Opening Worship, Thursday, 28 June

Liturgist: Ms Cheryl Philip, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

We open with the sound of a gong

Liberated,

for freedom, Christ has set us free.

Liberated by God

we stand firm.

Liberated by God's grace

we dare not submit again to the yoke of slavery.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

the seed of new life growing in us,

the love of God,

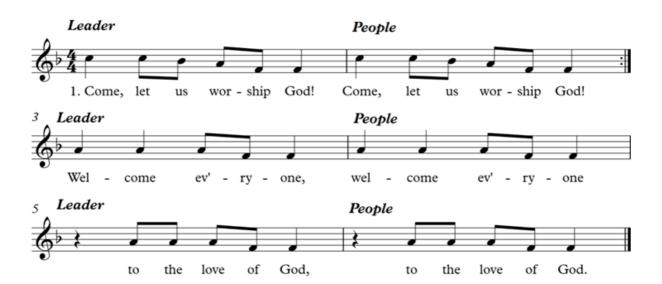
binding us together

and the communion of the Holy Spirit

sending us to proclaim liberty to the captives

is with us here.

We sing



- 2. Food for the hungry.
- 3. Rest for the weary.
- 4. Hope for the children.

Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received, being humble and gentle, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Let us pursue justice and peace, for mutual up-building.

Let us pray. Lord God, send your Holy Spirit upon us and this Council Meeting that we may discern your will, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Sung Response: Lord Have Mercy



Hymns of Praise #560, Melody by Mabel Wu, ©1994 Taosheng Publishing house Hong Kong

For peace as we meet together, for integrity of spirit and open hearts, for the compassion that leads to unity, let us pray to the Lord.

Sung Response: Lord Have Mercy

For the unity of your church, rejoicing in the varieties of the gifts of the spirit, manifested as it witnesses to the one body of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

Sung Response: Lord Have Mercy

For an end to war, and a common commitment to making peace, for a renewed respect for those who are different, for an end to hatred and just reconciliations that undercut strife, let us pray to the Lord.

Sung Response: Lord Have Mercy

For this holy gathering, and for all the songs and prayers offered here, let us pray to the Lord.

Sung Response: Lord Have Mercy

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

Gloria (in Spanish)



Prayer of the day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray:

Great Liberator, bearing fruit from every seed resisting wrong, standing firm for justice like a well-watered tree, branching out with leaves for the healing of the nations: grace us with the freedom to give ourselves away because of the nearness of your beloved, Jesus Christ, our judge and our redeemer, this day and always.

Amen

Scripture reading: Matthew 10:2-8

These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him. These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

Sermon

Rev. Yonas Yigezu Dibisi, Evangelical Lutheran Church Mekane Yesus, Ethiopia

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 intercession

God of light, of wind, of water, word, wine and bread, we are grateful that you reveal your abundant presence in the gifts of life giving community. From your communion of love, you made your creatures with senses, by which we receive your blessings. As creatures, some of our senses may be diminished or impaired, while some of our senses are clear and profound. But we give thanks that you are a God who wants to be known, and reveals your presence in ways that we can perceive. While we gather as a Communion of churches, inspire our senses to receive your gifts, and to share the gift in ways that others can receive.

God, we sense your peace and power In this place we meet to pray.

We are moved by gentle fragrance; We are blessed by healing touch. In this place we hear the gospel; We see life beyond compare.

Here we gather at your table, Tasting love in meals we share.

adapted from words by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette NETTLETON 8.7.8.7 D ("Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing")

We thank you for the gift of languages and hearing. By your creative Word you made. By your non-violent Word you redeemed. By your Spirit you inspire the gift of faith, and enlighten us through teaching, preaching, the sounds of creation and tender words spoken to one another and in prayer. We reject violent words that create fear, demean, exclude or abuse. We pray for non-violent communication, that we would speak words that do not come back empty, but create bonds of love and inclusion. Lord, speak to us that we may speak.

God, your world is filled with music
That can take our breath away —
Loud and bold, or therapeutic,
Some from near, some faraway.
Rock or rap or gospel chorus,
You can bless and use them all.
Music is a gift you give us;
Through it, may we hear your call.

We thank you for our sense of taste. You made the garden flourish so that all may be fed, and you feed all living things with good food. On our tongues we taste your abundant goodness. We recognize that there is enough, and yet a few of us take too much, while many taste the bitterness of hunger. We pray that we may learn to sow and harvest within the limits of our earth so that the face of the earth can be renewed and continue to provide for all creatures. We pray that we would only eat enough, and freely share the fruits of the earth so that all may be fed.

God of love, we taste your bounty

At the table you prepare.
Here we find there's food a-plenty
That we're called to eat and share.
There is bread and cup for feasting,
There is food for rich and poor;
May we taste your love and blessing
Now, and — yes — forevermore!

God of creation, incarnation and redemption, we praise you for the countries and nations that we lift before you this week in our ecumenical prayer cycle: Kenya and Tanzania. We thank you for the richness of these lands, the people, cultures, and vibrant faith. We are grateful for the gifts that they offer to our communion. And today, we thank you that we gather here as leaders from among our communion,

which you continually renew with your free Spirit. Help us to freely give to our world what you have first given us. Sharpen our senses so that we may discern your loving presence here among us, and freely share it with others in ways that they can know the joy of your life giving and reconciling peace.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of our Lord be with you all,

And also with you.

Having freely received Christ's peace, let us share a sign of Christ's Peace with one another.

Setting the Table (1st verse in Spanish)



- 2. Dios invita_a todos los pobres, a_esta mesa común por la fe, 2. God invites all the poor and hungry to the banquet of justice and good donde no_hay acaparadores, y_a nadie le falta_el conqué. where the harvest will not be hoarded so that no one will lack for food.
- 3. Dios nos manda_a hacer de_este mundo, una mesa donde_haya_igualdad, trabajando_y luchando juntos, compartiendo la propiedad.
- 3. May we build such a place among us where all people are equal in love. God has called us to work together and to share everything we have.

Meal

Rev. Karla Steilmann, Evangelical Church of the River Plate, Argentina

What a joy that as brothers and sisters in the faith we can come together in this beautiful and diverse community and celebrate together the sacrament of Holy Communion! What a blessing that we can meet around the Lord's table and commemorate that for himself was instituted! It is really gratifying to know that when we share bread and wine, something wonderful happens, because at the same time that we enter into communion with each other we also enter into communion with him! That's why brothers and sisters:

Let us lift up our hearts!

We lift them to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to our God!

It is right to give God our praise!

Preface

It is truly worthy, just and good that at all times we give you thanks, praise you and glorify you our God. So, preparing for this Communion, I invite you to have a moment of joint prayer.

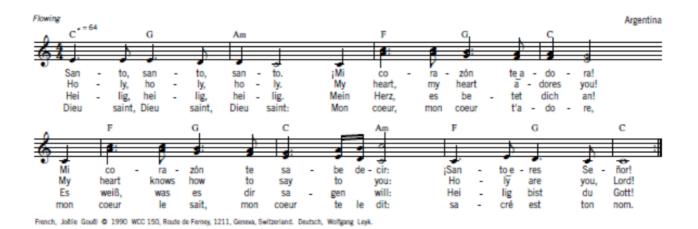
Let us pray: Merciful God, we come to you in prayer to say that we are eternally grateful to you because incarnate in the person of Jesus, you have left us a legacy of love, mercy and grace fulfilled in the sacrifice you carried out for us on the cross. We are grateful because you have taught us that by sharing with those in need, with the weakest and the excluded, we share with you and enter into communion with you.

We ask you Lord, to make yourself present among us as we celebrate and share in this sacrament. Lord, let this be a moment of deep communion in which we can feel among ourselves and in sharing wine, bread and faith we can enter into deep communion with you.

In this bread and this wine let us celebrate the memory that you have become flesh and come to this world to make yourself a reality in our realities, to accompany and guide us day by day.

Lord, you who are Holy, allow our minds and our hearts to open in order to praise you, and to be able to recognize you in our brothers and sisters. In you we place our faith, our hopes and our trust. And that's why we sing to you:

Sanctus (in Spanish)



Eucharistic Prayer

Together we remember what the Apostle Paul taught us through the 1 letter to the Corinthians saying:

That the Lord Jesus, on the night he was delivered, took bread; And when he had given thanks, he broke it (and shared it) and said: "Take, eat; this is my body that is delivered for you; do this in remembrance of me. " He also took the cup, after he had eaten, and said," This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this every time you drink it, in memory of me."

Lord's Prayer (in our many languages)

Our Father in heaven...

Agnus Dei

Oi, Jumalan Karitsa (in Finnish)



The Lord is the one who invites us and says: "Come to me all those who are tired from their labour and burdens and I will give them rest." Come, the table is served and it is the Lord who invites you to share it. Amen.

Communion

The body and blood of Christ is freely given!

All are invited to freely receive!

Come for all is ready.

You are invited to receive the bread and wine from the stations.

Songs during communion

Come, let us eat



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Eat this bread, drink this cup



Music J. Berthier © Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, 71250 Taizé-Communauté, France

Laudate Omnes Gentes



One Bread, One Body





Post-Communion Prayer

God of grace, in this meal you liberate us from all that holds us captive. Give us a foretaste of that community reconciled in you. Send us forth to make known your deeds Proclaiming in our lives your forgiveness, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Benediction

Praise be you, O God, you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans far away!

Amen!

Praise be you, O God, who blots out our transgressions, who answers prayer and to whom all peoples come!

Amen!

Praise be you, O God, your paths overflow with plenty and you cover all the earth in mercy.

Amen!

Holy God, Three in One, Father, Son and Holy Spirit (+) bless and preserve you, this day and all days, now and forever!

Amen!

We sing

Nun bitten Wir den Heiligen Geist (1st verse in German)



- 2. Du wertes Licht, gib uns deinen Schein, lehr uns Jesus Christ kennen allein, daß wir an ihm bleiben, dem treuen Heiland, der uns bracht hat zum rechten Vaterland. Kyrieleis.
- 3. Du süße Lieb, schenk uns deine Gunst, laß uns empfinden der Lieb Inbrunst. daß wir uns von Herzen einander lieben und im Frieden auf einem Sinn bleiben. Kyrieleis.
- 4. Du höchster Tröster in aller Not, hilf, daß wir nicht fürchten Schand noch Tod, daß in uns die Sinne nicht verzagen, wenn der Feind wird das Leben verklagen. Kyrieleis.

- 2. O sweetest Love, your grace on us bestow; set our hearts with sacred fire aglow. that with hearts united we love each other, every stranger, sister, and brother. Lord, have mercy!
- 3. Transcendent comfort in our every need, help us neither scorn nor death to heed. that we may not falter, nor courage fail us when the foe shall taunt and assail us. Lord, have mercy!
- 4. Shine in our hearts, O Spirit, precious light, that we Jesus Christ may know aright, clinging to our Savior, whose blood has bought us. who to our true homeland has brought us. Lord, have mercy!

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Sending

Go in peace to freely share this gift with all creation!

Thanks be to God!