



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Global Church Sunday Worship and Liturgical Resources

Introduction

Celebrate Global Church Sunday!

The worship resources in this packet were gathered together to help congregations and worshipping communities of this church celebrate our connections and common mission in Christ's global church. These resources may be used in conjunction with:

- a mission festival;
- a visit from an ELCA missionary that you sponsor; or
- the World Day of Prayer for Peace (Sept. 21), World Communion Sunday (Oct. 6), or Lutheran World Federation Sunday (Oct. 27).

The texts and prayers included below help bring to expression our understanding that we are united by the Spirit of God through the means of grace with our sisters and brothers in Christ throughout the world.

The texts and prayers may need to be adapted for local celebrations. Two examples of this are the last two prayers in this packet. These prayers are tied to specific people in global service with the ELCA. You can share real life stories from the global church—and then pray for those involved—with these resources:

- order multiple copies of the summer Hand in Hand newsletter at www.ELCA.org/GlobalMission-Resources;
- download and copy the Hand in Hand summer bulletin inserts at www.ELCA.org/handinhand.

Congregations are encouraged to extend the celebration beyond their worship life. Consider hosting a coffee hour or educational forum with additional resources available at www.ELCA.org/GlobalMission-Resources. Find more ideas for your Global Church Sunday celebration at www.ELCA.org/GlobalChurchSunday.

Gathering Dialogue (based on Ephesians 4:4-5)

This dialogue may be used at the beginning of the service or following the greeting before the prayer of the day.

Come, let us gather in the one unifying Spirit,
the Spirit of God in the church throughout the world.

There is one body and one Spirit
one Lord, one faith, one baptism
one God and Father of all,
who is above all and through all and in all.

Come, let us gather in the one unifying Spirit.
Let us gather in unity with our sisters and brothers throughout the world.

Confession and Forgiveness¹

The congregation response below “Kyrie” may be sung using ELW #153, 155, 158 or another appropriate setting.

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father,
and of the + Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The presiding minister continues with the prayer of preparation.

God of all mercy and consolation,
come to the help of your people,
turning us from our sin to live for you alone.
Give us the power of your Holy Spirit
that we may confess our sin,
receive your forgiveness,
and grow into the fullness
of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

¹ The text of the confession was taken from *Koinonia: Services and Prayers*, © 2004, The Lutheran World Federation. Used with Permission.

Merciful God,
in baptism you have joined us to Christ
in his death and resurrection,
and you have united us with all who are baptized
in Christ's name;
but too often we fail to live as one people
and to seek the unity of your church.
Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison.

In baptism you have called the church
to witness to Christ in all realms of life;
but too often we do not seek to discern your will
and to carry out your mission in the world.
Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison.

In baptism you have sent us to serve
all for whom Christ died;
but too often we have ignored the suffering
of the oppressed and the needs of the poor.
Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison.

The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness with these or similar words.

God, who is rich in mercy,
loved us even when we were dead in sin,
and made us alive together with Christ.
By grace you have been saved.
In the name of + Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.
Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit,
that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.
Amen.

Thanksgiving at the Font

This thanksgiving may be used during at the gathering or during an Affirmation of Baptism by the Assembly.

Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things. Your voice thundered over the waters at creation. You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to refresh and satisfy all living things.

Through the waters of the flood you carried those in the ark to safety. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery to freedom. In the wilderness you nourished them with water from the rock, and you brought them across the river Jordan to the promised land.

By the baptism of his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom. The floods shall not overwhelm us, and the deep shall not swallow us up, for

Christ has brought us over to the land of promise. He sends us to make disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit; wash away sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your daughters and sons, no longer slave and free, no longer male and female, but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

ELW Assembly Edition, page 70

Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:

beyond the stars; beneath the sea;
within each cell; with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness:

through the water; by night and day;
across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son:

at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer;
beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

We thank you, O God.

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 for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit:
in our gathering; within this meal;
among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus,
by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

Amen.

ELW Assembly Edition, page 68

Propers for Christian Unity

The following readings, prayers and texts may be used for a service that celebrates the unity we share with Christians throughout the world.

Preface of the season, or Sundays

Color of the season

Prayer of the Day

God our Father, your Son Jesus prayed that his followers might be one. Make all Christians one with him as he is one with you, so that in peace and concord we may carry to the world the message of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. Bear with one another in love,* making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. *Alleluia.* (Eph. 4:2-3)

Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 2:2-4

Pslam 133 *How good and pleasant it is to live together in unity.* (Ps. 133:1)

Ephesians 4:1-6

John 17:15-23

Suggested Hymns and Songs

Amen, We Praise Your Name <i>Amen siakudumisa</i>	846
Arise, My Soul, Arise! <i>Nyt ylös, sieluni</i>	827
Behold, How Pleasant <i>Miren qué bueno</i>	649
Blessed Be the Name <i>Heri ni jina</i>	797
Come, All You People <i>Uyaimose</i>	819
Come Now, O Prince of Peace <i>Ososõ, Ososõ</i>	247
Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading <i>Njoo kwetu, Roho mwema</i>	401
Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather <i>Sekai no tomo to te o tsunagi</i>	530
In Christ Called to Baptize	575
In Christ There Is No East or West	650
Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ	674
Lord, Who the Night You Were Betrayed	463
Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord	875
Praise to the Lord <i>Louez l'Éternel</i>	844

Veni Sancte Spiritus <i>Holy Spirit, Come to Us</i>	406
We Are All One Christ <i>Somos uno en Cristo</i>	643
When We Are Living <i>Pues sí vivimos</i>	639
You Are Holy <i>Du är helig</i>	525

Numbers correspond to Evangelical Lutheran Worship

For more global song resources see the “Global Songs” collections by Bread for the Journey: *Global Songs/Local Voices, Global Songs 2, Pave the Way, Global Songs 3*, available from Augsburg Fortress. <http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/search?ss=Global+Songs&c=1&x=0&y=0>

Additional Prayers

Church unity

Most high and holy God, pour out upon us your one and unifying Spirit, and awaken in every confession of the whole church a holy hunger and thirst for unity in you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. (*ELW Occasional Services, page 389*)

The human family

O God of all, with wonderful diversity of languages and cultures you created all people in your image. Free us from prejudice and fear, that we may see your face in the faces of people around the world; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. (*ELW Occasional Services, page 398*)

The mission of the church

Draw your church together, O God, into one great company of disciples, together following our teacher Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving in Christ's mission to the world, and together witnessing to your love wherever you will send us; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. (*ELW Occasional Services, page 392*)

Global mission

Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to reconcile the world to yourself. We praise and bless you for those whom you have sent in the power of the Spirit to preach the gospel to all nations. We thank you that in all parts of the earth a community of love has been gathered together by their prayers and labors, and that in every place your servants call upon your name; for the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours forever. (*ELW Occasional Services, page 392*)

Peace

O God, it is your will to hold both heaven and earth in a single peace. Let the design of your great love shine on the waste of our wraths and sorrows, and give peace to your church, peace among nations, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (*ELW Occasional Services, page 393*)

Peace

Gracious and holy God, lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth. Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace. Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. (*ELW Occasional Services, page 393*)

Peace among the nations

Gracious God, grant peace among nations. Cleanse from our own hearts the seeds of strife: greed and envy, harsh misunderstandings and ill will, fear and desire for revenge. Make us quick to welcome ventures in cooperation among the peoples of the world, so that there may be woven the fabric of a common good too strong to be torn by the evil hands of war. In the time of opportunity, make us be diligent; and in the time of peril, let not our courage fail; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (*ELW Occasional Services, page 393*)

Prayers to accompany Hand in Hand bulletin inserts

See the intro material for more information.

Prayer for “The Reason We’re Called Here”

Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to reconcile the world to yourself. We praise and bless you for those whom you send to witness in word and deed among the nations. Bless *name/s* in the work you have called *her/him/them* to do, so that *she/he/they* may faithfully accompany those among whom *she/he/they are* sent, show your love to all people, and glorify your name; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. (*ELW Occasional Services, page 257*)

Prayer for “Grateful for the Privilege”

Gracious God, as you have called workers to varied tasks in the world and in your church, so you have called *name/s* to ministry in *global context/s*. Grant *her/him/them* joy and a spirit of bold trust, that *her/his/their* work may stir up in the church throughout the world lives of fruitful service; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. (*ELW Occasional Services, page 256*)