# GOD GATHERS THE BODY OF CHRIST

# Introduction to God's Endless Love Liturgy

### Welcome and Greeting

Gathering: "God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind"

ELW #400

#### Prayer of Confession

L: Blessed be the + holy Trinity, the one who fashions us, the one who heals us, the one who reforms us again and again. P: Amen.

L: Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

#### L: Source of all life,

P: we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free. We fear that we are not good enough. We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. We turn the church inward, rather than moving it outward. Forgive us. Stir us. Reform us to be a church powered by love, willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just, and seek the healing of your whole creation. Amen.

#### Announcement of Forgiveness

L: God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us and to empower our lives in the world. Our sins are forgiven, + God's love is unconditional, and we are raised up as God's people who will always be made new, in the name of Jesus Christ. P: Amen.

#### Hymn of Praise



Prayer of the Day
L: The Lord be with you.
P: And also with you.
L: O God,
P: through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always. P: And also with you.

#### A Message for Children

# GOD SPEAKS TO US IN THE WORD

The Lesson: Isaiah 50:4-9a Old Testament Pg. 640 The image of the servant of the Lord is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.

Gospel Acclamation: "Alleluia"



**The Gospel:** Mark 8:27-38 New Testament Pg. 38 This story provides the turning point in Mark's gospel. Peter is the first human being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.

The Message: "Called to Follow Jesus" Pastor Christy Hallenbeck Ask Hymn of the Day: "Lord, You Give the Great Commission" ELW #579 v. 1, 2, & 5 Affirmation of Faith-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 the Church** (As each of the prayers concludes, *Lord*, *in your mercy*, the congregation will respond, **Hear our prayer**.)

#### Opportunities to Offer Our Time and Tithes for Mission and Ministry

Offering Music: "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" arr. John Carter

# GOD COMES TO US IN THE LORD'S SUPPER

### The Great Thanksgiving

- L: The Lord be with you.
- P: And also with you.
- L: Lift up your hearts.
- P: We lift them to the Lord.
- L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

# Words of Institution

# The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

# The Communion

All persons seeking the forgiveness of sins and a renewed relationship with Jesus Christ are invited to meet the Risen Christ by eating and drinking at our table. You may choose from red wine or white grape juice in our tray of cups. Young children are invited forward to receive a blessing.

# **Communion Music:**

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" "You are Mine" "Here I Am, Lord"



#ELW 674 #ELW 581 #ELW 574

# GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD TO SERVE

### Affirmation of God's Calling

This month we affirm and bless all who are engaged in the work of education: teachers, students, principals, superintendents, librarians, custodians, counselors, tutors, special education specialists, and school support staff.



L: God of our callings,

P: We ask you to bless these sisters and brothers gathered here today who are engaged in the work of education.

Fill them with your strength,

Guide them with your love.

Give them patience and courage to meet the challenges of their work.

Remind them of our prayers and support for the ways they live out your calling. Lead all of us to work together toward your vision of shalom for your whole creation, and send us forth to serve in the power of your Holy Spirit of Joy.

L: Sisters and brothers, both your labor and your rest come from God. Will you work to pattern your life on the Lord Jesus Christ, in gratitude to God and in service to others, at morning and evening, in work and play, all the days of your life?

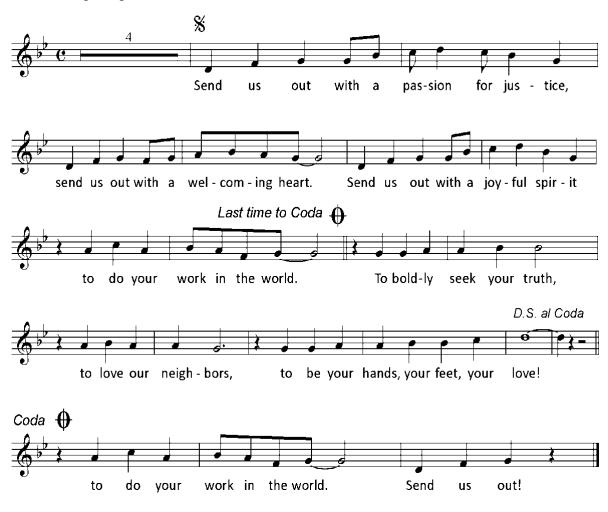
Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

L: *May God bless you as you live out God's call in your daily work.* P: Amen.

#### The Blessing

L: God, creator of all things, speaking new life into being; Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead; Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the church: Almighty God, Father, & Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. P: Amen.

Sending Song: "Send Us Out"



The Dismissal L: Go in peace. Sound the Good News! P: Thanks be to God.

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# Lutheran World Federation's Augusta Victoria Hospital needs ELCA Members' Help

Media reports say the United States will not continue to fund the Lutheran World Federation-operated <u>Augusta Victoria Hospital</u> in Jerusalem. Please call the White House hotline (202-456-1111) or write a comment in its <u>comments submissions</u> <u>area</u> to urge them to ensure there is no interruption of assistance for children and others in need of treatment for cancer and additional life-threatening diseases. This funding represents dollars already promised as part of the 2017 budget.

Another way to help is to give today. Your gifts will be used over-and-above our church's ongoing, annual support in order to prevent interruptions to the life-saving, critical care provided to children and other patients. <u>Donate today</u>.

### Prayer of Intercession:

Look with mercy, gracious God, upon people everywhere who live with injustice, terror, disease, and death. We remember before you today the Palestinians who come for healing to East Jerusalem hospitals, including the Lutheran Hospital on the Mount of Olives. As these hospitals struggle now with keeping their doors open, send your Holy Spirit upon us and all government authorities to provide the support needed for your healing work to continue in Jerusalem; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### About the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

The ELCA is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, with more than 3.5 million members in more than 9,300 worshiping communities across the 50 states and in the Caribbean region. Known as the church of "God's work. Our hands," the ELCA emphasizes the saving grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, unity among Christians and service in the world. The ELCA's roots are in the writings of the German church reformer Martin Luther.