

Light the Way for Justice, Light the Way for Love

A Thankoffering Service for Women of the ELCA 2020–2021

GATHERING

Entrance Song

Christ, Be Our Light (*ELW* 715)

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gracious gift of baptism.

Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things.
Your voice thundered over the waters at creation.
You water the mountains and send springs
into the valleys
to refresh and satisfy all living things.

Through the waters of the flood
you carried those in the ark to safety.
Through the sea you led your people Israel
from slavery to freedom.

In the wilderness you nourished them
with water from the rock,
and you brought them across the river Jordan
to the promised land.

By the baptism of his death and resurrection,
your Son Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom.
The floods shall not overwhelm us,
and the deep shall not swallow us up,
for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise.
He sends us to make disciples,
baptizing in the name of the Father,
and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit;
wash away sin in this cleansing water;
clothe the baptized with Christ;
and claim your daughters and sons,
no longer slave and free,
no longer male and female,
but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Sprinkling Song

Heaven Is Singing for Joy/*El cielo canta alegría* (*ELW* 664)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of justice and love, you
light our way through life with
the words of your Son. Give us
the light we need,
and awaken us to the needs of others,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Looking for an alternative to a full worship service? Consider using a Thankoffering devotion during your circle meeting or other gathering where you collect the Thankoffering. Include prayers from this service or use "All About Thankofferings," a free online resource about the history of Thankofferings.

*WORD

First Reading

Micah 6:1-8

The offering of justice, kindness, humility

Psalm

Psalm 15

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Christ crucified, the wisdom and power of God

Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12

The teaching of Christ: Beatitudes

Hymn of the Day

When the Poor Ones/Cuando el pobre (ELW 725)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Prayers are crafted locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted as appropriate.

Called together in the Spirit's embrace, let us pray for the renewal of the church, for those in need, and for all of God's creation.

We pray, holy God, for the unity of the church universal: Draw your people together into one great company of disciples, together following our teacher Jesus Christ to carry out his holy mission, together sharing the good news of your justice and love wherever we are sent.

Christ, be our light.

(sing) Shine in your church gathered today.

We pray, omnipotent God, for the well-being of creation: We give you thanks for transforming the chaotic waters of creation into the saving waters that nourish and sustain all the earth. Renew us every day by your water and your word.

Christ, be our light.

(sing) Shine in your church gathered today.

We pray, righteous God, for peace and justice in the world: Lead the nations of the world away from the stony wilderness of sin, and toward the holy light of love, justice, and peace.

Christ, be our light.

(sing) Shine in your church gathered today.

We pray, compassionate God, for all in need: For those who hunger and thirst for peace, for belonging, for love, for righteousness, shine your light of justice. For those who mourn or suffer in any way, shine your light of comfort.

Christ, be our light.

(sing) Shine in your church gathered today.

We pray, faithful God, for the renewal of all life: Refresh us with your living water and anoint us with your Holy Spirit. Embolden us with your promise and your presence.

Christ, be our light.

(sing) Shine in your church gathered today.

Receive our thanksgiving, eternal God, for all who have died in the faith. May we know the fullness of the new life that you prepare for us in your kingdom.

Christ, be our light.

(sing) Shine in your church gathered today.

All these things, and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your care through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

THANKOFFERING

You may introduce the offering with these words: As we make our Thankofferings today, we share in a tradition that goes back to the 1800s or even earlier. Then, when it seemed that there was not enough money to carry out the work of the church, the women would act together as “cent” or “mite” societies. Each woman would set aside offerings at home throughout the year in thanksgiving for blessings received. And on occasion, the women would come together as we do today, joining their offerings together to support ministry of many kinds.

When Women of the ELCA was formed in 1987, we committed to continue this tradition of giving in gratitude for blessings. Each year, in thousands of congregations, Thankofferings are given to support the life-changing ministries of Women of the ELCA. Together, we do more than we could ever do apart. In gratitude for all God has given to us, and with hope for all that is to come, let us now give our thankoffering.

Offering Song

To God Our Thanks We Give/Reamo leboga (ELW 682)

OFFERING PRAYER

God of grace, you have showered us with gifts of grace and abundance, entrusting to us the ministries of Women of the ELCA. Help us to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world. Accept these gifts and our prayer that, nurtured by your Word, filled with your Spirit, and fed at your table, we may share with gladness all that you have shared with us, until all creation is satisfied.
Amen.

**GREAT THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**COMMUNION

Communion Songs

Let Justice Flow like Streams (ELW 717)

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love (ELW 708)

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, gracious God, for loving all your family with a mother's care, and feeding us in a way our hearts and souls can understand, with the saving body and blood of Jesus Christ. Renew and enliven us by your presence in this meal, that we may be your presence in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

Our God calls us to do justice. May you find strength in God's grace.

Amen.

Christ Jesus calls us to love kindness. May you find comfort in Christ's gentleness.

Amen.

The Holy Spirit calls us to walk humbly with our triune God. May you always find joy in God's love and justice.

Amen.

Holy Trinity + One God, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Song

To Be Your Presence (ELW 546)

Rejoice and be glad in the light of God's love!
Let us go forth in peace to share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

* Scripture readings may be selected from the Revised Common Lectionary for the day of the Thankoffering service.

** Omit if Thankoffering service does not include communion.