



## CANADIAN LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

75TH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE OF  
CELEBRATION & THANKSGIVING

SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

### Congregational Resources for Service of the Word and Service with Holy Communion

#### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*As water is poured into the baptismal font, we give God thanks and praise for the gift of our baptism.*

P: On this day of celebration and thanksgiving, we gather first around the baptismal font to “remember and rejoice” in the words of one of our baptismal hymns. (ELW #454)

We have been baptised by water and the Word in the name of the Father,  
+ the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Let us give thanks for God’s gracious and loving gifts we have received  
in baptism and for the work God has given us to do in this world:

C: For God’s gift of merciful love and grace in Christ Jesus;

For God’s gift of the Spirit who leads, guides, teaches and comforts  
us;

For God’s gift of new and abundant life now and in the life to come;

For God’s gift of faith by which we learn to trust God;

For God’s gift of family of every time and every place;

For God’s gift of our calling to work for justice and peace through  
loving, compassionate service to all people.

P: Let us pray: Loving and gracious God, by the power of your Spirit let these gifts which you have poured out upon us overflow in us and into the lives of our neighbours far and near. May our lives be a blessing in your name to all people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

*In remembrance of our baptism, water may be sprinkled over everyone gathered as a baptismal hymn is sung, such as:*

We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus      ELW #451

Baptized and Set Free                      ELW #453

Remember and Rejoice                      ELW #454

*If this remembrance of baptism is used, the presider says these words after the sprinkling is completed:*

P: On this celebratory day, and every day, let us “remember and rejoice” in the gifts of baptism.

## **OPENING HYMN**

*To Be Your Presence*      ELW # 546

*Voices Raised to You*      ELW #845

*Soli Deo Gloria*                      ELW #878

*All Are Welcome*                      ELW #641

*We Are Called*                      ELW #720

## **GREETING** (*based on Ephesians 2:13-22*)

P: Peace to you who are far away and peace to you who are near in the name of Christ Jesus.

C: Christ is our peace.

Through him the dividing wall has been broken down.

Through him we come before God in one Spirit.

P: Come, let us worship God, Father, + Son and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

### **HYMN OF PRAISE**

*You Are Holy* ELW #525

*Praise to the Lord* ELW #844

*Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord!* ELW #875

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray, God of the nations, we give you thanks and praise for the work of Canadian Lutheran World Relief over the past 75 years. We give thanks for its early work in collecting food and clothing, in raising funds for war-ravaged Europe and in resettling people from war-torn Germany in new homes and workplaces in Canada. Bless its continuing humanitarian work as it responds to your call to work for justice and peace in crises, disasters and conflicts and as it works with partner organizations to learn from and serve the needs of peoples worldwide as our Lord Jesus Christ commanded and in whose name we pray.

C: Amen

### **FIRST READINGS**

**Deuteronomy 6: 4-5 and Leviticus 19:18**

Two Great Commandments

**Psalm 106: 1-3**

**SECOND READINGS**

**Galatians 5:13-14 and James 2: 14-17**

Faith Active in Love

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION/HYMN**

<i>Refrain to Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks</i>	WOV #671
<i>Refrain with repeat to Listen, God is Calling</i>	ELW #513, WOVS #712
<i>Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil</i>	ELW #512, WOVS #713
<i>The Word of God Is Source and Seed</i>	ELW #506

**GOSPEL READING**

**Matthew 17: 1-9, 14-18**

**SERMON**

**Rev. Dr. Martin Junge**

General Secretary, Lutheran World Federation

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

<i>Let Streams of Living Justice</i>	ELW #710
<i>Christ, Be Our Light</i>	ELW #715
<i>O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate</i>	ELW #722
<i>The Church of Christ, in Every Age</i>	ELW #729
<i>Let Justice Flow like Streams</i>	WOV #763
<i>Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love</i>	ELW #708, WOVS#765
<i>When the Poor Ones</i>	ELW#725

**APOSTLES' CREED**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### Alternate suggested sung responses:

L: *In your mercy...Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying* ELW #752

L: *Faithful God...Your Will Be Done* ELW#741

L: Let us pray for the whole world and the needs of its people, giving thanks for our baptismal calling to lovingly serve our neighbours and to work for justice and peace in its many facets, saying,

God of steadfast love and faithfulness... **Hear our prayer.**

L: God of grace, through your Son you teach us how to live in love and by your Spirit you lead us along paths which we might never go except by faith. For 75 years, Canadian Lutheran World Relief has faithfully followed your way of justice and peace. For its service in your name to countless people around the world in their need, we give you thanks as we celebrate its work past, present and future.

God of steadfast love and faithfulness... **Hear our prayer.**

L: God of creation, all you have made is good. Our planet home is showing the burden of human-made climate change. From severe droughts and heat waves to flooding and rising sea levels, from a decline of Arctic sea-ice and retreating glaciers to ocean warming, from desertification and land degradation to pressure on fresh water supplies, from changing ecosystems to economic migration, earth is suffering. We give thanks for the work of CLWR in providing life-saving food assistance, rehabilitating water sources and working with local communities to learn how best to serve them in their own settings.

God of steadfast love and faithfulness... **Hear our prayer.**

L: God of the nations, prophetic voices of old spoke truth to power. Fill the hearts of world leaders and all who govern with such a sense of your justice that their striving for power and dominance is transformed into decision-making that meets the needs of your people worldwide. We give thanks for the work of CLWR as it continues to respond to global crises

as it did at its inception 75 years ago and to address injustices that cause human suffering and poverty.

God of steadfast love and faithfulness... **Hear our prayer.**

- L: God of the orphan, widow and stranger, Mary, Joseph and Jesus fled persecution, seeking safety in a foreign land and still your people flee their homelands seeking shelter and peace. We give thanks for the work of CLWR, resettlement teams, and sponsoring communities of faith who go above and beyond what is required to welcome and embrace refugees and help them start new lives in Canada.

God of steadfast love and faithfulness... **Hear our prayer.**

- L: God of the marginalized, your Son never turned away anyone who came to him in their need but responded with compassion and healing. We give thanks for the work of CLWR amongst the world's peoples, irrespective of religious beliefs, race, colour, or gender, and its provision of educational opportunities in which students can thrive and vocational training for women which leads to self-sufficiency and economic security.

God of steadfast love and faithfulness... **Hear our prayer.**

- L: God of relationship, through Jesus you make of us a worldwide kinship of loving care. We give thanks for the work of CLWR which communicates to us the sufferings of your people around the world, challenging us to be neighbour to all your children by responding wholeheartedly and generously in faith to support its work of meeting their needs on our behalf.

God of steadfast love and faithfulness... **Hear our prayer.**

- L: God of healing grace, every day, by the power of your Spirit, we are being transformed into the likeness of your Son. Cure us of all that would impede the Spirit working in us. Heal our illnesses of body, mind and spirit. Comfort all who have lost hope. Be with those who mourn losses of many kinds. Open our hearts to reach out beyond our own needs so that what we think, say and do may be reflections of our faith active in love in the world around us... please add your congregational requests...

God of steadfast love and faithfulness... **Hear our prayer.**

L: God of eternity, we give you thanks for all who have faithfully served you in this life. Keep us in your promises until we, with them, are united in joyful praise in your eternal kingdom.

God of steadfast love and faithfulness... **Hear our prayer.**

L: All these things and whatever else you see that your people need, grant us all, gracious God for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit we give our thanks and praise.

C: Amen

## **SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE**

### **OFFERING SONG**

<i>For the Fruit of All Creation</i>	ELW #679
<i>To God Our Thanks We Give</i>	ELW #682
<i>Take My Life, That I May Be</i>	ELW #583, 685
<i>We Give Thee but Thine Own</i>	ELW #686
<i>We Are an Offering</i>	ELW #692
<i>Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring</i>	WOV #759

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

P: Gracious God, we offer you the gifts of ourselves and our living. Receive them and bless their use as we respond to our baptismal calling to work for justice and peace through Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray.

C: Amen

## LORD'S PRAYER

## BLESSING

P: Remember and rejoice in our baptismal calling.  
Celebrate the work of Canadian Lutheran World Relief.  
Persevere in loving and serving our neighbours.

May God's blessing be upon us;  
May + Christ's words be alive in our hearts and minds;  
And may the Spirit's energy propel us ever forward.

C: Amen

## SENDING SONG

<i>Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service</i>	ELW #712
<i>Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life</i>	ELW #719
<i>O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate</i>	ELW #722
<i>Light Dawns on a Weary World</i>	ELW #726
<i>The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve</i>	ELW #551, WOV # 723
<i>The Lord Now Sends Us Forth</i>	ELW #538
<i>Rise Up, O Saints of God!</i>	ELW #669

## DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace, praising God and doing God's will.

C: Thanks be to God!



**For those congregations celebrating Holy Communion, you may wish to use the Thanksgiving at the Table III or IV found on p. 110-111 of the ELW; Thanksgiving at the Table VII, IX or X on p. 67–69; or the following one prepared for the 75th Anniversary of Canadian Lutheran World Relief:**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P: All creation praises you, O God.

Your glory is displayed from the ocean depths to the vast reaches of infinite space.

All living things make known your wondrous life-giving power.

There is nothing so small but that you care for it.

Truly you are to be given praise with thanksgiving.

Yet, to this day, your human creatures have shown disdain for your gift of life, marring the harmonious goodness of our planet home and the network of relationships you have established.

Nevertheless, your merciful forgiveness for wayward humanity, given through your Son Jesus who, on the cross, revealed to us the immensity of your life-giving love, is steadfast and prodigal.

P: We remember that in the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, gave it to his disciples and said, “This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, and gave it to his disciples, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: We give thanks for the life renewed in us through the death, resurrection and ascension of your Son.

We pray for the invigorating power of the Spirit that presses us onward in faith to be justice-makers and peace-bearers, that everyone may know the abundant life you desire for all creation

All praise be to you, gracious God, through Christ our Lord, by the power of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen

## LORD'S PRAYER

## DISTRIBUTION/HYMNS DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

*We Come to the Hungry Feast* ELW #479, WOV #766

*As the Grains of Wheat* ELW #465, WOV #705

*By Your Hand You Feed Your People* ELW #469

*Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether* ELW #470, WOV #703

*You Satisfy the Hungry Heart* ELW # 484, WOV #711

*Now We Remain* ELW #500

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Gracious God, may your gifts of bread and wine, the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in faith and keep us always in your grace. Let Christ's love grow in us that we might become love, serving your children worldwide with joy and generosity in his name through whom we pray.

C: Amen