper SP
- Jennifer Slagle Peck
- Chelsey Christiansen
- The Rev. Franklin Morales
- Jackson Droney
- Mike Dixon

Musicians:

- *Peace Lutheran Church, Bermuda, "Beacons of Hope" Choir:*
Jared Robinson (Musician Director),
Mark Thorne (Soloist), Tina Nusum (Soloist),
John Thorne, Philip Thorne, Cathy Belvedere, Cindy Barber, Jean Flath,
and The Rev. David Trott
- David Babich
- Julio Cuellar
- *All Saints Lutheran Church, Bowie, MD, Piano and Brass:*
Hyojin Ahn, The Rev. Mark Brown, Kevin Businsky

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