

OPENING OF THE ASSEMBLY

One: As in one body we have many members,

All: so we, who are many, are one body in Christ.

One: Where two or three are gathered in my name, says the Lord,

All: I am there among them.

One: Live a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called,
with all humility and gentleness,
making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

All: Let us pursue what makes for justice and peace, and for mutual upbuilding.

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us pray.

O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people
by sending into us your Holy Spirit.

Direct us by the light of that Spirit,

that we may have a right judgment in all things

and rejoice at all times in your peace,

through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

One: I declare this assembly to be in session

in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

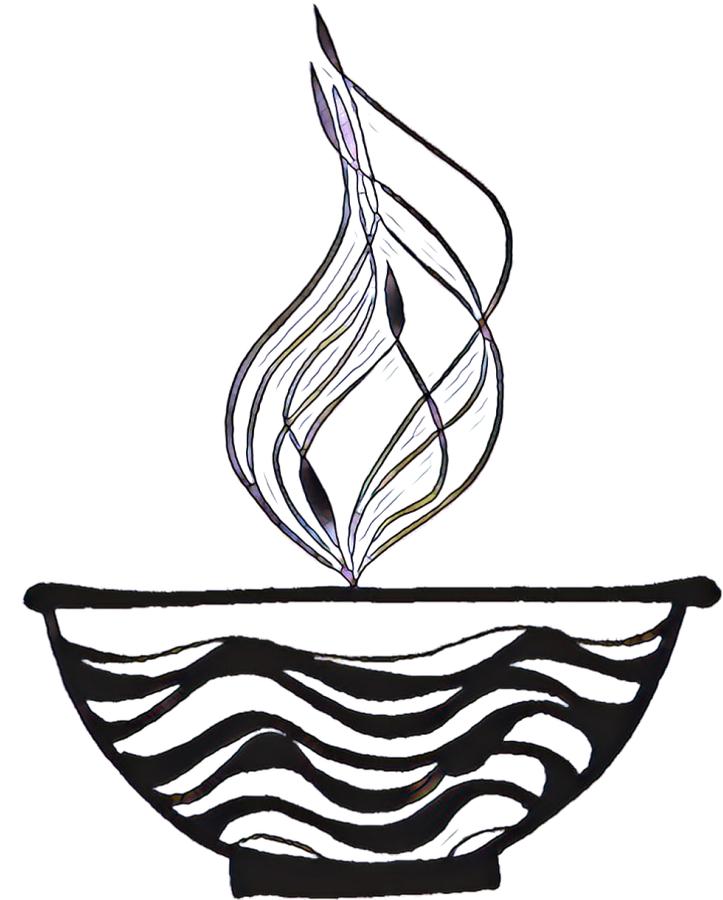
Liturgists: Bishop Amy Odgren - NEMN Synod
Pastor Luke Lekander - Our Savior's, Outing
Pastor Sierra Westerman - Immanuel, Brunswick

Musicians: Sing to the Lord a New Song - Paul Jacobson
(original composition on American flute)
Many and Great, O God
Immanuel, Brunswick
Katie Nelson, Joni Nelson
Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters
Lutheran Church of the Cross, Nisswa Blue Grass Band
Cathy Taylor, Jim Natwick, Erica Bjelland,
Kevin Lattu, Kris Smith, Chris Fogderud

Content Contributors: Waves on Mille Lacs
Pastor James Muske, Bethesda, Malmo

LOVE IGNITES US! NEMN SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2021

Opening Worship
April 30, 2021



NORTHEASTERN MINNESOTA SYNOD

1105 E. Superior Street, Upper Suite
Duluth, Minnesota 55802
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*Take a moment to be centered in the presence of God.
Fill a bowl with water and place it before you.
Take a few deep breaths in and out. Let us prepare our hearts to worship God.*

INVOCATION: *make the sign of the cross*

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

As we worship and work together throughout this Assembly, we acknowledge that we live, work and worship on the traditional lands of the Indigenous People of Turtle Island (North America), the first Americans. Northeastern Minnesota is the traditional homeland of the Dakota (Sioux) and Ojibwe (Chippewa) Nations whose people knew and know our communities by other names and who have lived, worked, and worshipped here for longer than those of us whose ancestors journeyed across oceans from other lands. We honor that we are able to build communities upon these lands that reflect the cultures and values of our immigrant ancestors because the Ojibwe Nation, represented by the Fond Du Lac, Grand Portage, Mille Lacs, Bois Forte/Nett Lake and Leech Lake Bands, gave us permission to do so through a series of treaties.

Today these tribal lands are a sovereign, federally recognized part of where we serve Jesus, as members of the Northeastern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

In affirming this land as the shared home of us all, we recognize the legacies of violence and cultural genocide that occurred alongside the displacement of Indigenous peoples, as well as the responsibility we all share in the truth-telling process so that the journey towards community building may bring healing, together.

THANKSGIVING FOR HOLY WATERS

As we remain spread out across the Synod this year, we are especially aware of the vastness of the land we call our home. As we place bowls of water before us, filled from underground wells, rivers and lakes, stretching from the Boundary Waters to the Rum River, Lake Superior to Leech Lake, the Ojibwe People, on whose ancestral lands we gather, teach us that water moves through all spaces, connecting all of creation, carrying the memory of this land. And that water is that thin space where the physical and the spiritual come together and touch. In the same way, as we are gathered in spirit, though physically distant, we believe that we are fully connected by water. Connected to one another – to all people in all places in all times, by holy water, blessed from the beginning of all creation. Let us give thanks.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
In the Jordan river which flows together with all waters of the earth,
your Son was baptized and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

Through water you brought forth the Ojibwe people
and delivered them into this land.
By water you fed them with manoomin, wild rice, the good food.
By water you've sustained all creation.

It is through water and by your Word
that you proclaim all people beloved.
Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, you knit us together
into one human family and connect us to your whole creation.

We praise you for the gift of water that creates life.
We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life.
We praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

So shower us with your Spirit,
pour your holy waters into our lives, communities and lands,
and renew us with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

HYMN: ELW #837 - *Many and Great, O God*
(Dakota Tune - *Wakantanka taku nitawa*)

PASTORAL PRAYER

HYMN: ELW #445 - *Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters*

CHARGE: 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

¹⁴For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.