

## Council Closing Prayer

*Liturgist: Rev. Dr Nestor Friedrich, President, Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil*

### Psalm 103

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all God's benefits**

who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

**who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**

who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

**The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.**

You made known your ways to Moses, your acts to the people of Israel.

**The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

You will not always accuse, nor will you keep your anger forever.

**You do not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is God's steadfast love toward those who fear God;

**as far as the east is from the west, so far God removes our transgressions from us.**

As a father has compassion for his children, so you have compassion for those who fear you, O Lord.

**Bless the Lord, O my soul.**

*We sing*

## Esimano

Leader Choir Leader Sakari Löytty

E - si - ma - no lya - Ka - lu - nga no - mbi - li ko - mba - nda ye - vi. E - si - ma - no mo - ko - mba - da  
Glo - ry to God in the high - est! Peace to all peo - ple in the world! Glo - ry to God in the high - est!

Choir All together

no - mbi - li ko - mba - nda ye - vi. Hal - le - lu - ya Hal - le - lu - ya no - mbi - li ko - mba - nda ye - vi.  
Peace to all peo - ple in the world! Hal - le - lu - ya, hal - le - lu - ya! Peace to all peo - ple in the world!

## Prayer

Gracious God,

you are before us, inviting us to the promise of your kingdom,

you are behind us, moving us to trust your promise.

We bless you for your Spirit in our midst.

We bless you for the experience of communion.

We bless you for the relationships and shared vision growing during these days.

For those preparing for this Council meeting,

**we give you thanks.**

For those carefully digesting what has been offered, reading, studying, thinking of alternatives,

**we give you thanks.**

For those engaging in conversation, listening, speaking and keeping the process moving,

**we give you thanks.**

For those now charged with responsibilities to bring these goals, plans and possibilities to fruition,

**we give you thanks.**

Encourage us, steadfast God,

so all our living becomes giving in the name of your Beloved, Jesus Christ;

and all our giving becomes a renewed and joyous living,

through the gift of Christ's liberating grace

who is with us, on the move towards your bright horizon.

**Amen.**

## **Scripture reading: Mark 4:30-33**

He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it.

## **Response to the Word**

*Invitation to reflect: Where during the last days did you see, feel, hear God's promise?*

*Invitation to share: Tell about a moment of joy and encouragement that you experienced during this meeting to a person next to you.*

## **Intercessions**

Archbishop Musa Panti Filibus, LWF President

## **Lord's Prayer (in our many languages)**

### **Sign of peace freely given**

Now we will share a sign of God's peace which has been freely given. We will exchange our Lund crosses with those around us, giving that which was given to us, with Christ's words, "*Peace I give to you*" in your own language.

*We sing*

## Chon Rizad (1<sup>st</sup> time in Farsi)

Roobeh Najarnejad: Farsi

Chon ri - zad ba - ra - né roo - hé to out bar ka - vi - ré 'al - bam bi - ya - ba -  
As the rain of your Spir - it pours out ov - er my de - sert heart, gar - dens spring

nha boo - stan mi - gar - dan ba lam - sé roo - hat Chon ri - zad ba - ra -  
from the wil - der - ness and flowers bloom with your touch. As the rain of your

né roo - hé to out bar ka - vi - ré 'al - bam heart, bi - ya - ba - nha boo -  
Spir - it pours out ov - er my de - sert heart, gar - dens spring from the

stan mi - gar - dan ba lam - sé roo - hat sha - fa - hi ta - zeh bak - shad  
wil - der - ness and flowers bloom with your touch. A sur - prise, heal - ing comes near.

jo - nam ra sier gar - da - nad. so - roo - di ta - zeh na - had bar lab - hoy -  
I'm re - newed, ful - ly a - live. A new song flows from my lips, and its sound

yé tar - sa - nam fear. a - za - dim ba lam - sé ou pi - roo - zim dar na - mé ou  
count - ers my With his touch, I be - come free. My suc - cess found in his name,

bi - ya - banan boo - stan sha - vad boo - stan - ha jan - gle sha - vad  
all the dry plac - es made green, and the green burst - ing with flowers.

Permission sought. English paraphrase by Terry MacArthur based on a translation by Neda Gehl.

## Affirmation

The love of God in Christ Jesus, the anchor which holds firm,  
**grace,**

A vision expanded beyond the possibilities offered by our times,  
**grace,**

The encouragement of the Scriptures, the ministry of consolation,  
**grace,**

The gift of community, accountable to God and to one another,  
**grace,**

The gospel at the core of our life together,  
**grace,**

The message of the cross healing our brokenness,  
**grace,**

The celebration of our unity in Christ with all the diversity in which Christ is embodied in  
us,

**grace,**

The freedom that grows from love, respecting each other, bearing with each other,

**grace,**

The endowment of word and sacrament,

**grace.**

**Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.**

## **Sending**

May the God of creation, incarnation and redemption,  
**sharpen our senses**

so that we may continue to discern God's loving presence,  
**freely receive**

the blessings of life,  
**and freely share**

the joy of God's reconciling love.  
**Thanks be to God!**