Morning Prayer and Bible Study Saturday 15 June

This week in the ecumenical prayer cycle, we pray for Botswana and Zimbabwe...

Liturgist: Mr Lasse Schmidt-Klie Bible Study Leader: Ms Sally Azar

Opening

We open with song... "The light of Christ has come into the world"

We begin in the name of the Triune God. Amen. Let us sing Psalm 136.

Psalmody

Psalm 136 (Taiwan)



Cantor:

O give thanks to the Lord who is good.... O give thanks to the God of gods.... O give thanks to the Lord of lords... Who alone has wrought marvelous works... God in wisdom made the skies... Who fixed the earth firmly on the seas... It was God who made the great lights... The sun to rule in the day,... The moon and stars in the night... God let Israel inherit their land,.... On those servants their land God bestowed... For God's steadfast love endures forever. God remembered us in our distress,... It was God who saved us from our foes.... God gives food to all living things,... To the God of heaven give thanks....

Assembly:

For God's steadfast love endures forever. For God's steadfast love endures forever.



LUTHERAN WORLD **FEDERATION**

> A Communion of Churches

Word

A reading from the Gospel of John

(John 3:22-36a)

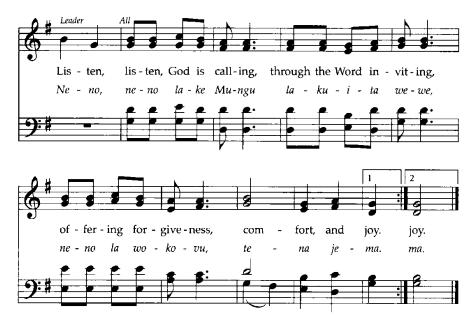
After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he spent some time there with them and baptized. John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim because water was abundant there; and people kept coming and were being baptized —John, of course, had not yet been thrown into prison. Now a discussion about purification arose between John's disciples and a Jew. They came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, the one who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you testified, here he is baptizing, and all are going to him." John answered, "No one can receive anything except what has been given from heaven. You yourselves are my witnesses that I said, 'I am not the Messiah, but I have been sent ahead of him.' He who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. For this reason my joy has been fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease." The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks about earthly things. The one who comes from heaven is above all. He testifies to what he has seen and heard, yet no one accepts his testimony. Whoever has accepted his testimony has certified this, that God is true. He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. The Father loves the Son and has placed all things in his hands. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life.

Word of God! Word of life! Thanks be to God!

Meditation: Bible study followed by discussion

Leader: Ms Sally Azar

We sing as we gather together for prayer...



Prayer

Intercessions

God, Creator, you embrace all humanity, all creation is in your tender care. Strip away all that impedes us from rejoicing in that splendid universal communion you have created. In your mercy,

Open our hearts and doors...

God, child with Mary and Joseph, you fled violence and found refuge in Egypt. God, our only refuge, protect those fleeing war and violence, especially the people of Yemen and other places we name now out loud or in our hearts... In your mercy,

Open our hearts and doors...

God, tumultuous voice resounding and silent whisper consoling, break down the walls we build out of fear, disrupt our comfort so that we see in peoples of all faiths, our neighbor to be welcomed and embraced. In your mercy,

Open our hearts and doors...

God, bend what is inflexible in us, refresh and enliven our witness to the gospel and your church that it not be bound by egoisms, materialism, or self-interest. In your mercy,

Open our hearts and doors...

God, you alone are our refuge and strength, grant us to live in solidarity, caring and supporting every neighbor in need. In your mercy,

Open our hears and doors...

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils and joys unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We pray to God, our light and salvation, in the words Jesus taught us, each in our own language.

Our Father in heaven...

We sing... "Mayenziwe"/ "Your Will Be Done" (South Africa)



Blessing

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement – Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer – grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 15:5-6) **Amen**.