

# "Bear Burdens"

Worship for the 2025 Southeast Michigan  
Synod Assembly

May 16 & 17, 2025

Celebration Lutheran Church, Westland, MI



*A note about worship for the 2025 Southeast Michigan Synod Assembly:*

*Worship for the 2025 Southeast Michigan Synod Assembly has been planned around the idea that all the work we do during the Assembly is an act of worshiping God. In planning worship, we sought out a format similar to what is celebrated as part of the Great Three Days (Triduum) of Easter. In the historical tradition, worship for the Great Three Days is one service that begins on Maundy Thursday and doesn't end until the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday. In our context, the three moments we pause for acts of formal worship are meant to be one worship service spread out over our time together, beginning Friday evening and ending Saturday evening.*

*From a practical perspective, the most jarring thing you may experience is that there will be no blessing or dismissal at the end of Friday's Eucharist worship or at the end of Saturday's Morning Prayer service. There will also be no call to worship for Saturday's Service of the Word. This is intentional, as it draws all the worship services together as one.*

*Finally, as we are moving into a season where our Licensed Lay Ministry program is being given new life, we have chosen to lift up the gifts our Licensed Lay Ministers in worship. As such, Licensed Lay Minister Paul Archer has been invited to preach for us on Friday evening and Licensed Lay Minister Robin McCants will lead us in a Service of the Word on Saturday afternoon. We chose to include the Service of the Word to provide the assembly with an experience of a worship service that does not require the leadership of an ordained pastor.*

## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
creator of the stars of night,  
companion at the evening table,  
breath over the deep waters.

**Amen.**

Holy and gracious God,  
**we confess that we have sinned against you this day.**  
**Some of our sin we know—**  
**the thoughts and words and deeds**  
**of which we are ashamed—**  
**but some is known only to you.**  
**In the name of Jesus Christ we ask forgiveness.**  
**Deliver and restore us,**  
**that we may rest in peace. Amen.**

By the mercy of God  
we are united with Jesus Christ,  
in whom we are forgiven.  
We rest now in the peace of Christ  
and rise in the morning to serve. **Amen.**

### GATHERING SONG

### GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray, O Lord God, your mercy delights us, and the world longs for your loving care.  
Hear the cries of everyone in need, and turn our hearts to love our neighbors with the love  
of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### **FIRST READING**

**Isaiah 58:1-12**

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **SECOND READING**

**Galatians 6:1-10**

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL**

**Luke 10:25-37**

The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the 10<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*After the reading:*

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **SERMON**

*The assembly is seated.*

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.*

### **NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,**

of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

#### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

God of grace,  
receive our prayer.

#### **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
And also with you.

#### **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

#### **OFFERING**

*An offering is gathered for the our siblings in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan and the Holy Land.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places...

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

### **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

As the shadows lengthen,

we bless you, sheltering God...

...Stay with us, for it is evening.

**Stay with us, for it is evening.**

Through the night...

...Stay with us, for it is evening.

**Stay with us, for it is evening.**

In the night in which he was betrayed...

...Our hearts burn within us

as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Like a mother hen...

...Into our deepest night, come, Lord Jesus.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come, Holy Spirit...

...in rest for the weary, come, Holy Spirit.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

To you, O God...

...this night unto the coming dawn, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

### **COMMUNION SONGS**

### **BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

### **SONG**

## MORNING PRAYER

SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2025

9:30am

### DIALOGUE AND DOXOLOGY

*The assembly stands.*

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, O God,  
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

**Praise to the blest and holy Trinity, one God,  
who gives us life, salvation, and resurrection. Alleluia.**

### PSALMODY

*The Psalm is spoken responsively. The bolded verses are spoken by those on the pulpit side. The unbolded verses are spoken by those on the side of the Baptismal Font*

Leader: Alleluia. Christ is risen indeed.

**All: Oh, come, let us worship and praise.**

Come, let us sing to the Lord:

let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

**Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving  
and raise a loud shout to the Lord with psalms.**

For you, Lord, are a great God,  
and a great ruler above all gods.

**In your hand are the caverns of the earth;  
the heights of the hills are also yours.**

The sea is yours, for you made it;  
and your hands have molded the dry land.

**Come, let us worship and bow down;  
let us kneel before the Lord our maker.**

For the Lord is our God,  
and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.

**All: Come, let us sing to the Lord: let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.**

Leader: Alleluia. Christ is risen indeed.

**All: Oh, come, let us worship and praise.**

*The assembly is seated.*



## THE READING

Galatians 6:1-10

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God

## DIALOGUE

Leader: You have been born anew

**All: through the living and abiding word of God.**

## GOSPEL CANTICLE

*The Gospel Canticle is spoken responsively. The bold verses are spoken by all, the unbolded verses are spoken by the leader.*

In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us.  
Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,  
you have come to your people and set them free.

**You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,  
born of the house of your servant David.**

Through your holy prophets,  
you promised of old to save us from our enemies,  
from the hands of all who hate us,  
to show mercy to our forebears,  
and to remember your holy covenant.

**This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
free to worship you without fear,  
holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,  
to give God's people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of their sins.

**In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

## **PRAYERS**

*The assembly kneels or stands.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

*A brief silence for prayer follows each petition.*

Mighty God of mercy, we thank you for the resurrection dawn, bringing the glory of our risen Lord who makes every day new.

Especially we thank you—

for the sustaining goodness of your creation . . .

for the new creation in Christ and all gifts of healing and forgiveness . . .

for the gifts of relationship with others . . .

for the communion of faith in your church . . .

Merciful God of might, renew this weary world, heal the hurts of all your children, and bring about your peace for all in Christ Jesus, the living Lord.

Especially we pray—

for those who govern nations of the world . . .

for the people in countries ravaged by strife or warfare . . .

for all who work for peace and international harmony . . .

for all who strive to save the earth from carelessness and destruction . . .

for the church of Jesus Christ in every land . . .

We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have protected us through the night from all harm and danger. We ask that you would also protect us today from sin and all evil, so that our life and actions may please you. Into your hands we commend ourselves: our bodies, our souls, and all that is ours. Let your holy angels be with us, so that the wicked foe may have no power over us. **Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## **CLOSING WORSHIP**

**“BRING HOPE”**

**SATURDAY, MAY 27, 2025**

**ELW Service of the Word**

## **GATHERING**

### **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **WORD**

### **BLESSING OF LECTORS**

Christ is risen! The word of God is living and active, sharper than a two-edged sword. As the scriptures are read, may they pierce our souls and judge the thoughts and the intentions of our hearts. **Amen**

### **FIRST READING: Acts 11:1-18**

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 148**

**Spoken Responsively**

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
praise him in the heights.

<sup>2</sup> **Praise him, all you angels of his;**  
**praise him, all his host.**

<sup>3</sup> Praise him, sun and moon;

praise him, all you shining stars.

<sup>4</sup> **Praise him, heaven of heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD;  
for he commanded, and they were created.

<sup>6</sup> **He made them stand fast forever and ever;  
he gave them a law which shall not pass away.**

<sup>7</sup> Praise the LORD from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps;

<sup>8</sup> **fire and hail, snow and fog,  
tempestuous wind, doing his will;**

<sup>9</sup> mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars;

<sup>10</sup> **wild beasts and all cattle,  
creeping things and winged birds;**

<sup>11</sup> kings of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the world;

<sup>12</sup> **young men and maidens,  
old and young together.**

<sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
for his name only is exalted, his splendor is over earth and heaven.

<sup>14</sup> **He has raised up strength for his people and praise for all his loyal servants,  
the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Hallelujah!**

## **SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1-6**

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL: John 13:31-35**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 13th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

### THE PRAYERS

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great**

### PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### OFFERING

*An offering is gathered for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.*

### THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## **SENDING**

### **CLOSING OF THE ASSEMBLY**

Jesus said, You will be my witnesses  
**to the ends of the earth.**  
I chose you and appointed you  
**to bear fruit that will last.**  
Remember, I will be with you always,  
**to the end of time.**  
The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Let us pray.

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your most gracious favor,  
and extend to us your continual help;  
that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you,  
we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

I declare this assembly closed in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

**CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE**

**BENEDICTION**

**SENDING HYMN**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Go tell what God has done.

**Thanks be to God.**

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