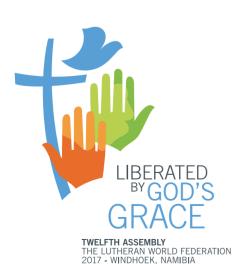


BIBLE STUDIES HYMNS

LWF Twelfth Assembly, Windhoek, Namibia, 10–16 May 2017

Worship, Bible Studies and Hymns



$\ensuremath{\text{@}}$ The Lutheran World Federation, 2017

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→ Hymns are indicated in this format

> Instructions are indicated in this format

This type is used for one voice

Bold and italics means the congregation responds together

Gathered under the tree

Worship at the Twelfth Assembly

During the Assembly, we gather daily for worship. We gather under the tree, as is customary in much of Namibia, to tell the stories of our faith. Trees are God's gift to us, at the heart of creation. The tree is the cross upon which hung the Savior of the world. The cross is also the tree of life. The tree in the worship tent provides a focal point for the liturgy. The altar table, font and pulpit are also made of wood from fallen trees, collected in the forests of Namibia.

The tree is nurtured as we read in Psalm 1 by streams of living waters, in God's Word. God speaks to Moses at the burning bush. Zacchaeus climbs a tree to see Jesus and receives a new vision, which includes an invitation to share a meal. The Reformation is like a tree spreading the branches of the gospel – liberated by grace – throughout world. At the Reformation Commemoration we hear testimonies of faith from around the world. As we prepare to leave for our homes, we hear again about the tree in Revelation. The tree of life produces twelve different fruits to feed all the nations and its leaves are for the healing of the nations.

At the closing worship, we hear John 15. Jesus is the vine, we are the branches and our good works the fruit. Without Jesus, we can do nothing.

Trees bear fruit. The Makalani nut is native to Namibia. At the opening worship, we share a necklace of Makalani nuts. We are called from all corners of the globe and made into one people in baptism. Through baptism, God has liberated us from all forms of bondage and oppression. The promise of baptism declares a new creation: salvation is God's gift, it is not for sale. Human beings are God's creation and given to care for one another. They are not for sale. Creation is God's handiwork given to human beings to tend and protect, knowing that we are all part of one universal communion. The Makalani nut is a reminder of our being named and loved

by God. It will accompany us as we progress through the various liturgies. It remains an open image to which Assembly participants are invited to bring more meaning as we go and as we interact with different biblical texts.

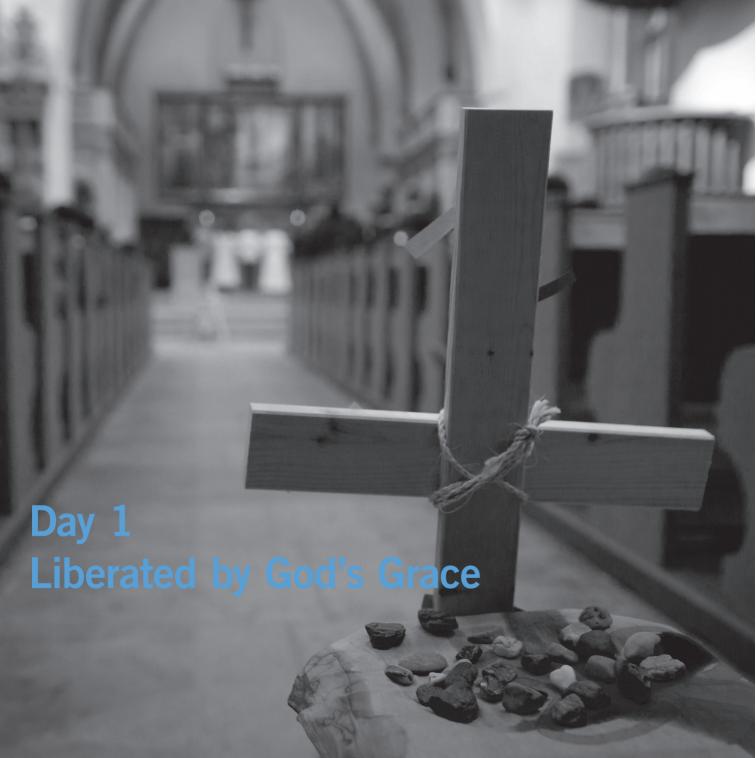
At the tree, we see Jesus, we hear Jesus, we encounter Jesus. At the tree we are called into communion with Jesus. Jesus shares a meal with us. In Holy Communion, we are called to a community, bearing each other's burden (Gal 6:2). We share the Makalani nuts among us, using them to form a communal bond as we pray. Peoples who have remained close to the earth (for example, the First Nations in North America or the Masaai) remind us that community is one with creation. The waters of our baptism, the river of life, flows among us all. Our nuts and trees clap together in praise. We entrust all people and creation to God in the evening with our candles in the orange sands of Namibia as we listen to the Namibian creation story.

In the closing worship, after being fed, we are sent from the Eucharistic Table to the four corners of the globe to engage the on-going Reformation.

Faith takes the doer and makes him into a tree, and his deeds become fruit. First there must be a tree, then the fruit. For apples do not make a tree, but a tree makes apples. So faith first makes the person, who afterwards performs works.

(Martin Luther, commentary on Galatians 3:10)

Prof. Dr Dirk Lange, Assembly Worship Coordinator



Opening Worship

GATHERING

Musical Preparation

> Stand

Greeting

Liberated,

for freedom, Christ has set us free.

Liberated by God we stand firm

Liberated by God's grace

we dare not submit again to the yoke of slavery.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the seed of new life growing in us,

the love of God,

binding us together

and the communion of the Holy Spirit sending us to proclaim liberty to the captives

is with us here.

→ Hymn: Hole inene ya-Kalunga (hymn 1)

Thanksgiving for Baptism and Welcome

Martin Junge, General Secretary, Lutheran World Federation

From the east and the west, from the south and the north, Christ assembles us, forgiven, freed, washed, renewed.

I invite all those from the Latin American/Caribbean region to stand and be welcomed.

▶ The representative from the Latin American/Caribbean region goes to the font and pours the water into the font during the prayer.

The Lord be with you, and also with you.

Let us pray:

Gracious God

in the beginning your Spirit breathed over the waters.

From the sea you created cells, plants, creatures.

In the warm waters of the womb,

you already knew our inward parts,

and formed us in your image.

We thank you for life.

And let the people say: Amen!

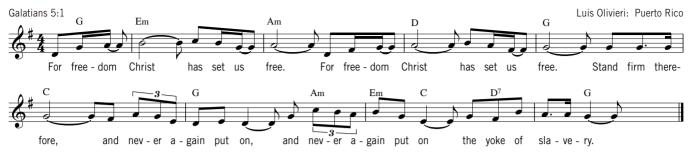
Amen!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon you.

→ Sung Response: For freedom Christ has set us free (see next page)

I invite all those from the North American region to stand and be welcomed.

The representative from the North American region goes to the font and pours the water into the font during the prayer.



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Let us pray:

God of the oppressed,

through the waters of the sea your people walked away from slavery on dry land.

With Miriam they rejoiced in their liberty.

With the waters of baptism you break the chains of sin and death.

We thank you for setting us free.

And let the people say: Amen!

Amen!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon you.

→ Sung Response: For freedom Christ has set us free

I invite all those from the three European regions, from Central Western and Central Eastern Europe and from the Nordic countries to stand and be welcomed.

▶ The representative from one of the regions goes to the font and pours the water into the font during the prayer.

Let us pray:

God of steadfast love, in the waters of baptism you claimed Jesus as your beloved

and sent your spirit upon him in the form of a dove.

Through these same waters you name us as your daughters

and sons

and clothe us in righteousness.

We thank you for calling us your own.

And let the people say: Amen!

Amen!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon you.

→ Sung Response: For freedom Christ has set us free

I invite all those from the Asia region to stand and be welcomed.

The representative from the Asia region goes to the font and pours the water into the font during the prayer.

Let us pray:

Saving God, in a storm you rescued St. Paul and everyone else on the ship.

We praise you that in the waters of baptism, no one is left behind.

Coming up from these waters we are neither male nor female, neither boss nor worker.

neither powerful, nor impoverished,

no longer slaves but all free in the bonds of Christ.

Thank you that your love washes all impartially.

And let the people say: Amen!

Amen!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon you.

→ Sung Response: For freedom Christ has set us free

I invite all those from the Africa region to stand and be welcomed.

The representative from the Africa region goes to the font and pours the water into the font during the prayer.

Let us pray:

God of hope,

you promise streams in the wilderness,

so the desert might bloom

and your people follow your path towards home.

You offer living water so that we need not thirst again.

Rain on us your blessings so your spirit fills us with joy, compassion, justice.

We thank you for the springs of life eternal.

And let the people say: Amen!

Amen!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon you.

→ Sung Response: For freedom Christ has set us free

Where two or three are gathered together in my name, *there am I in the midst of them.*

I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received, being humble and gentle, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Let us pursue justice and peace, for mutual up-building.

Let us pray. Lord God, send your Holy Spirit upon us and this Assembly that we may discern your will, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

I declare this convention to be in session in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

→ Sung Response: Lord Have Mercy

For peace as we meet together, for integrity of spirit and open hearts, for the compassion that leads to unity, let us pray to the Lord.

→ Sung Response: Lord Have Mercy

For the unity of your church, rejoicing in the varieties of the gifts of the spirit, manifested as it witnesses to the one body of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.



→ Sung Response: Lord Have Mercy

For an end to war, and a common commitment to making peace,

for a renewed respect for those who are different, for an end to hatred and just reconciliations that undercut strife, let us pray to the Lord.

→ Sung Response

For this tent of meeting, and for all the songs and prayers offered here, let us pray to the Lord.

→ Sung Response

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

→ Gloria: Esimano (hymn 2)

Prayer of the day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray:

Great Liberator,

bearing fruit from every seed resisting wrong, standing firm for justice like a well-watered tree, branching out with leaves for the healing of the nations: grace us with the freedom to give ourselves away because of the nearness of your beloved, Jesus Christ, our judge and our redeemer,

this day and always.

Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me: he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed. to bind up the brokenhearted. to proclaim liberty to the captives. and release to the prisoners: to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God: to comfort all who mourn: to provide for those who mourn in Zion to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning. the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations: they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

Word of God! Word of Life! **Thanks be to God**.

Psalm 1:1-6

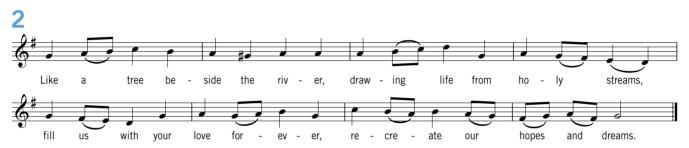
Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night.

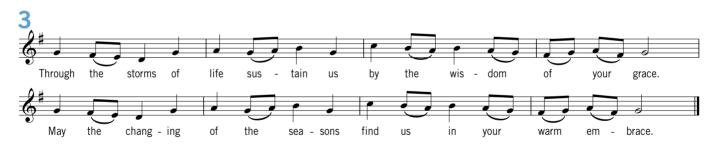
→ Sung Response: Like a tree beside the waters (1)

1



English © 1994 James F. D. Martin





They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season,

and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

→ Sung Response: Like a tree beside the river (2)

The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

- → Sung Response: Through the storms of life (3)
- → Haleluya (hymn 3)

Gospel: Mark 4:30-32

The Holy Gospel according to Mark *Glory to you, O Lord.*

Jesus 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.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

→ Haleluya (hymn 3)

Sermon

→ Hymn of the Day: Que esta iglesia se un árbol (hymn 5)

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and for all of God's creation.

God, caring for the poor and oppressed,

how can we speak of peace without justice?

What boldness might we discover, if we were less afraid?

What spirit might shine in us, if your abundant love

overflowed through us?

Upend our world, Christ Jesus, with your words of woe to the rich and your blessing of the meek.

Sow the seeds of a new righteousness, an economy that looks to the least.

Hear us. O God.

→ Sung Response: Oh Lord, Oh Lord, your mercy is great

God of trees and rain.

how can the trees bear fruit when the rains don't come? How can the seed come to harvest when floods wash away the farmer's labor?

How can roots grow deep when the clouds are uncertain? Change us, God, so we do not destroy what you have made for us. Hear us, O God.

→ Sung Response: Oh Lord, Oh Lord, your mercy is great

God, binding up the broken hearted,

How can the lonely find a place if the welcoming arms are not visible?

Grant healing, saving God, so the blind blossom, the lame rejoice with hearts able to leap and sing, the struggling discover strong roots, surrounded by your faithful people.

Hear us, O God.

→ Sung Response: Oh Lord, Oh Lord, your mercy is great



> Other prayers concerning events of the day.

Hear us, O God.

→ Sung Response: Oh Lord, Oh Lord, your mercy is great

Bless this Twelfth Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation. Put your spirit on each and everyone here, so we do your will: our songs of praise penetrating our policies,

our prayers of lament growing into new initiatives of caring, our affirmations of faith like a well-watered tree full of steadfast, contagious love.

We thank you for the churches of Namibia, for their generosity, their hospitality, their commitment to the Gospel. Hear us, O God.

→ Sung Response: Oh Lord, Oh Lord, your mercy is great

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

The Peace

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

- > We share signs of peace
- → Song: Liberated by God's grace (hymn 4)

The Offering

→ We are collecting for the LWF Endowment Fund, which provides for the long-term future of the LWF.

MEAL

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.

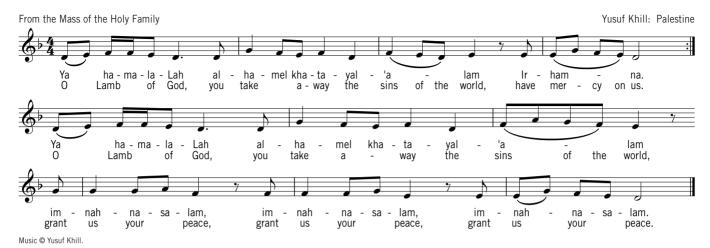
It is right to give God thanks and praise

Preface

In the beginning, you let loose a word, and behold, there was light.

You freely chose to form dust into your image, breathing into it your spirit, and behold, women and men rose up to sing your praise. Out of slavery you brought your people through the sea and behold, Miriam danced your liberty.

When the time was at hand, you sent your Beloved, and behold, the grace and truth of your presence living with us. We thank you for all those who have served you within the communion of the Lutheran World Federation and who now rest in your glory.



Surrounded by those who have planted the seed of faith within us,

and have encouraged us to grow, we join with Christians of every time and place in the unending hymn to your holy name.

→ Sanctus: Omuyapuki Kalunga (hymn 6)

Eucharistic Prayer

Blessed is the one who comes in your name,

freeing all who would follow,

preaching freedom so the poor and oppressed could hear. Your Spirit was upon him.

His teachings flourished like a tree of life to shelter all who would nest in its shade.

He gave his life as a servant, dying to destroy death, raised up that we might be liberated by grace.

Words of Institution

Remembering

Remembering his death, we cry out Amen.

Amen.

Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen.

Amen.

Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen.

Amen.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, and make here the body of Christ.

Breathe onto this food, that it bring us your life.

Spirit, come from the four winds, and enliven this Twelfth LWF Assembly.

Preserve what is faithful; reform what we treasure; create in us what is vital and new.

Glory and praise, blessing and worship, honor and power and might be to you, our God,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

forever and ever.

Amen.

- → Lord's Prayer (in our many languages)
- → Agnus Dei: Ya hamalaLah

Communion

For communion you are invited to go to the station nearest you. After receiving, a Namibian will give you a necklace with a carved Makalani nut with the words 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon you', in their first language. While coming, we sing.

Songs during communion:

- → Schmücke dich (hymn 9)
- → Come let us eat (hymn 7)
- → Eat this bread (hymn 8)
- → Sina meid oled valinud (hymn 10)
- → Mhepo iyapuki (hymn 11)

Post-Communion Prayer

God of grace,

in this meal you liberated us from all that holds us captive.

Give us a foretaste of that community reconciled in you.

Send us forth to make known your deeds

Proclaiming in our lives your forgiveness,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Midday Prayer

(in plenary)

OPENING

Drum beat or other musical instrument calling to worship

WORD

Galatians 5:1 (in English and 4 different languages every time)

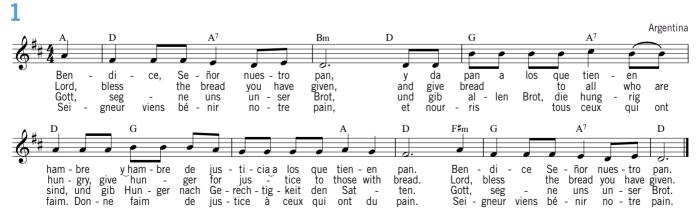
▶ Brief Silence (1-2 minutes)

PRAYER

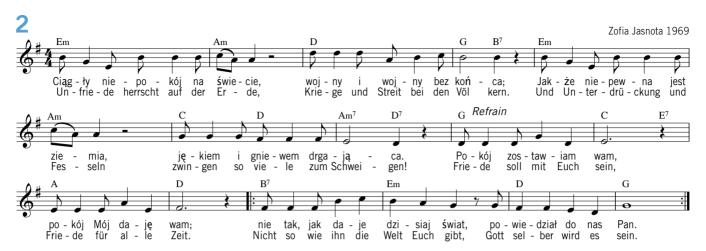
→ Short Intercessions with Kyrie (hymns 48 A, B, C or D) or spoken refrain

Table Blessing (sung)

- → Bendice Señor (1)
- → Ciagły nepokój (2)
- → Urunk hála (3)
- > Please follow this pattern for Midday Prayer every day.

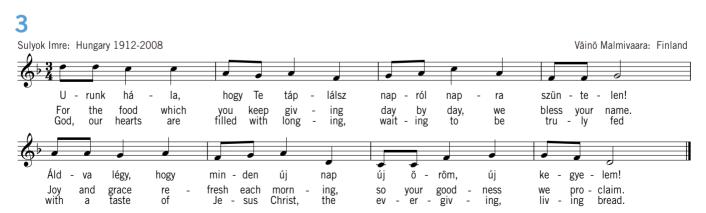


English, Donald Wetherick. Français, Marc Chambron.



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- 2. Ciągły niepokój w człowieku, ucieczka w hałas, zabawy; szukamy wciąż nowych wrażeń, a w głębi ciszy pragniemy.
- 3. Pokój budować na co dzień w sobie, w rodzinie, przy pracy; nasze mozolne wysiłki Pan Swoją łaską wzbogaci.
- 2. In jedem Menschen selber herrschen Unrast und Unruh oh'n Ende Selbst, wenn wir ständig versuchen, Friede für alle zu schaffen.
- 3. Lass uns in Deiner Hand finden, was Du für alle verheißen, Herr, fülle unser Verlangen, gib uns selber den Frieden.



2. De a szivünk vágyakozva asért séhajt tefeléd: Engedd, Jézus, megizlenünk örök élet kenyerét!

English Frederick Schlagenhaft and Terry MacArthur © 2009 LWF. Permission sought for Hungarian and music.



Morning Prayer

OPENING

→ Song: Love Divine (hymn 12)

PSALMODY

Psalm 3

→ Antiphon: Tu es pour moi un bouclier

O Lord, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me; many are saying to me, There is no help for you in God.

→ Antiphon

But you, O Lord, are a shield around me, my glory, and the one who lifts up my head. I cry aloud to the Lord, and he answers me from his holy hill.

→ Antiphon

I lie down and sleep;
I wake again, for the Lord sustains me.
I am not afraid of tens of thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around.

→ Antiphon

Rise up, O Lord!
Deliver me, O my God!
For you strike all my enemies on the cheek;
you break the teeth of the wicked.
Deliverance belongs to the Lord;
may your blessing be on your people!

→ Antiphon

WORD

Galatians 3:10-14

For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all the things written in the book of the law." Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law; for "The one who is righteous will live by faith." But the law does not rest on faith; on the contrary, "Whoever does the works of the law will live by them." Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"— in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.





John 3:16 / 14-16

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

→ John 3:16 sung: Shen ai shi ren

Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Response to the Word

> For a moment, hold the Makalani nut in your hand.

▶ Quietly, in our many languages, we say John 3:16.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

Let the Spirit of God's love reach through your hands into your whole body.

Remember one moment when you experienced becoming free because of God's grace.

- > Moment of silence
- > Now you're invited to make the sign of the cross
- → Processional Songs: For freedom Christ has set us free (see p. 8) and Freedom is coming (hymn 14)



Bible Study

Galatians 3:10-14

For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all the things written in the book of the law." Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law; for "The one who is righteous will live by faith." But the law does not rest on faith; on the contrary, "Whoever does the works of the law will live by them." Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"—in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Liberating Grace—So That God's Blessing May Come to All Nations

Dennis Olson

Galatians 3:10–14 is a challenging text to interpret. One biblical scholar has observed that "the meaning of almost every phrase in Galatians 3:10-14 is disputed" among biblical commentators. An important issue involves the different ways in which the apostle Paul uses the word "law" (in Greek nomos). Throughout his letters, Paul uses the term "law" or nomos with various meanings, depending on the context. "Law" may at times refer to Old Testament laws and commandments (Gal 3:17), the whole Old Testament (Rom 3:19), the five books of Genesis-Deuteronomy (Rom 3:21), a general norm or principle (Rom 3:27), or a compulsion or habit of mind (Rom 7:21). Moreover, the "law," for Paul, can have a variety of functions, some positive (Rom 7:10: 10:4) and others negative (2 Cor 3:7-9; Rom 3:20; 5:20; 7:7-8). This variety of possible meanings and functions of the word "law" has opened the text of Galatians 3:10–14 to various possible interpretations. The study of Galatians 3 that follows is a modest effort to account for the details of the text as a starting point for your own interactions with the text of Galatians and its implications for your context.

In Galatians 3:10–14, the apostle Paul makes an argument to the congregation of Galatians about the nature of the true gospel.

Paul's argument is based on four quotations from four different Old Testament texts.

For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all the things written in the book of the law." Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law; for "The one who is righteous will live by faith." But the law does not rest on faith; on the contrary, "Whoever does the works of the law will live by them." Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"—in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

The three stories in the background of Galatians: The local story, the Abraham story, and the cosmic/apocalyptic story

In order to begin to understand Paul's argument here and his use of these Old Testament quotations, we need to take a step back and remind ourselves of some important background. The apostle Paul seems to have three different levels of stories that operate at the same time in the background as he is writing his letter to the Galatians. I would label them as the *Local Story* (Gal 2), the *Abraham Story* (Gal 3:6–9, 19), and the future-oriented *Cosmic and Apocalyptic Story* (Gal 1:4; 6:15).

First, the *Local Story* that Paul discusses in Galatians 2 involves two incidents, one in Jerusalem and one in Antioch. The apostle Paul felt called by Christ to a special mission: to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, not only to Jews but also to uncircumcised Gentiles, to non-lews. It is hard to overstate how radical this idea was to some of the earliest Jewish Christians—the notion that God's special promise to Israel and the Jews, should now, because of Christ, be offered freely to Gentiles of every nation and people. Jews were traditionally not to eat food in the same room with Gentiles. After much debate within the early Jewish Christian community. Paul had a crucial meeting in Jerusalem with the most important Jewish Christian leaders, including the apostle Peter, and James, the brother of Jesus. At the end of the Jerusalem meeting, Peter and James "extended the right hand of fellowship" to Paul. Paul understood this gesture of shaking hands to be an affirmation of his gospel mission to the Gentiles of every nation (Gal 2:9).

Paul then recounts a second encounter that happened in the city of Antioch in the region of Galatia some time later. The apostle Peter (also known by his Aramaic name Cephas in Galatians) was Jewish in background, as was Paul. Peter happened to be visiting the congregation at Antioch at the same time that Paul was there. Paul describes how the apostle Peter initially had no problem at all in sitting down and eating with Gentile members of the fledgling Christian community in Antioch. Peter shared the Lord's Supper with them and they had meal fellowship together. But then, some days later, a group of representatives sent by James, the brother of Jesus, from Jerusalem also happened to visit the same Christian community in Antioch while Peter and Paul were still there. They all worshiped together, Jewish and Gentile believers in Christ, except when the time came for the Lord's Supper. At that point, the group representing James, who were all Jewish Christians, urged Peter and the other Jewish Christians to separate and segregate themselves

from the Gentile Christians while they ate the Lord's Supper and the meal of fellowship. And so Peter and other Jewish members did just that. They separated themselves from the Gentiles. Jewish believers over here—Gentile believers over there in another room. This enraged Paul, Earlier, back in Jerusalem, Peter and James had both given their approval to Paul's mission of the gospel to Gentiles. And in Antioch, Peter had been quite willing to eat with Gentiles when no other Jewish Christians were around. Peter, however, suddenly separated himself from Gentiles at meals when the stricter Jewish Christian group from James arrived on the scene. For Paul, Peter's action was hypocritical and two-faced. The segregation of Jewish Christians and Gentile Christians within the congregation denied the very core of the gospel—justification by grace through the faithfulness of Christ apart from any human "works of the law" (Gal 2:16; 3:2, 5). Here for Paul, the "law" refers to Old Testament laws and commandments, including the law of circumcision, as misused and misunderstood by a sub-group of fellow Jewish Christians.

Then, what enraged Paul even more was that some false teachers came to Galatia after Paul had left to go and preach the gospel in other cities. These false teachers began to teach and persuade the Galatian congregations that Gentiles had to meet the pre-condition of obeying the Jewish law of circumcision before they could become full believers in the gospel of Christ. They taught that non-Jewish converts had to submit to this circumcision requirement and only then could they receive the gospel, receive the gift of faith and the Spirit, and become full members of the body of Christ. In response, Paul writes this passionate letter to the Galatians to try to bring them back to the true gospel of God's absolutely free grace in Christ apart from the pre-condition of obeying the law of circumcision. That is the local story behind this letter to the Galatians.

This local story of what happened in these ancient Christian communities in Antioch and Galatia illustrates divisive human tendencies that can sometimes occur in our own Christian communities and congregations today. As human beings, we often naturally like to be with people whom we know well and who are like us. As human beings, if we are part of the inner circle of a group, the "chosen flock," we are sometimes tempted to hold on to this status of being "special," of having more power or access or prestige than other

members of the community, who may be more "on the outside," more "on the fringe," somehow different from "us." As humans, we have a sinful urge to divide and contrast "us" versus "them." What Paul, in his letter to the Galatians, seeks to proclaim is that a community, empowered by the Spirit of Christ, constantly works to resist such human tendencies to divide the chosen "us" from the second-class "them." We are one in the body of Christ, every member equally valued in the eyes of God.

Secondly, alongside this local story of what happened personally to Paul and Peter in Antioch, Paul also has in mind the *Abraham Story* as he writes his letter. For Paul, the first definitive turning point in God's interaction with humans and the world happened back in the first book of the Bible, Genesis, chapter 12, when God first spoke this promise to Abraham, the original ancestor of God's people Israel:

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." (Gen 12:1–3).

For Paul, three things are important about this promise. First, the spoken promise of blessing to Abraham comes directly from the mouth of God, not through a mediator of any sort. No angel, no human mediator. The promise is spoken directly from God to Abraham. That direct, divine word carries a special authority and priority for Paul. Secondly, the promise of blessing comes to Abraham before Abraham has obeyed any law or satisfied any other prior conditions (like the law of circumcision—which comes only later in Genesis 17). God's promise to Abraham is pure gift, without any conditions. Thirdly, for Paul, the promise to Abraham and thus to Israel included a future opening up of this promise one day to "all the families of the earth," that is, to the Gentiles, to all peoples of the world (Gal 3:6-9).

Paul then contrasts this biblical promise to Abraham with the later covenant of law and commandment that God gave to Israel at Mount Sinai (Gen 15:13–14; Ex 19:1; Gal 3:17). Three things are important about the giving of the law to Israel, according to Paul.

First, Paul follows a number of ancient Jewish traditions that suggested that the law at Sinai was not spoken to the Israelites directly by God but rather by lower level angels who gave the law to the human mediator, Moses (Gal 3:19).² Secondly, the law at Mount Sinai in the books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy was given to Israel long after God's prior promise of blessing to Abraham in Genesis 12. Thirdly, for Paul, God's promise leads to blessing and life. In contrast, the law, if it is misused, leads to curse and death (Deuteronomy 27:26). So, for Paul, the Abraham story highlights God's unconditional promise of blessing as a prior and definitive framework for understanding God's work among followers of Christ, whether Jewish Christians or Gentile Christians.

Now we need to pause and make an important point about Paul's view of his own Jewish tradition because it affects our contemporary understanding of the faith of our Jewish brothers and sisters today. Some Christians have wrongly characterized the Jewish tradition as a religion of legalism. Misguided anti-Jewish interpretations of biblical texts, including the letter to the Galatians, have been wrongfully used to demonize lews and fuel anti-Judaism over the centuries. Anti-Jewish readings of the Bible often charge Jews with allegedly focusing on prideful obedience to the laws of God as the means to earn God's love and salvation. This misguided characterization is opposed to the Christian gospel of God's unearned and free promise and mercy in Christ. This false charge that Judaism is primarily legalistic, however, is not Paul's view of Judaism, nor is it the dominant portrait of ancient Israel in the Old Testament. For Paul. God made a free and unconditional promise to Abraham and his descendants. that is, to the Jews, in Genesis 12. And if God makes a promise, Paul believed, God will always fulfill that promise. Thus, in Paul's understanding, the Jews remain the beneficiaries of God's unconditional gospel promise to Abraham (see Rom 9-11). For Jews, obedience to the law is important, but obedience is primarily an expression of thanksgiving and devotion to God in response to God's prior love and promise to the Jewish people.3 What upset Paul in Galatia was that Jewish Christians (not Jews) were misusing the law. The false teachers were Jewish Christians forcing Gentile Christians to obey the Jewish law of circumcision as a precondition, a prerequisite before they could receive the gospel promise and become fully accepted

as fellow believers of Christ. Galatians is about an intra-Christian conflict, not a conflict between Jews and Christians.

Paul's third layer of narrative that undergirds Galatians is a futureoriented Cosmic and Apocalyptic Story.4 This ultimate story reaches out to every future reader of Galatians, including us here today, in order that God might sweep our lives and stories into God's greater and grander future for us and the whole cosmos, the whole universe. With one foot, we stand in what Paul calls this "present evil age" (Gal 1:4). This present age is a time in which the powers and principalities, the forces of evil, sin and death continue to wreak havoc on humankind and upon our earth. But the sometimes seemingly unbearable chaos and suffering of this "present evil age" is in the end only evil's last whimper, its death rattle. Evil and death are not the final word in God's cosmic drama. Through the death of Christ on the cross. God has done all that is needed to defeat the forces of sin and death in the world. While we stand with one foot in this "present evil age," we stand with the other foot in what Paul calls God's "new creation" (Gal 6:15). Paul is convinced that this new creation is surely coming and already beginning to appear. Essential to that new creation are the fruits of the Spirit that God creates in communities of faith as Paul lists them in Galatians 5-6: "The fruit of the Spirit," Paul writes, "is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control... Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ" (Gal 5:22-23; 6:2).

These God-given "fruits of the Spirit" are glimpses that we may be blessed to see in our own lives and communities from time to time. What might be some examples of small signs of God's future new creation breaking into our world today? A deeply divided faith community, crippled by angry conflict, engages in the slow and hard work to make peace and restore a culture of love and joy. Such an experience of reconciliation is a glimpse of God's future new creation invading our present time. A faith community patiently listens to the needs of people in its neighborhood surrounding the church, and as a result the community begins a ministry of kindness and generosity. It might be an after-school child care program for overburdened parents. It might be a food bank for hungry souls. It might be advocating with local government officials for better housing for the homeless. Another faith community may be specially gifted by God to bear one

another's burdens, whether in grief, illness, family conflict, divorce, addiction, giving aid for refugee settlement or visiting inmates in a prison—being present with the least of these in a spirit of gentleness, faithfulness, love and justice. In these and countless other examples, our sure and certain hope in God's promised new creation is what fuels and sustains our small but Spirit-led ministries of peace, love and faithfulness done in the name of Christ.

So as we turn to Galatians 3:10–14, keep in mind these three intertwined stories—the local story, the Abraham story, and the ultimate cosmic and apocalyptic story of God's hopeful future for the world.

Galatians 3:10-14: Paul's argument using four quotations from the Old Testament

Our text from Galatians 3 begins in verse 10 with Paul's claim that all who rely on the works of the law for their identity and as the basis for their standing before God are under a curse. They are under a constant threat of judgment and death. Paul supports his case by quoting from the law itself, the Torah—Deuteronomy 27:26: "Cursed be anyone who does not uphold the words of this law by observing them." Paul moves in verse 11 to his next claim that no one is justified or made right with God by obeying the law. Paul finds support for this claim in the Old Testament prophet Habakkuk, chapter 2, verse 4. Paul finds in Habakkuk a clear statement of the gospel: "the righteous live by their faith." Faith in God's promise is what will make us right with God and give us life. For Paul, the gospel in Habakkuk 2 functions as a benchmark, a yard stick that Paul will use to judge the truthfulness of other biblical texts. If another text of Scripture does not measure up to this gospel as expressed in Habakkuk 2, then Paul will argue that the other biblical text is false. For Paul, Scripture interprets Scripture.

In verse 12, Paul argues against those (like the false teachers in Galatia) who claim that, for Gentiles, obeying the law (for example, the law of circumcision) is the only means by which Gentiles can be made right with God, justified before God. Paul recognizes that the false teachers might point to some other verses in Scripture that suggest that obeying the law justifies us before God and give

us life. One such Scripture passage is Leviticus 18:5, which Paul quotes: "Whoever does the works of the law will live by them." To this verse in Leviticus 18:5, however, Paul says, "No! Absolutely not!" Habakkuk speaks the true gospel: "The righteous live by their faith." Leviticus 18 falsely promises life through obedience to the words of the law. The anti-gospel claim of Leviticus 18, Paul argues, should be rejected, even though it is in Scripture.

Paul continues in verse 13 to describe more precisely what God was up to in Jesus' death on the cross. Paul writes: "Christ redeemed us [restored us/ paid a price for us/ rescued us—all of us, Jew and Gentile] from the curse of the law." How? "by [Jesus] becoming a curse for us!" Jesus, who was without sin, took upon his body our sin, our curse, our death. This is what Martin Luther often calls the "marvelous exchange" in which we sinful humans trade places with Christ. We sinners receive Christ's full righteousness, and Christ in turn takes our full sinfulness upon himself. In his commentary on Galatians, Luther says,

By this fortunate exchange with us [Christ] took upon himself our sinful person and granted us His innocent and victorious Person. [...] Christ Himself voluntarily became a curse for us, saying [...] "I shall empty Myself (Phil 2:7); I shall assume your clothing and your mask; and in this I shall walk about and suffer death, in order to set you free from death." 5

Christ died in our place, under the curse of the law, in order that we might live. And that curse of the law under which Christ suffered and died can be located in one crucial verse in the law, the Torah, another verse that Paul quotes, this time from Deuteronomy 21:23: "anyone hung on a tree is under God's curse." For Paul, it's all there in this verse: the cross is the "tree." Hanging from the tree points to the execution and death suffered by Jesus on the cross. The curse, for Paul, is the curse of the law that leads to death, a death that was swallowed up and defeated by Christ's death on the cross once and for all.

Finally, verse 14 gives us the climax of Paul's argument here: what then was the purpose for Jesus' death on the cross? Why did Jesus take the curse of humanity upon himself? Paul writes: "in

order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham [God's promise of blessing back in Genesis 12 to "all the families of the earth"] might come to the Gentiles, so that we [both Jews and Gentiles] might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith" totally apart from works of the law. Jesus' death on the cross opened the floodgates of God's life-giving and free promise of blessing not only to the Jews but now to every person in every corner of the globe--Jew or Gentile. male or female, slave or free (Gal 3:28). Jesus in the fullness of his humanity took on the curse of the law all the way to death. And in the equal fullness of his divinity as God's Son, Jesus swallowed up and defeated the power of sin and death. Through the cross, God has introduced a world-shaking new creation that marks a second major turning point within the ongoing story of God and the world. The first turning point was the promise to Abraham in Genesis 12. The second turning point is Jesus' death on the cross that opened God's promise to all. The third and ultimate turning point will be the future culmination of God's new creation, in which, as Paul writes in Romans 8, "the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God" (Rom 8:21). All creation will be made new!

Discussion Questions

- Discuss one or two examples of the ways in which some churches or congregations may impose preconditions or barriers (whether explicitly or implicitly) that in effect divide the body of Christ into less acceptable "second-class" community members versus those who consider themselves full members. If you know of real life examples, share them. How might these examples be analogous to what Paul described in Galatians? How might these be understood as examples of denying the gospel?
- Paul talks in Galatians about the fruit of the Spirit which includes
 "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness,
 gentleness, and self-control" (Gal 5:22–23). Yet the angry tone
 of Paul's letter is quite harsh toward the false teachers, calling
 down curses upon them (Gal 1:9) and addressing the Galatian
 congregations who follow them as "You foolish Galatians" (Gal

- 3:1)! How would you explain this apparent contradiction between the fruits of the Spirit that Paul recommended to the Galatians versus Paul's own combative attitude and harsh words? How do we balance the need for clarity in proclaiming the gospel with the importance of maintaining a community of love, peace, gentleness and patience within our congregations and churches?
- How do you relate the specific ministries that you carry out or lead (your local story) to the two other levels of stories that Paul assumes in Galatians: the Abraham story of God's promise to Abraham and God's promise through the cross, on one hand, and the future-oriented cosmic and apocalyptic story of God's coming "new creation," on the other?

Notes

Norman Young, "Who's Cursed—and Why? (Galatians 3:10-14)," in *Journal of Biblical Literature* 117 (1998), 79–92.

- For example, the Greek Septuagint of Deut 33:2: "And he said: 'The Lord has come from Sina and appeared to us from Seir... at his right, angels with him,'" [New English Translation of the Septuagint, eds. A. Pietersma and B. Wright (New York: Oxford University Press, 2007). Josephus, Antiquities 15:136 (King Herod speaking: "... and we have learned the noblest of our doctrines and the holiest of our laws through angels sent by God"). See Hans Dieter Betz, Galatians, Hermeneia Commentary (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1979), 168–69.
- ³ See Jon Levenson, The Love of God: Divine Gift, Human Gratitude, and Mutual Faithfulness in Judaism (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. 2015).
- On the apocalyptic character of Galatians, see J. Louis Martyn, *Galatians*, Anchor Yale Bible Commentaries (New York: Doubleday, 2004).
- Martin Luther, "Lectures on Galatians 1535, Galatians 1-4," in Jaroslav Pelikan (ed.), Luther's Works, vol. 26 (St. Louis, MO: Concordia, 1963), 284.

→ The Lord's Prayer (prayed in all our languages)

Blessing

- → Hymn: En Medio de la Guerra (hymn 15)
- > Midday Prayer (in Village Groups): See page 16



Evening Prayer

OPENING

→ Opening music: a local choir

When we turn aside to witness the wonder we stand on holy ground.

When we turn aside to hear the cries and know the pain we stand on holy ground.

When we turn aside at the calling of our names and hear freedom proclaim: I am who I am.

we stand on holy ground.

PSALMODY

Psalm 104:10-24

You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills, giving drink to every wild animal; the wild asses quench their thirst.

→ Sung response: Silence my soul (hymn 13)

The trees of the Lord are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon that he planted. In them the birds build their nests; the stork has its home in the fir trees.

→ Sung Response: Silence my soul

O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

→ Sung Response: Silence my soul

Prayer:

"I will be who I will be" liberty's source and freedom's force.

O God, awaken our eyes and ears so we turn aside from our daily tasks and fears, to know your grace as near as a name, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

WORD

Reading: adapted from Exodus 3:1-12

flame

fire

out of the bush

blazing

not consumed

not consumed

Here Lam

No closer

Remove the sandals from your feet

holy ground

I am the God of your father

The God of Abraham

The God of Isaac

and the God of Jacob.

I have observed the misery of my people.

I have heard their cry

I know their sufferings.



I have come down to deliver them.

to bring them up.

to a land flowing with milk and honey.

I will be with you.

this shall be a sign.

You shall worship God on this mountain.

What's your name?

I am who I am
I will be who I will be
I am what I am.

I will bring you up out of the misery.

They will listen to your voice

I will stretch out my hand.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

→ Song: Püha (hymn 16)

Prayer

Prayers of Intercession

"I am who I am"

speak the names of all those who decry their own identity, who lose themselves, overwhelmed by trouble too big, forces too strong,

cursed to never belong, no matter how much they try.
Claim your nameless people, God, and gather them under the tree of grace.

Amen.

→ Sung Response: Kyrie Tem piedade de nós ó Senhor

I will be who I will be,

On the desert winds, set each bush ablaze with the unanswered cries.

the wounds unhealed running red,

the promises unfulfilled

until we know your call

and deliverance dances in our feet, our arms, our heads, so all your children find the shoes that spread the good news of your justice and love.

→ Sung Response: Kyrie Tem piedade de nós ó Senhor

I am what I am lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Write your name on our hearts so we see with your eyes, looking down from the cross, all afire with thirst and pain, but with love unconsumed.

→ Sung Response: Kyrie Tem piedade de nós ó Senhor

Prayers for the events of the day

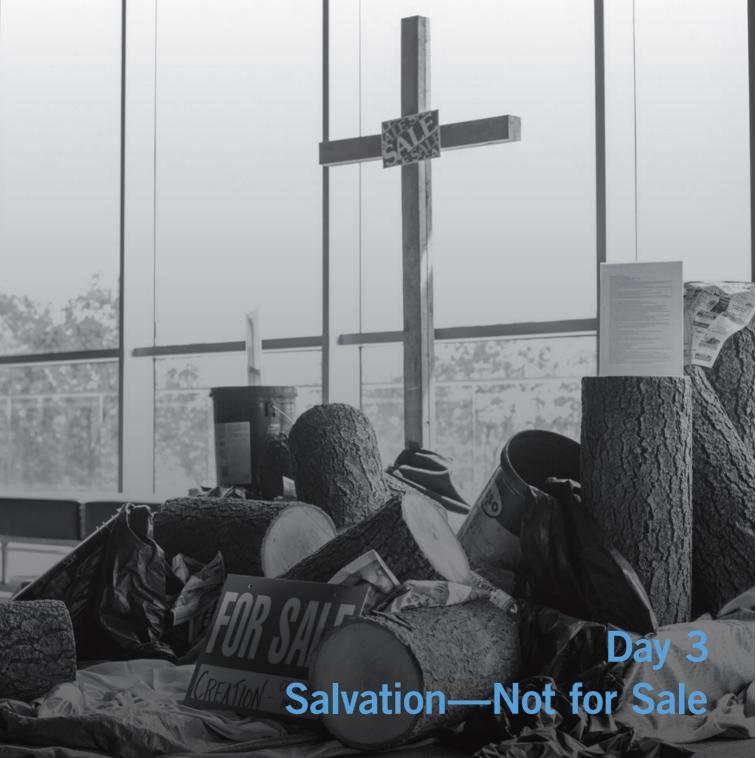
→ Sung Response: Kyrie Tem piedade de nós ó Senhor

Barefoot, but surrounded by your presence, we commend all for whom we pray placing them in your hands, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

- → Song: Whoa whoa rumbow (hymn 17; refrain)
- → Lord's Prayer (in our many languages)
- → Song: local choir

Blessing



Morning Prayer

OPENING AND PSALMODY

→ Hymn: Aus tiefer Not (hymn 18)

Selling Salvation

Part 1: Selling Salvation: A monk in Germany selling indulgences

"As soon as a coin in the coffer rings, the soul from purgatory springs"

→ Sung Response: Salvation is a gift (1)

Part 2: Selling salvation, a doctor with a skill

Not happy with how you look. Book now with Lasar Jones, the cosmetic surgery specialist. Virtually painless, you could have a new you. Our computer imagery can help you chose the look you want. Just think what freedom you will have when you don't feel you have to hide your face anymore. Lasar Jones, we ensure a beautiful smile.

→ Sung Response: Salvation is a gift (2)

Part 3: Selling salvation, a lottery winner

Imagine what you could do with a million dollars. All your dreams could come true. You could have the perfect house, go on the vacation you always wanted, tell your boss he can





go to hell. Imagine what you could do if you win this week's lottery. This could be your lucky day. But you gotta play to win.

→ Sung Response: Salvation is a gift (3)

Part 4: Selling salvation, a preacher with a promise,

God loves a cheerful giver. The more you give to God, the more you get in return. You send me something, and I promise you, we will have people praying for you right now. How much seed money are you willing to sow so the blessings begin to flow? Are you looking for healing, for a good job, for a better life, just send us something and our prayers will unlock heaven's store.

→ Sung Response: God's hand is everywhere (4)

WORD

A reading adapted from Luke 19:1–10 (please watch)

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax-collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he hurried

down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

→ Hymn: *Un camino se abre* (hymn 19)

Reading: Ephesians 2:4–10

But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Word of God! Word of Life

Thanks be to God

→ Processional Song: Whoa whoa rumbow (hymn 17)

Bible Study

Luke 19:1-10

1 He entered Jericho and was passing through it. 2 A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. 3 He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. 5 When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." 6 So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. 7 All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." 8 Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much."9 Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

An Unexpected Host and an Unexpected Guest

Bernd Oberdorfer

Zacchaeus—a comical figure

Isn't this a funny story? The Bible is not—and is not supposed to be—a collection of comical stories and jokes, and I would not recommend that you choose the Bible if you simply wish to be entertained and to laugh. But, actually, this is a funny story. Luke has a wonderful sense of humor. He very subtly highlights the comical details, and even inserts certain elements of slapstick. Yet, like in every good comedy, it also involves a tragedy; it is a story of laughter and fear, of power and poverty, of exploitation and compensation, of greed and generosity. It is a story of renewed life. It is a story of how difficult it is—and how easy it can be—to change one's life.

Let us start with Zacchaeus. What a controversial, comical figure. He is not only a simple tax collector, which would be bad enough in a society where injustice, inequality and corruption reign. He is the chief tax collector. People fear and scorn him at the same time. He represents the oppressive power they are subjected to. They depend on him because he can fix the amount of taxes they have

to pay. On the other hand, he depends on the authority of the Roman state that has commissioned him. As a Jew, in the eyes of his compatriots he has sold his soul to the oppressors and has betrayed his people. Today we would call him a subcontractor. He has bought the license to raise taxes. So, at the end of the day, he must at least recover the license fee and whatever he collects beyond that is his. This is, of course, a temptation to charge higher taxes than the state demands and to accept bribes. As a chief tax collector, you will hardly be popular but you might get rich. And Zacchaeus is rich.

But, he is "short in stature." This contrast makes him a comical figure. He is rich and powerful, but his appearance is not at all impressive. And he is definitely disadvantaged when it comes to being in a crowd. Amidst taller people, he might be overlooked and unable to see. So, if he wants to see and be seen, he needs a good strategy.

Surprisingly enough, this successful and powerful man wants to see and be seen when Jesus is in town. The fame of this prophet, thaumaturgist ("miracle worker") and healer has spread all over the country. Thus, in Jericho, too, everybody is on the move, trying to

get a glimpse of him. Zacchaeus is part of that "hype." He is curious, or maybe he even feels that he needs Jesus. Yet, the whole town, the streets and squares, are blocked and Zacchaeus, short of stature, is unable to get into the first row in order to see Jesus.

Nonetheless, he does not surrender. He has an idea. He knows how Jesus will continue his route and knows a place that will suit Jesus' plans: a place with a tree. He runs ahead and finds the place empty. He climbs up the tree. This must look very funny: the chief tax collector—I always imagine him wearing a modern uniform—pulling himself up, from branch to branch, breathing heavily and searching for a safe spot with a view. Surely, he looks ridiculous. But he does not mind. He is so eager to see Jesus that he does not care about his appearance. This is not what a high state officer should look like. But he chooses to embarrass himself rather than not to see Jesus. So he waits.

"I must stay at your house today": Jesus invites himself for dinner

Eventually, amidst the crowd, Jesus arrives. Everybody wants him to approach. But he lifts his eyes and, noticing Zacchaeus, addresses him: "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." This is very strange. First of all, Jesus knows him by name. Maybe, someone in the crowd had shouted, "Look, in the tree, isn't that Zacchaeus?" and others had burst out laughing. Or maybe Zacchaeus's bad reputation was well known beyond Jericho, all over the region in fact, and so Jesus knows who he is. In any case, Jesus addresses him personally. He deliberately wants to address him. What is even more surprising is how he addresses him. "Hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today!" Jesus seems in urgent need of Zacchaeus now. Hurry, don't hesitate! Come down now! I must stay at your house today! Not tomorrow, not next week, today! There is no time for further reflection, no time for second thoughts, no time for doubts ("Am I worthy of it?"). Just come down!

What is most surprising of all is that Jesus reverses the right order. He does not wait to be invited but invites himself. Under normal circumstances, this would not be very polite. If I said to you, "I must have dinner at your place tonight!" you most probably would not be very amused. You might try to get out of it by making excuses, such as, "Sorry, but the fridge is empty"; "Sorry, but the house has to be tidied up before." Zacchaeus, however, does not hesitate for one second. He feels that his deepest dreams have come true. He is happy.

By inviting himself, Jesus challenges us. This means he challenges our religious expectations. We would tend to think that Zacchaeus needs Jesus. This is, of course, true and is the reason why Zacchaeus is so happy. But Jesus puts it exactly the other way around: I need you! I need you to host me for dinner! Jesus dignifies Zacchaeus by asking him to be his host. Jesus turns Zacchaeus into a person who is needed. And it is exactly this that brings salvation to his house.

I teach dogmatics at university. I deal with concepts and ideas. And being a Lutheran, of course, my theological teaching focuses on the doctrine of justification by faith alone. You probably know the core idea of this doctrine almost by heart: we are ensnared by sin, cannot free ourselves of it by our own means, cannot actively do anything for our salvation, depend absolutely on the grace of God, who forgives us our sins because Christ bears the sin of the world on the cross. All of this is true. But sometimes I get the feeling that we have created a one-sided, all too dark picture with that. There is a "hidden agenda" in our narratives: you are a sinner; you are unable to do anything right; you have lost all your dignity; only God acts on your behalf; etc.

The story of Zacchaeus, then, might help us to develop a more appropriate, more comprehensive picture of salvation because it begs the question, what if "justification by faith alone," what if "salvation—not for sale" are just other ways of saying, "Jesus invites himself to stay at my home"? He does not wait until I invite him. Out of nothing, he dignifies me as his host, regardless of my reputation, appearance, status, economic power, etc. He trusts in my capacity to host him and in so doing enables me to do so. It is an empowering, not a discouraging grace that Jesus represents. And he does not represent a God who is a distant ruler, who forgives his subjects instead of punishing them but, rather, a God who is in need of God's creatures, who wants to share life with them, who wants to be their guest and change their lives by his living presence. What a joy salvation means! Yet, not everyone shares this joy.

"Guest of a sinner"?: The scandal

On the contrary, the crowd is upset. Within a minute, excitement changes into disappointment. Would not every one of us willingly have invited Jesus for dinner? Would not every one of us be a more appropriate host than this cheat and traitor, this contemptible and ridiculous figure on the tree? They compare themselves with Zacchaeus, and not to his advantage. "He has gone to be the guest of the one who is a sinner." They question Jesus' power of judgment. How could he fail to notice the real character of his host? Or has he even noticed? We cast doubt on his moral discernment. And he risks his reputation. Being the guest of a cheat, he might appear a cheat himself or, in any case, a friend and supporter of a cheat.

It is easy for us to look down on these critics because we know the end of the story, and because we think we know Jesus. But let us be fair. It is not simply envy that goads them. Rather, they are moved by a deep desire to experience communion with Jesus. And their hopes have been frustrated because they think that they have better reasons for this communion than Zacchaeus because they are better prepared for it. They feel repudiated by Jesus.

I might not be the only one who prefers to think of themselves as someone who resembles the women and men who are honored by Christ's presence in the biblical narratives. It may not be very comfortable, then, to discover and to admit to oneself that quite often we actually fit the role of the frustrated and envious bystanders much better. Should Christ really prefer the presence of a Muslim refugee from Syria, or that of a neoliberal banker in a SUV, or of a single mother with kids from more than one father, instead of sharing our well-settled Christian lifestyle? And the other way around: how much embarrassment are we able and willing to bear in order to see Jesus when he is "in town"? How much derisive laughter are we able to accept? How high are the trees we would be ready to climb on?

A dinner that changes a life

For Zacchaeus, everything changes. Being addressed by Jesus, hosting Jesus, sharing dinner with Jesus changes his life and transforms his attitude toward life. First of all, he is liberated and.

as a consequence, can accept and confess that he has actually gained his fortune by unjust means. He no longer feels the need to deny that—to justify himself for that. He is free simply to admit it now because he feels welcomed and honored by Jesus. Of course, he knew before what people accuse him of and hate him for. But it is not their disapproval and contempt but, rather, Jesus' joy at being hosted by him that helps him to admit that their accusations were correct.

Moreover, he is now ready to take responsibility for his wrongful acts. His wealth, in part, results from injustice. He has forced people to pay more taxes than necessary and legitimate. His wealth is based on others' poverty. He is ready to return his ill-gotten fortune. He is ready to share. And even more, he is ready to compensate the victims of his injustice. This means he is now able to accept that he has caused harm and damage to them. He has diminished their lives. "If I have defrauded anyone of anything," he promises, "I will pay back four times as much." Hosting Jesus transforms his life. Being honored by Jesus changes his social attitude. He now feels that he is part of a communion. Now, full of joy, Jesus comments: "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham." He is a son of Abraham because he has renewed his commitment to the communion of Abraham's sons and daughters.

Once again, I feel encouraged to speak as a teacher of dogmatics. Since the very beginning, Lutherans have often been criticized for minimizing the relevance of ethics by emphasizing "justification through faith alone regardless of works." Yet, they have always insisted that "good works" are essential for Christian life. However, "good works" are not the prerequisite but the fruits of salvation. We do not love and serve our neighbor in order to be saved, but being saved frees and opens us up thankfully and joyfully to love and serve our neighbor, as Luther put it. Zacchaeus is a wonderful example of that. We can feel his relief, his thankfulness and his joy when he promises to share his wealth and compensate with good the evil he has done. Salvation means to share with joy. "Today salvation has come to this house."

To share with joy—this is the source of ethics. Joy, however, does not imply blind euphoria. Zacchaeus does not promise to give away all that he has. "Half of my possessions," he announces, "I will

give to the poor." Jesus does not censure him for keeping the other half for himself. Christian ethics is not perfectionist; it respects our human limits. Christian life does not start with excessive demands. We are neither expected nor entitled to save the world. We are

rather enabled and entitled to share—out of joy and with joy. By doing that, we spread Jesus' own joy that has come "to seek out and to save the lost."

→ The Lord's Prayer (prayed in all our languages)

Blessing

- → Hymn: *Nun freut euch* (hymn 20)
- > Midday Prayer (in Village Groups): See page 16

Evening Eucharist

GATHERING

→ Hymn: Anaweza (hymn 21)

Greeting

Salvation,

the gift of God.

Deliverance.

the gift of God.

Healing.

the gift of God.

Liberation,

the gift of God.

A new heart, and a new spirit,

the gift of God.

Forgiveness from sin.

the gift of God.

Bread and wine.

the gift of God.

Water.

the gift of God.

Wholeness.

the gift of God.

Reconciliation.

the gift of God. Amen.

→ Song: Local choir

WORD

Luke 19:5-10

The Gospel according to Luke

Glory to you, O God!

When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

The Gospel of our Lord!

Praise to you O Christ!

→ Halleluia Pujilah Tuhanmu (hymn 22)

Response to the Word

Sisters and brothers, sometimes we forget the sheer power of the affirmation that comes from the gospel.

I invite you to hold the seed that has been with us during this meeting in your hand.

Let the seed remind you of a moment when you realized that you were a child of God.

when you experienced the affirmation of the gospel, when you felt the eyes of Jesus looking up to see you just as he looked up for Zacchaeus.

▶ Silence

> Turn to a neighbor. Gently place the seed, representing grace, around their neck. Look at them and say in your language, "You, too, are a child of Abraham." Your neighbor can go to someone else and repeat this affirmation. If you have no seed, wait for someone to come to you. At the end, everyone should have a seed that represents God's acceptance, salvation that is free, too valuable to be put up for sale.

You, too, are a child of Abraham

→ Song: Local choir

Prayers of Intercession with Psalm 130

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear my voice!

Hear the voices, Lord,

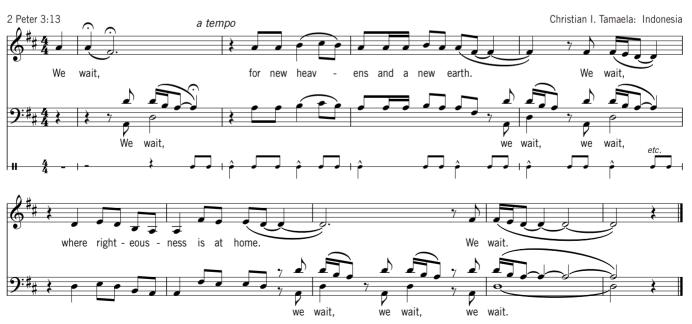
the voice of an unwed mother ashamed to claim your love, the voice of an absent father not knowing how to love his children.

the voice of a depressed young person not finding any meaning or energy,

with no one telling your good news.

→ Sung Response: We wait

But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.



Based on a Central Moluccas traditional melody (Huele). Composed for Tainan Theological Seminary Advent 2. © 1999 Christian I. Tamaela.

Let loose the voices of the forgiven, so a song of mercy overcomes all curse.

Re-tune your community to welcome sinners, overriding judgments endured and unhealed.

Teach us to stand in your grace, the forgiven practicing forgiving in the face of an unforgiving world.

→ Sung response: We wait

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;

my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.

We wait for you Lord.

We wait for steadfast love, a love that does not fade

We wait for your redeeming power, a power that stoops to care for the least and whispers words of hope to the forgotten.

We wait more than those who watch for the morning for the healing of our world, our churches, our lives through Jesus Christ.

→ Sung response: We wait.

O Israel, hope in the Lord! For the Lord is steadfast love.

With God is great power to redeem.

It is God who will redeem all people from their iniquities.

We hope in the Lord.

We hope in his steadfast love.

In the eyes of the world, love is powerless.

But God loves redeems, redeems all from their sin, from the evil that entraps, making of all nations God's people.

→ Sung response: We wait

MFAI

Preface

With a word:

light.

With a breath:

humanity.

With a powerful wind making a dry path through the sea: *freedom*.

With a vision of the way through the desert: **return from exile**.

With flesh and blood, dwelling in our midst, a body giving itself away, showing what it means to be alive: *salvation*.

With great thanksgiving, a chorus gathered from every time and place, proclaiming your good news:

Salvation has come to our house today.

→ Sanctus: Änglarna i himlen (hymn 23)

Blessed is the One looking up at a tax collector, looking around to bless the children, looking down on the rich and self-righteous, looking toward a realm of justice and peace, looking beyond power to declare the meek as the inheritors of the earth, lifted up, like the serpent in the wilderness, so that all who look upon him and believe might be healed.

Words of Institution

Remembering

At this table we are invited to the house of Christ Jesus. With this bread Christ gives us his body. With this wine Christ offers us the joy of feasting with him. We remember the free gift of God, salvation, present for us in eating and drinking, today, Christ died for all. Christ is raised for all. Christ is coming for all, for our lives, our houses, our world.

Prayer for the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit.

Renew in us the power to give away what we have, to break the rules of buy and sell, to enter into the realm of joy,

where the grace of Christ Jesus is praised, the love of God resounds, and the communion of the Holy Spirit makes us one, now and forever.

Amen

- → The Lord's Prayer (prayed in all our languages)
- → Agnus Dei: Christus, Antlitz Gottes (hymn 24)

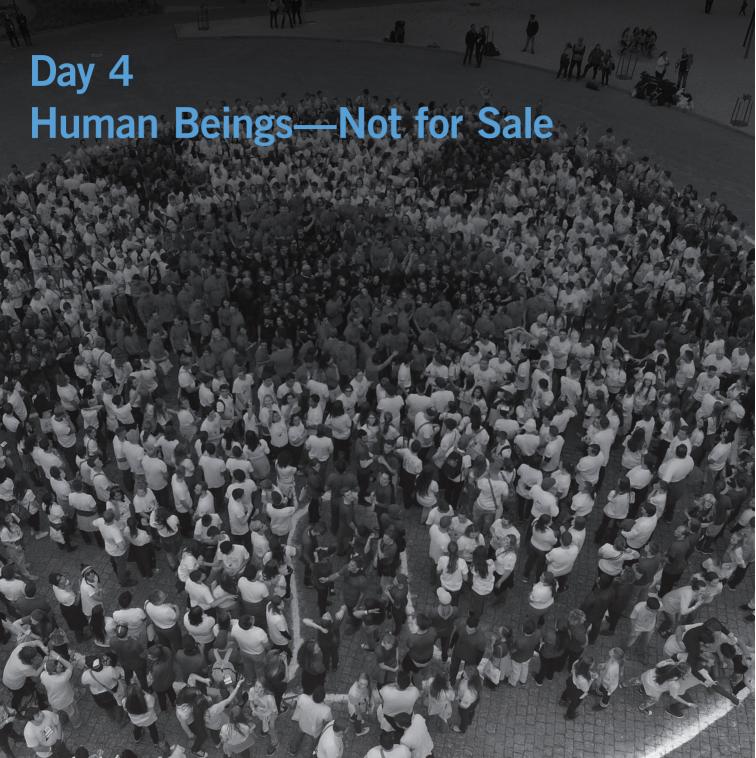
Songs during Communion:

- → We are coming Lord to the table (hymn 25)
- → Mhepo (hymn 11)
- → Amazing Grace (hymn 26)
- → Song: Local Choir

Post-Communion Prayer

SENDING

Blessing



Morning Prayer

OPENING

→ Song: God, creator of the earth (hymn 27)

PSALMODY

Psalm 139

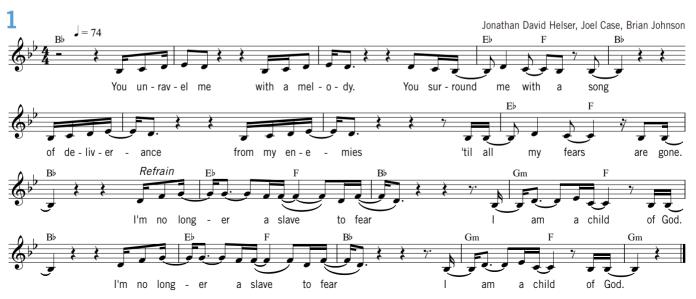
O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue,

O Lord, you know it completely. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

→ Sung Response: You unravel me (1)

Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,



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even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.

If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night', even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

→ Sung Response with refrain: From my mother's womb... (2)

My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written



all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.

How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end*—I am still with you.

→ Sung Response with refrain: *I am surrounded...* (3)

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

→ Sung Response with refrain: You split the sea (4)

Psalm prayer

Every child your likeness bears, you count every hair.

Break the chains, the deep despair, restore the human care, and we realize:

No one is for sale.

Because we are liberated by your grace,

beloved sons and daughters,

liberated by grace.

Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Genesis 1:27

So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

→ Sung Response: From my mother's womb... (2)

Second Reading: Acts 16:16

Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling.

A woman without passport—for sale!

Child labor—for sale!

Cambodian fishermen—for sale!

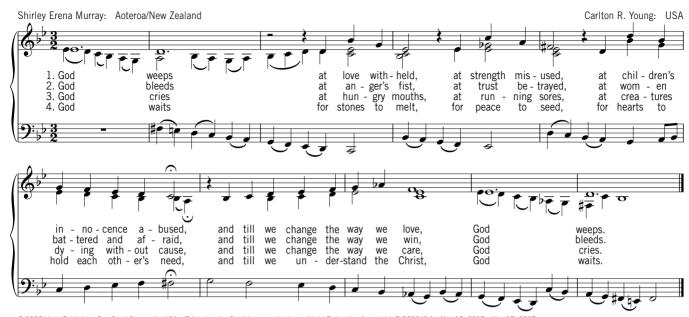
We are all created in God's image.

Refugees—for sale!

Child soldiers—for sale!

Street children—for sale!

We are all created in God's image.



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Albinos in Tanzania—killed!
Whistle-blowers—fired!
Human rights activists—imprisoned!
Doctors without borders—bombed!
Justice speakers—silenced!
Peace seekers—killed!

▶ Silence

→ Song: God Weeps

Reading: Acts 16:17 – 26

While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation." She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came

out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe." The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened.

- 1. Kein Mensch ist für Geld zu haben!
- 2. ¡Nadie está a la venta!
- 3. Personne n'est à vendre!
- 4. No one is for sale!

All: - No one is for sale! (in our many languages)

→ Processional song: I'm determined to walk with Jesus (hymn 29)

Bible Study

Acts 16:16-34

16 One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling, ¹⁷ While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation." 18 She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. 19 But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. 20 When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews 21 and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe." ²² The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. ²³ After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. ²⁴ Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. ²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. ²⁷ When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." ²⁹ The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. 30 Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 31 They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." 32 They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. 33 At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. 34 He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

God Frees us because Human Beings are not for Sale

Rospita Siahaan

Introduction

This passage is constructed around two miracles: the liberation of a slave girl possessed by a spirit through exorcism (verses 16-24) and the liberation of a jailer by an earthquake (verses 25-34).

The context of these two stories is Paul's ministry in Philippi. In verses 11-15 we read that Paul and Silas meet Lydia and that this encounter results in her conversion (verses 11-15). In the passage before us, Paul casts out an evil spirit from a slave girl, which results

in Paul and Silas being sent to prison (verses 16-34). On the following day, the magistrates release them from jail (verses 35-40).

Commentary and notes

While we come across many characters in this text, such as the slave girl, her masters, magistrates and the crowd, I shall describe only some of them since the theme is "human beings—not for sale."

A slave girl: human beings not for sale but to be set free

Verse 16 tells us that this slave girl was doubly oppressed: first, by the evil spirit and, second, by her masters. She is completely possessed both by a spirit and human beings. She is a woman who has no freedom, no status and no control over her fate. Following Paul and Silas around town, the slave girl speaks out loudly, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation" (verse 17). Paul lets this happen for several days but, in the end, he cannot tolerate it any longer. It is not clear from the text whether it is what she is saying or the fact that she is shouting that annoys Paul. What is clear is that Paul is irritated by her. Hence, in Jesus' name, Paul sets the woman free from the spirit that had possessed her.

At this point it is very interesting to ask: how does the girl's life develop after the exorcism? Do her masters liberate her or does she remain a slave? The story tells us no more about the girl. We do not learn whether she has complete freedom after the exorcism. She suddenly disappears from the scene although the scene itself continues. Probably it is intentionally left open in order to remind us of so many people's need for liberation.

There are many people around the world, just like that female slave, who are owned by power(s) outside themselves. We are surrounded by many people whose actions are controlled by other people. They do not have the power to control their own lives. They are "occupied" by others. They are living under bondage in many ways. It is these people who need to be set free, regardless of what kind of power might oppress them. What is evident is that they are in need of liberation. As the story unfolds, it becomes clear that such liberation comes in Jesus' name. The heart of this scene is Jesus' power to liberate human beings.

The masters: human beings not for sale but to set free

In verse 19 we read that the slave girl's masters are making a lot of money out of her. The fact that Paul has set her free from being possessed by the spirit has crippled the profit of the slave girl's owners. Therefore, instead of awe and wonder over the exorcism, her masters are burning with fury. When she is saved, they are furious

because she can no longer make any money for them. As a result, they trump up treachery charges against Paul and Silas. It is apparent that her masters are indifferent to her. She is not important to them; she only counts in terms of money and profit. In other words, the masters treat and consider the female slave as a commodity and not as a human being; an object to earn money, not a person, a subject who has the right to freedom.

Are there people like those masters around us? Who are they? We might be surprised to find that such "masters" might include us. We may all find within ourselves a failure to recognize God at work in our midst, especially when that working of God upsets our plans and our profits. We are called not to sell human beings but to set them free. Employees, just like employers, are human beings. All people, regardless of their nationality, race, economic and social status, are humans. Just as we need our freedom, so do others.

The jailer: we do not live to work but work to live

The jailer's life is changed by the gospel. Before his encounter with the gospel through Paul and Silas, the jailer held the common belief that death is the correct penalty for failing to carry out one's duty. An escape from prison would be interpreted as such a failure (cf. Acts 12:19). The jailer decides to commit suicide when he learns that following the earthquake the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. He takes for granted that the prisoners have escaped. But in verse 28 we read that Paul stopped him from killing himself. In verse 30 the jailer asks, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" The guard's question is a complex one. Maybe it relates to his physical safety or, maybe, in a moment of despair, he himself does not fully understand what he is asking. Obviously, the answer he receives concerns his eternal destiny: "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household" (verse 31). Paul saves the guard both from suicide and a life without faith in Christ. He receives a holistic salvation. He is saved from a wrong understanding of life and work; he is freed from being possessed and controlled by duty. In Jesus, the guard regains his life and his mind is renewed.

This story reveals that in Jesus life does not serve work but work serves life. Therefore, the failure to do one's duty does not demand

the death penalty. Indeed, we own work/duty, yet work/duty does not own us. "For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain" (Phil 1:21).

Paul and Silas: God's servants, not escaping but rescuing

The surprising songs that Paul and Silas sing in their dark cells are the first sign that the powers of this world are actually not in charge: they do not sing songs of lament over their imprisonment; instead, they sing praise to God. We believe that they sing praise for the privilege of being God's servants in the face of injustice. The second sign is the sudden earthquake, which is the visible manifestation of God shaking this world's powers to their foundations. The miracle of the earthquake is not so much about Paul's and Silas' safety as about the salvation of the jailer.

In verses 24-34 we read of an escape without an actual escape. Paul and Silas do not escape; they rescue. What would have happened to the guard had they escaped? His life would have been lost. Since they do not escape, his life and the lives of his entire family are saved (verse 33). Paul and Silas' experience illustrates that being God's servants does not mean escaping from dangerous places. Rather, it gives them the opportunity to be the voice and

the hands of Christ. As Paul's and Silas' experience unfolds in this scene, we see that bringing God's salvation and freedom does not necessarily free them from trouble. There are times when we will experience rejection, persecution and injustice; however, this does not need to stop us. On the contrary, we must continue to bring God's liberation in Jesus. God will free us in many different ways. Being saved means being called to spread the gospel—the good news of liberation. You and I are God's servants. Our commitment to God's ministry will save many lives.

Reflection and discussion

- Are many people living under bondage nowadays? What kind of slavery? Name them.
- In your own context and life experience, have you ever seen people oppress others for their own profit without considering their humanity? Do you ever treat people like objects and not like humans? In what ways?
- What are our duties and responsibilities in this world? Are we called to bring about God's salvation? How?

→ The Lord's Prayer (prayed in all our languages)

Blessing

- → Song: *Chon rizad* (hymn 28)
- > Midday Prayer (in Village Groups): See page 16

Evening Prayer



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OPENING

→ Hymn: Lumière de Dieu

In the name of the Father – creator and protector of life

"Creador y protector de la vida"

In the Name of Christ – light of the world

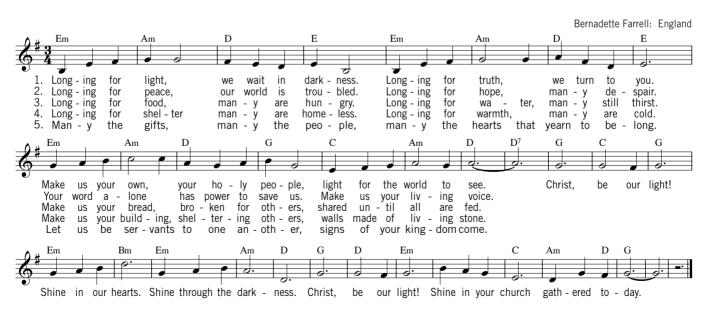
"Lumière du Monde"

In the Name of the Holy Spirit – wisdom of our heart

"Weisheit des Herzens"

Let us sing together.

→ Hymn: Longing for light



PSALMODY

Introduction to the various stations for this worship

Welcome to this evening service. Our worship tent has a special setting. It is prepared with six stations, linked to Psalm 139 that in different ways invite you to have a moment of prayer and reflection.

You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.

Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely.

At the confession and forgiveness station, pick up a stone. Reflect on what you want God to forgive. When you put the stone into the water, know that you have been forgiven.

You hem me in behind and before, you lay your hand upon me.

▶ God's knowledge is wonderful and a blessing. The blessing station is marked by umbrellas.

Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

▶ God is present in our daily lives, and as the Lord himself washed his disciples' feet, you may have your feet washed at the foot washing station, as a sign of God's care for you.

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

▶ God has created our bodies to be grateful for, bodies that are in need of healing. Follow the walk of life, where you will

be reminded of different stories where Jesus healed people from disease, suffering and burden. At the end of the walk, you may receive a personal prayer for healing.

How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand—when I awake, I am still with you.

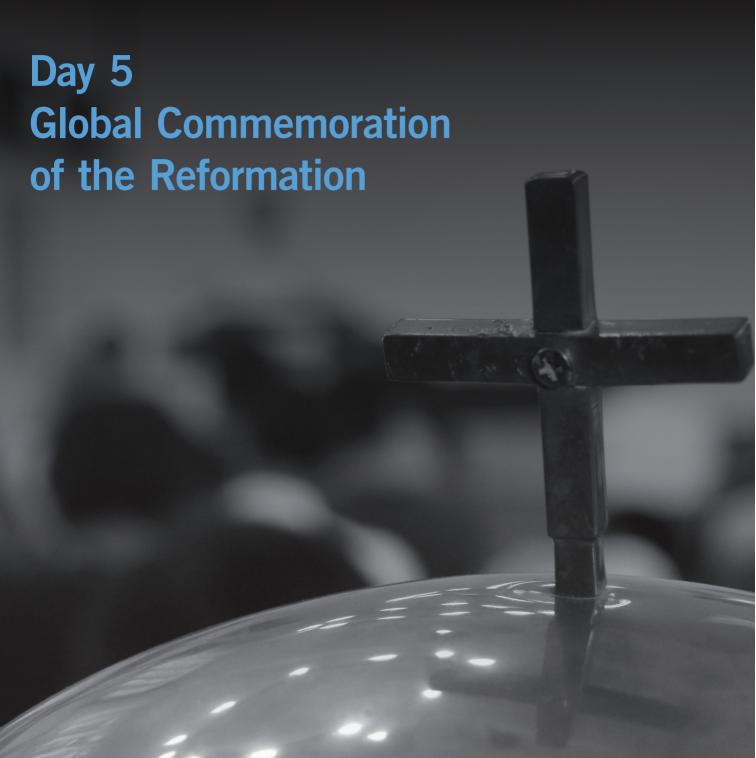
- At the prayer station you are invited to write down your prayers. You can also sit down, be carried by the music or join in the singing. You are invited to visit the stations.
- → This evening prayer is open ended. Take your time, visit the stations. Feel free to leave the tent whenever you are ready.
- → Song: For the healing of the nations (hymn 30)

WORD AND PRAYER

Songs (continuously):

- → Be Still (hymn 31)
- → Ubi caritas (hymn 32)
- → Magnificat (hymn 33)
- → Es señor és la meva força (hymn 34)
- → Nada te turbe (hymn 35)
- → Silence my soul (hymn 14)
- → Santo, santo mi Corazon (hymn 36)
- → I will live for you alone (hymn 37)
- → I'm deep in love with you Lord (hymn 39)
- → Ten thousand reasons (hymn 40)
- → Laudate omnes gentes (hymn 38)
- > You may depart when you wish.





GATHERING

- → Local Choirs and Brass Band
- → Processional
- → Opening Hymns: A Mighty Fortress (hymn 41) and Liberated by God's Grace (hymn 4)
- ▶ Formation of the Luther Rose by confirmation students from parishes in Windhoek.

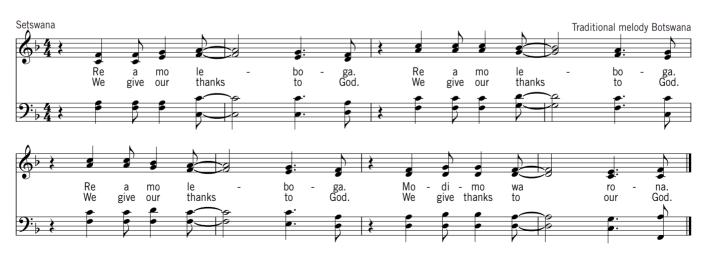
Greeting – Bishop Munib Younan and General Secretary Martin Junge

Bishop Munib Younan: Welcome! Welcome in the name of Jesus Christ who gathers us here from every part of the world. Welcome to this liturgy of Word and sacrament in which we commemorate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation! Welcome to our ecumenical guests. Welcome to the representatives of Windhoek and Namibia! Welcome

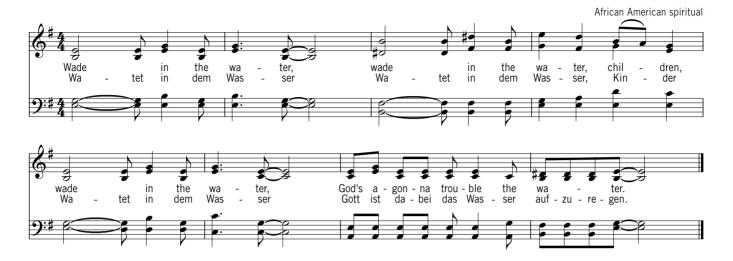
to those who have traveled from nearby countries to be here today. Would you please stand and be recognized. Welcome to everyone coming from the church of Namibia. Would you stand so we can see all of you. Thank you for all your support to make this day possible.

The 500th Anniversary of the Reformation is commemorated in an age of ecumenical accountability. We receive the many fruits of the Reformation and we repent for our wrong doing and division. We engage a spiritual and theological challenge: telling our story from a perspective of unity, not division. The Joint Commemoration in Lund, Sweden marked this new beginning as we move forward in common witness and service with our sisters and brothers in the Catholic Church and other denominations. And now, today, here in Namibia, all of us together, we are a sign that the Reformation is indeed ongoing and a global citizen.

→ Song: Re a mo leboga



2. Ga a yo yo tshwanang le wena. 3x 3. Re pholositswe ke wena. 3x 2. There is no one like God. 3x 3. We have been saved by God. 3x Modimo wa rona. There's no one like our God. We've been saved by our God.



Martin Junge: As we processed into the stadium, we sang A Mighty Fortress, a musical banner of the Reformation down through the centuries, a musical foundation in which Lutherans have identified and taken refuge. Martin Luther based his hymn on Psalm 46, which affirms over and over again that God alone is our refuge, not our music, not the signs of our identity, not our name "Lutheran," but God alone. Luther's hymn directs us to God's Word alone, which paradoxically calls for dismantling the walls and fortresses we would build. We are liberated by God's grace and not by a fortress. The new song from Namibia joins Luther's in pointing us towards the next 500 years, towards a future, which we Lutherans boldly affirm is not for sale.

Now we will hear the stories of how God has worked through Lutherans of many times and places. We will be reminded that we are part of both a great heritage and a global communion. The seven testimonies from all the LWF regions speak to the witness of Lutheran churches in many contexts and cultures. Here are stories of encouragement and inspiration. As we listen, we remember the beginnings of faith: we are made new through baptism, washed in the waters of

regeneration. We give thanks to God who calls us in this time and place to be God's people full of grace and truth.

Introduction

Testimony: Nordic Region

> Water is poured into the font

Testimony person: Washed by the Holy Spirit, we receive the gift of faithfulness.

In Christ Jesus we are liberated by grace.

→ Song: Wade in the Water (refrain)

Testimony: Asia Region

> Water is poured into the font

Testimony person: Washed by the Holy Spirit, we receive the gift of love.

In Christ Jesus we are liberated by grace.

→ Song: Wade in the Water (refrain)

Testimony: Africa

> Water is poured into the font

Testimony person: Washed by the Holy Spirit, we receive the gift of forbearance.

In Christ Jesus we are liberated by grace.

→ Song: Wade in the Water (refrain)

Testimony: North America

> Water is poured into the font

Testimony person: Washed by the Holy Spirit, we receive the gift of peace and reconciliation.

In Christ Jesus we are liberated by grace.

→ Song: Wade in the Water (refrain)

Testimony: Central Eastern Europe

> Water is poured into the font

Testimony person: Washed by the Holy Spirit, we receive the gift of joy and freedom in the Spirit.

In Christ Jesus we are liberated by grace.

→ Song: Wade in the Water (refrain)

Testimony: Latin America

> Water is poured into the font

Testimony person: Washed by the Holy Spirit, we receive the gift of hope.

In Christ Jesus we are liberated by grace.

→ Song: Wade in the Water (refrain)

Testimony: Western Europe

> Water is poured into the font

Testimony person: Washed by the Holy Spirit, we receive the gift of gentleness and kindness.

In Christ Jesus we are liberated by grace.

→ Song: Wade in the Water (refrain)

During this last refrain, all the testimony people gather to form a human backdrop to the font.



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Thanksgiving for Baptism

Presider (at the font): Holy God:

Thanks be to you for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things. Praise be to you for all the waters of this earth! In the waters of the Jordan, your beloved child Jesus was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. All creation praises you.

→ Sung response: Gloria en lo alto a Dios (refrain)

By the baptism of his own death and resurrection, Jesus has set us free from bondage and has opened to us a whole new creation. Your Word calls all human beings into this freedom. Praise be to you for all those who have responded to your call, Martin and Katharina, and the many witnesses throughout the centuries who live out their baptismal calling in all parts of the world. By your word, you save us from our sin, making of us a new people, turned to your way of mercy, justice, and love.

Thanks be to you for your creative Word by whom new life springs into being. In baptism, you have lifted the burden that oppresses us. Salvation is declared through the forgiveness of sins and reconciliation. In obedience to your mercy, we go forth making disciples in this new creation, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

→ Sung response: Gloria en lo alto a Dios (refrain)

We now continue our worship as we come before God in adoration.

Kyrie (Psalm 130)

Out of the depths, we cry to you O Lord! Hear our voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of our supplications!

→ Sung response: Lord have mercy

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you,

→ Sung response: Gloria en lo alto a Dios (refrain)



Melody, Mabel Wu @ 1994 Taosheng Publishing House, Hong Kong.

→ Sung response: Lord have mercy

Hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love. With you, O God, is great power to redeem.

- → Sung response: Lord have mercy
- → Gloria: Esimano (hymn 2)

Apostolic 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.

> (brief silence)

God, renewer of life and only reformer, you surround us with a great cloud of witnesses throughout time and place whom you have called into your work, witnessing to your Gospel of liberation by grace alone. Continue now to raise up witness for your work of renewal and reform that we may all grow more deeply into that mystery of communion that is your church. Come now and sustain the on-going reformation of your church. We ask this all through your child Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

→ Children's Choir: First verse of the Soli

WORD

1st Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

A reading from Jeremiah:

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Word of God! Word of life!

Thanks be to God!

→ Children's Choir: Second verse of the Soli

Psalm 51

> Read alternately using the hymn verses as antiphon

→ Hymn: Kosketa minua Henki

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

→ Hymn: Kosketa minua Henki, verse 2

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.

Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

→ Hymn: Kosketa minua Henki, verse 1

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

→ Hymn: Kosketa minua Henki, verse 3

Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

→ Hymn: Kosketa minua Henki, verse 4

Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

→ Hymn: Kosketa minua Henki, verse 5

For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Silence

→ Children's Choir: Third verse of the Soli

2nd Reading: Romans 1:16-17

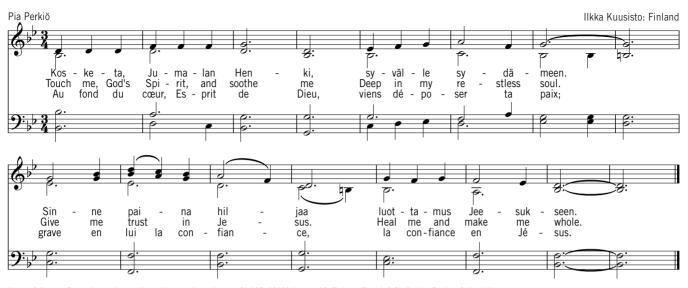
A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans:

For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, "The one who is righteous will live by faith."

Word of God! Word of life!

Thanks be to God!

→ Children's Choir: The combination of all the Soli



Melody © Suomen Evankelis-Luterilainen Kirkko, Virsien Julkaisuoikendet, PL 185, 00161 Helsinki 16, Finland. Finnish © Pia Perkiö. English © Matti Kilpiö Français © Sr. Evangeline, Communaute des Diaconesses de Reuilly, 10 rue Porte de Buc, 78000 Versailles, France..

- 2. Kosketa, Jumalan Henki, Kosketa, kirkkaus! Anna elämälle suunta ja tarkoitus.
- 3. Rohkaise minua, Henki, murenna pelkoni. Tässä maailmassa osoita paikkani.
- 4. Valaise, Jumalan Henki, silmäni aukaise, että voisin olla ystävä toisille.
- 5. Kosketa minua, Henki! Herätä kiittämään, sinun lähelläsi armosta elämään.

- 2. Touch me, God's Spirit eternal. Touch me, resplendent Light. Give my life new meaning, show me the true and right.
- 3. Spirit of God, give me courage, Banish my doubts and fears. Show me my vocation Through all my days and years.
- 4. Spirit of God, brightly shining, Open my eyes to see/
 Those who need my friendship:
 Join us in unity.
- 5. Touch me, God's Spirit eternal. Teach me to thank and praise. By your grace be near me, Guide me in all my ways.

- 2. Descends sur moi, Esprit de Dieu, et transforme ma vie.
 Sois le chemin sous mes pas, le but où tu m'attends.
- Brise mes peurs, Esprit de Dieu, encourage ma foi.
 Au milieu de mes frères tu me veux serviteur.
- 4. Ouvre mes yeux, Esprit de Dieu, fais que vraiment je voie ceux qui, sur ma route, attendent un ami.
- Descends sur moi, Esprit de Dieu, que te chante ma voix.
 Près de toi je veux vivre dans la grâce et la joie.

Testimony

In times of oppression and persecution, women baked big breads and hid the Bible within them. They were able to smuggle the Bible to Christians wherever they might be. Scriptures kept circulating and helped communities remain steadfast in faith.

Gospel Procession with Alleluia

Gospel: John 8:31-36

The Holy Gospel according to John *Glory to you, O Lord*

Jesus said to those who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?" Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

The Gospel of the Lord! **Praise to you, O Christ!**

→ Haleluya (hymn 3)

Sermon – Bishop Zephania Kameeta

→ Hymn of the Day: Nun danket alle Gott (hymn 44)

Apostles' Creed

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.

→ Sung Response: We believe Maranatha light of the day (hymn 43)

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

→ Sung Response: We believe Maranatha light of the day

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit? I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

→ Sung Response: We believe Maranatha light of the day

Intercessory Prayer

Entrusting all things to the Triune God, let us now pray for the world, the church and all those in need.

1. Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy church throughout the world.

> Silent prayer.

Praise be you O God who calls and sends out your disciples and servants to proclaim the joy of the Gospel to all the ends of the earth. Strengthen your church that it continually proclaim your Good News in and out of season. Hold us and our ecumenical partners, encourage and embolden us in common witness. Especially, we pray for our sisters and brothers in. Come Holy Spirit!

→ Sung Response: *Mhepo iyapuki* (hymn 11)

2. Let us pray and give thanks for Reformation

> Silent prayer.

Praise be to you O God for your Word alive among us. We are liberated by your grace! Praise be to you for the many guiding theological and spiritual insights that we have all received through the Reformation: the living contact with the Holy Scripture, the catechisms and hymns, for the priesthood of all baptized believers and their calling for the common mission of the church. Root us always in your Word, Christ alone and guide us in your way: faith alone, grace alone, Scripture alone! Come, Holy Spirit!

→ Sung Response: Mhepo iyapuki

3. Let us pray for forgiveness

> Silent prayer.

O God of mercy, we lament that even good actions of reform and renewal had often unintended negative consequences. We bring before you the burdens of the guilt of the past when our forbearers did not follow your will that all be one in the truth of the Gospel. We confess our own ways of thinking and

acting that perpetuate the divisions of the past. Forgive and heal us. Come, Holy Spirit!

→ Sung Response: Mhepo iyapuki

4. Let us pray for all our sisters and brothers

> Silent prayer.

God of love, your son Jesus reveals the mystery of love among us, strengthen that unity that you alone sustain in our diversity. Transform all complacency, indifference and ignorance, pour out a spirit of reconciliation. Turn us to you and to one another.

Bring us together at your eucharistic table. Come, Holy Spirit!

→ Sung Response: Mhepo iyapuki

5. Let us pray for justice.

> Silent prayer.

God of all, you have created all people equal. Enable us to work for the dignity and respect of every human being. Help us to recognize our deep connectedness to all people. Human beings are not for sale. Free those who suffer from exploitation, whether through harsh work conditions or unemployment or other forms of oppression. Come, Holy Spirit!

→ Sung Response: Mhepo iyapuki

6. Let us pray for peace.

> Silent prayer.

God of peace, bend that which is inflexible, the barriers that divide, the attachments that thwart reconciliation. Bring peace in this world, especially in [countries, places.]. Protect, guide and strengthen our host nation Namibia, its peoples, its churches, its government and institutions. Open for them paths of abundance, equality, justice and peace. Come, Holy Spirit!

→ Sung Response: Mhepo iyapuki

7. Let us pray for God's creation.

> Silent prayer.

God creator, convert us from greed and the exploitation of your creation that groans from abuse. Creation is not for sale! Change our way of living in order to leave a healthy planet to future generations. Come, Holy Spirit!

→ Sung Response: Mhepo iyapuki

8. Let us pray for those are sick and abandoned.

> Silent prayer.

God, rock and fortress, protect refugees, those without homes or security, all the abandoned children. Help us always to defend human dignity. Heal those who suffer from illness, poverty, loneliness and exclusion. Sustain the elderly. Hasten justice for those suffering under the power of evil. Give new life to all. Come, Holy Spirit!

→ Sung Response: Mhepo iyapuki

9. Let us pray for women and for the younger generations

> Silent prayer.

God of ever-new beginnings, affirm and support women in their call to ministry, guiding your church. Guide us through their vision and through the vision of our young people who already now engage an on-going reformation. Come, Holy Spirit!

→ Sung Response: Mhepo iyapuki

10. Let us pray and give thanks for on-going reform in church and world

> Silent prayer.

Praise be to you O God for the good transformations and reforms that were set in motion by the Reformation and by struggling with its challenges. Praise be to you for those who have worked and keep working bringing your Gospel message – salvation is not for sale – to all peoples. Sustain your ongoing transforming power among us. Lead and guide us in an on-going Reformation continually awakening, affirming and strengthening the faith of all people. Come, Holy Spirit!

→ Sung Response: Mhepo iyapuki

We entrust to you all these prayers in the confidence that you O God listen and respond! Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

Offering and Gathering of Gifts

→ Choir Song: *Creation Not For Sale* (hymn 45)

MEAL

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.

Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

He was shown forth to all nations, in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son, and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.

And so with the whole communion of saints, gathered through all times and from all the corners of this planet, with Peter and Paul, with Mary and Elizabeth, with all the saints who have hoped for your day, with all of creation, from the desert of the Namib to the mountains of the Andes, from the Ombalantu baobab tree to the tiniest dandelion, from the Nile to the Yangtze to the Ganges to the Euphrates to the Rhine and the Amazon and the Mississippi rivers, from the rising of the sun to its setting, the works of your hands shout for joy and together with all the choirs of angels we sing an unending hymn.

→ Sanctus: *Omuyapuki* (hymn 6)

Eucharistia

Thanks and praise be to you, O Lord, with our whole heart.

Great are your works, studied by all who delight in them.

Your righteousness, O God, endures forever.

You have gained renown by your wonderful deeds; you are gracious and merciful.

You formed the cosmos out of chaos,

creating humankind and entrusting them with your work.

You refused the sacrifice of Isaac, a child.

You saved the Israelites, bringing them through the waters.

Miriam led the faithful in song and dance.

Ruth's faithfulness saw in the distance your child, Jesus.

Hannah's song prepared Mary for your birth.

Jonah spent three days in the pit of the whale, waiting your deliverance.

Dry bones rattled and you breathed life into them.

The three youth trusted you before the things of this world and danced with you in the blazing furnace.

Wisdom continues to cry out in the streets that all may heed your gift.

You have always been mindful of your covenant, the promise made for a thousand generations (Ps 105:8)

You open your hand, and all are filled with good things.

You provide food for those who fear you; you are ever mindful of your covenant.

Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat: This is my Body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."



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Anamnesis

With this bread and cup we proclaim the redemption you sent to your people:

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

You have commanded your covenant forever. Holy and awesome is your name.

Epiclesis

Come now O Holy Spirit! Bless us and these your own gifts of bread and wine that your praise may ever be on our lips and in our hearts and your justice touch all lives, all cities and nations, and all of creation.

→ Sung Response: Njoo Njoo

Doxology

To you, O God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

Be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

→ Song: Masithi Amen (hymn 46)

Gathered into one, let us pray as Jesus taught us

→ The Lord's Prayer (in our many languages)

Invitation to the Table

Taste and see that the Lord is good!

- → Communion is by intinction. The server will give you a wafer to dip into the chalice.
- → Agnus Dei: *Jesus O Lamb of God* (hymn 47)

Communion Distribution – Communion Hymns

- → Local Choir
- → Let us break bread together (hymn 49)
- → Local Choir
- → Vamos todos al banquete (hymn 50)
- → Local Choir
- → Laudate omnes gentes (hymn 38)
- → We are coming Lord to the table (hymn 25)
- → Halelujah! Pelo tsa rona (hymn 51)

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ be for you a door, a ship, a bridge from this life to eternal life.

Discussion

➤ Intergenerational interaction: dialogue between young reformers and older "reformers"

→ Song: *Haleluya* (hymn 3)

▶ A new rose is formed based on the LWF Logo and in the colors of the Assembly.

Post-Communion Prayer

Holy God, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when all will gather together in peace, when justice will embrace all the earth. Send us forth to make known your saving deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

Benediction

Praise be you, O God, you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans far away!

Amen!

Praise be you, O God, who blots out our transgressions, who answers prayer and to whom all peoples come!

Amen!

Praise be you, O God, your paths overflow with plenty and you cover all the earth in mercy.

Amen!

Holy God, Three in One, Father, Son and Holy Spirit (+) bless and preserve you, this day and all days, now and forever!

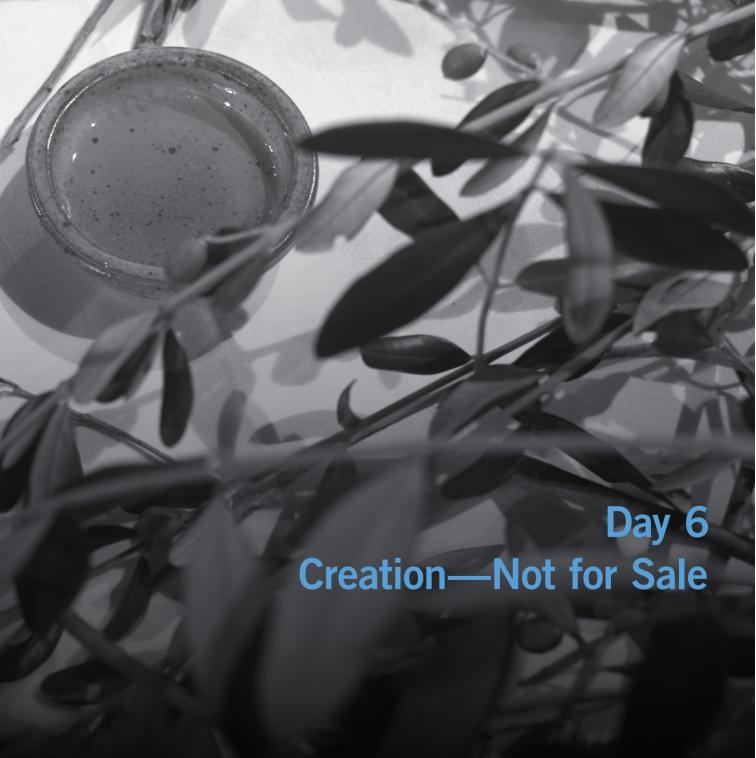
Amen!

→ Closing Hymn: Lobe den Herren (hymn 53)

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve God and neighbor! *Thanks be to God!*

- → Recessional Hymn: Siyahamb' (hymn 54)
- → Brass Band and Local Choirs



Morning Prayer

OPENING AND PSALMODY

Come from the four winds, O Spirit.

Renew your whole creation and breathe into us anew your breath of life.

Come from the four winds. O Spirit.

Heal the groaning of creation, the sighing seas, the overheated atmosphere.

Come from the four winds, O Spirit.

Blow the waters clear of pollution to nourish the land.

Come from the four winds, O Spirit.

Redeem our bodies so we cry out: creation is not for sale.

→ Hymn: God marked a line (hymn 52)

Confession and Forgiveness

God of mercy and justice

we confess our airline tickets,

the need for speed overriding the healing of the earth's fever. **We confess our batteries.**

electrons on demand, but too often later poisoning the back yards of the poorest.

We confess our soaps, our cosmetics, our synthetic shirts and blouses.

ignoring that their unseen, plastic microbeads run into our streams and oceans, now residing in fish, and probably in some of us. We confess our junk, the piles of what we throw away,

the sewage smelling of our lack of concern.

We confess our mindset.

too often concentrating on our ability to buy rather than asking what we really need, what our world needs.

We confess our unfaithfulness,

not loving you with our whole heart and strength and mind,

not loving our neighbors as ourselves,

not caring for the creation you have given us as a gift.

Turn us from our cursed practices

to life that is really living, giving ourselves away, following Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

→ Song: Senzenina (3 times) (hymn 55)

Absolution

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God (Romans 8:26–27).

Amen.

WORD

Reading Isaiah 55:1-3

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

Brief Reflection

Julian of Norwich writes, "God showed me a little thing, the quantity of a hazel nut, lying in the palm of my hand, as it

seemed. And it was as round as any ball. I looked upon it with the eye of my understanding, and thought, "What may this be?" And it was answered generally thus, "It is all that is made." I marveled how it might last, for I thought it might suddenly have fallen to nothing for littleness. And I was answered in my understanding: It lasts and ever shall, for God loves it. And so have all things their beginning by the love of God.

In this little thing I saw three properties. The first is that God made it. The second that God loves it. And the third, that God keeps it. But what is this to me? Truly, the Creator, the Keeper, the Lover. For until I am substantially "oned" to him, I may never have full rest nor true bliss. That is to say, until I be so fastened to him that there is nothing that is made between my God and me."

→ Song: Procession: *No ro tomai au* (hymn 56)



Bible Study

Isaiah 55

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

A Free and Glorious Offer of Plenty for All Who Thirst for God's Grace

Mercedes L. García Bachmann

The theme, "Creation—Not for Sale," demands that we look at God's creation that surrounds us. What we see when we look at the world through the lens of this theme is rather ugly: climate change and ecological crisis; genetic engineering for the profit of transnationals and to the detriment of the people; hunger and overconsumption; etc.

Have you ever attended an LWF event at which you have gone hungry? Perhaps we cannot imagine what might have been the impact of the prophet's words:

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money (silver), come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without

money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food (fatness). Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live (Isa 55:1–3).

These verses stand at the beginning of chapter 55 in the book of Isaiah. This chapter can be divided into two units (vs 1–5; 6–13) or into five units (vs 1–3a; 3b–5; 6–9; 10–11; 12–13). This separation is based on the change in narrators (for example, starting from an "I" who calls "come to me" to an unknown group of servants in vs 1–3, to the refer-

ence to the cypress and the myrtle as memorials of God in v. 13, all in the third person) as well as on a change of theme - invitation to a free meal; a new covenant; a call to repentance—a shift from desert to forest. Because certain themes occur throughout the chapter, we will look at the whole text without paying equal attention to each verse.

Chapter 55 ends the second part of the book of Isaiah that started in chapter 40 with another imperative: "Comfort (plural), O comfort my people" In chapter 55, just as in chapter 40, someone gives an order and expects obedience: "Listen carefully to me! Incline your ear! Come to me! Ho! ..." No less than eleven imperatives are uttered in Isaiah 55:1–3a. But, who are these imperatives addressed to? Since this is not made explicit, the reader can interpret the commands in different ways, depending on how they perceive the chapter's structure, its multiple voices and pronouns ("you" singular, "you" plural, "I," "they," ...), and the connection to other sections of the book of Isaiah. Is this not part of what we usually do when we read? Do we not ask, who is being referred to? Who is being addressed? Who is speaking? Is there anything I do not understand? This is precisely where our hermeneutical task starts, namely in trying to understand what we read before we apply its teaching to our own situation.

Who is the one offering free food in Isaiah 55? The subject may be wisdom (as in Proverbs 9), a king (as in Esther 1; see also Luke 14), or a merchant. Perhaps all these possibilities came to the audience's mind. They probably recalled not only those who had offered them water, but also situations of want in their lives.

By addressing the audience as the [thirsty] in 55:1, a sequential reader is invited to recollect how thirst has been a metaphor for a longing for change. By offering [water] to such people, the sequential reader would call to mind images of water turning deserts into paradises and making travel through previously impassible terrain into an all-you-can-drink-and-eat luxury tour. This would certainly foster hope. The audience is now being asked to respond to these images through this invitation.¹

The Word of God is perceived in specific socio-political situations, not in a heavenly vacuum. God spoke and speaks to people immersed in many different situations—be they happy or stressful; rich or poor; times of peace or war; youth or old age; "top dog" or "underdog."

Question

After reading chapter 55, which social, economic and political issues (tensions) may have been on the prophet's mind?

Imagine you are in an arid place, your throat is dry and it is a hot day. What would you not give for a glass of water? How much would you pay for it? But it is provided free to you and to anybody who is thirsty. And not only water, but also grain, milk and wine. I wondered why the text speaks of buying it when it is free. Is it a commercial transaction, or is it a gift? Why would Isaiah speak of "buying," rather than "receiving"? Perhaps it is a manner of contrasting those who have so far not been able to buy because they lack silver (v. 1) with those who have had the means to buy: "Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?" asks the prophet in verse 2. These verses remind us that in times of scarcity of food (because of drought or plague, for instance) prices rise exponentially, reaching immoral levels; the rich can buy and accumulate supplies while the poor starve. But to God, these purchases are not satisfying.

We can note a progression in the prophet's thought—from the street vendor's cry to come and acquire water, even without money, to an ethical assessment of the drive to accumulate. The text does not list the acquired objects: is it food, as we have imagined by contrasting verses 1 and 2? Is it luxury items, as those the prophet Amos (3:15; 6:4) criticized by referring to "houses of ivory"? Electronic gadgets? Cars? Diamonds? Hard currency in the bank? Land? Is it joining "house to house ... field to field, until there is room for no one but you, and you are left to live alone in the midst of the land," as Isaiah denounced in 5:8? What is it that we seek to possess whenever we feel insecure or out of sorts?

Regardless of what it was that the prophet saw the people coveted, what we are told is that they do not fill the "throat" (the Hebrew uses the same word to refer to the throat and since that is

Andrew T. Abernethy, Eating in Isaiah: Approaching the Role of Food and Drink in Isaiah's Structure and Message (Leiden: Brill, 2014), 131.

where the air we need to breathe passes through, it refers also to a living being, to the "soul," to one's self). They will leave us hungry, for only God's word can satisfy: YHWH "humbled you by letting you hunger, then by feeding you with manna, with which neither you nor your ancestors were acquainted, in order to make you understand that one does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of YHWH" (Deut 8:3).

Please note that the text does not say "go hungry and live from God's Word" or "you will be fed in the kingdom to come, meantime remain thirsty." No, on the contrary, what the prophet envisions is a political program that allows everyone to eat richly, but not at the expense of other people or by exploiting creation. For Isaiah (and now I am speaking of all the voices comprised in this book—the one in eighth-century Jerusalem; the one at the time of the exile; and the one when restoration seemed to bring back the old bad ways)—to listen to God's word means to live in justice and righteousness, to fast and to feast, but in justice and righteousness.

They did not thirst when he led them through the deserts; he made water flow for them from the rock; he split open the rock and the water gushed out. "There is no peace," says YHWH, "for the wicked" (Isa 48:21–22).

Peace, peace, to the far and the near, says YHWH; and I will heal them. But the wicked are like the tossing sea that cannot keep still; its waters toss up mire and mud. There is no peace, says my God, for the wicked (Isa 57:19–21)

In the Bible, the expression "there is no peace" with the negative article and $sh\bar{a}l\partial m$ is rare. In total it occurs only six times. The expectation was to have peace, not "no peace." The Hebrew language has several words to express imbalance in human relationships, with creation and with Creator, such as "abomination," "evil," or "outcry" (see the nice wordplay between $mi\bar{s}p\bar{a}t$ "justice" and $mi\bar{s}p\bar{a}h$ "oppression," and between $s\bar{e}d\bar{a}q\hat{a}$ "righteousness" and $s\bar{e}\bar{a}q\hat{a}$ "a cry," in Isa 5:7). "No peace" might involve war as well as other, less disruptive experiences. However, in the utterances in Isaiah 55 the contrast is not with war but with a life of abundant blessings

expressed by water in the desert, over against unrest and sickness. We have come across several opposites —buying without money; getting wine and milk without paying for them; spending your salary without satisfaction. This is a typical biblical way of expressing something; there are no shades of gray, only black and white.

What is it that the poet wants to express? Right listening to God's Word means right behavior toward the neighbor. And here Isaiah is not speaking in individual terms, but in terms of society, culture, kingdom: verses 3b–5 speak of a covenant between the people and God; a covenant that will also attract other nations to God (vs 6–9). Israel was once exiled, expelled from its land and its temple, but now the movement will be centripetal and unknown nations will be attracted to Israel and its God once again, as long as Israel does not behave as the wicked do for whom there is no peace.

It has just been suggested that Isaiah does not speak in individual terms, but in general terms, namely of culture. Take another look at our text:

Seek the YHWH while he may be found ... let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts ... For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says YHWH. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it (Isa 55:6–11).

Rain does not produce bread; it produces mud, which eventually allows for the seed to sprout and produce grain. But bread is a human-made product; as such it is a part of culture. And here God states that God's Word is like the rain or the snow. Yes, water is vital for life—for plants and animals; for drinking; for cleaning; to stay healthy. For rain to produce bread requires human effort. Likewise, in order for God's Word to fructify, human agency is necessary. Nonetheless, we have to confess, that often in "creating bread" hu-

man efforts damage and abuse creation, rather than being attuned to God's plan. In this context, genetic manipulation, monocultures, and the privatization of water spring to mind. Unrest, sickness, dissatisfaction and overconsumption may be turned into forgiveness, a meaningful life, bread and wine, water and milk for all nations, even for those the religious system had previously left out (see Deut 23). When God lets God's presence be felt, people are receptive to God's presence (vs 6–7), and thus culture is tuned into God's will.

The last two verses serve as a closure for our chapter, the section of the book dealing with return from the exile (Isaiah 40-55) and, given their eschatological tone, also the present age. They include the whole of creation in the celebration of God's great deeds. Again, like at the beginning, the addressees are the plural, undetermined "you." Only this time there is a promise rather than a command: "you shall go out in joy." Whereto is not revealed, but this indeterminacy helps us to hold onto a promise that may be fulfilled in our own time and at all times. You will be led from whichever situation of oppression (desert), "back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle" (vs. 12-13a). Thorns and briers are plants that grew on the ruins of a city that had been destroyed and abandoned (Hos 10:8); cypresses and myrtles, on the contrary, symbolize abundance and stability (Isa 41:19, Hos 14:8). For the Hebrew Bible, salvation implies deliverance from evil, from danger. from thirst, from death, from slavery; salvation requiring stability to grow, like the trees. It is feeling on one's skin, throat and belly that God is not sleeping while we are in danger. YHWH is watching.

Questions

- What does it mean to you that nature accompanies your salvation? What experiences of God's shālôm (salvation, deliverance, salutary life) can you share? As you share experiences, please think particularly of creation, not only of human beings.
- Are there aspects of shālôm that are particularly gender determined?

As we approach the end of the Bible study, we notice the poet wondering what the purpose of this transformation of nature is. The very last words of this verse state that "it shall be to YHWH for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off." (v. 13b). While many versions translate "name" as "memorial," there is more to someone's name than a memorial. The expression "for a name" (Hebrew <code>/ĕšēm</code>) appears twenty-nine times in the Hebrew Bible, of which all but one refer to YHWH's honor, holiness, presence, or glory. For instance:

At that time Jerusalem shall be called the throne of YHWH, and all nations shall gather to it, to the presence of the YHWH in Jerusalem, and they shall no longer stubbornly follow their own evil will (Jer 3·17)

My father David had it in mind to build a house for the name of the YHWH, the God of Israel (1 Kgs 8:17).

Often God promises to transfer that divine honor to God's people:

Save us, O YHWH our God, and gather us from among the nations, that we may give thanks to your holy name and glory in your praise (Ps 106:47).

At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the YHWH (Zeph 3:20).

Another prophet, Ezekiel, envisioned YHWH's mercy in terms of providing a "splendid vegetation," (literally, "a planting of renown") through which other nations would move from contempt to admiration for YHWH's chosen nation:

I will provide for them a splendid vegetation so that they shall no more be consumed with hunger in the land, and no longer suffer the insults of the nations (Eze 34:29).

"Creation—not for Sale" is today's theme. We have seen that God does not plan to sell YHWH's creation. On the contrary, God intends to share its resources for free, particularly with those who would otherwise be unable to survive: water for the thirsty; grain for the hungry; salvation for all. The question that every generation must answer anew is how are we to respond to that dream of God, to share creation in a godly way; what will our "work" for it be. Several

more texts could be referred to, but at this point, we would rather stay with these last words:

and it shall be to YHWH for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off

And may God's people shout, Amen!

→ Lord's Prayer (prayed in all our languages)

Blessing

→ Hymn: Vi rekker våre hender frem (hymn 57)

Midday Prayer (in Village Groups): See page 16

Evening Prayer

OPENING AND PSALMODY

- → Song of the Three Children: *Bénissez le Seigneur* (hymn 58)
- → Song: Local Choir: Creation Not for Sale (hymn 45)

Prayer

The Lord be with you!

And also with you!

Let us pray.

O God of mountain peak and rolling veld whose voice is the lion's roar and whose reach is the heron's swoop: look with favor on your creation, humanity's cradle. Pour out your blessing on your creation that your bounty may feed the nations, and your Spirit of powerful grace becomes the dance of reconciliation from which no one is excluded or forgotten.

WORD

Amen.

Reading: Namibian Creation Story

"On first day, Njambi Karunga ("Giving God") called the first ancestors from the trunk of the omumborombonga tree. One by one, they stepped from the sacred tree."

- "Mukuru and Kamangarunga, the first Herero tate and mama, stepped from the tree. Then the first Berg-Damara tate and mama. The first Nama tate and mama. The first tate and mama of the Ovambo. The first tate and mama of every tribe on earth."
- "On first day, Njambi Karunga also called out the first tate and mama of cattle. The first tate and mama of kudu. Of lions and leopards. Of wildebeest and baboons. On first day, the first tate and mama of every living thing stepped from the omumborombonga tree."
- "First day was darker than a night with no stars or moon. All the ancestors hugged the omumborombonga tree and each other so they wouldn't get lost in the darkness."
- "The first tate of Berg-Damara made a fire. That made the first tate and mama of lions, kudus, giraffes, and other wild animals run away."
- "But it was hard to see, even with the fire, so Njambi Karunga sent light. For the first time, the ancestors saw each other and the animals that stayed."
- "When the first ancestors saw the animals, they chose which ones they wanted," "Mukuru and Kamangarunga chose wisely... They chose cattle!"
- "Yes, but the other ancestors wanted them too. They argued and shouted so much that different languages were born. They couldn't understand each other, so the ancestors walked separate paths. Mukuru and Kamangarunga came here with the first tate and mama of cattle. And until now, the Herero take care of cattle. And cattle give us milk, skins, and meat."

"That's why we give the ancestors milk – to thank them for giving us life, and for choosing cattle. And to thank them for talking to Njambi Karunga for us. When we give the ancestors omaere at the holy fire, they know we remember them and we remember Njambi Karunga."

"They know if we forget them, we will forget Njambi Karunga. And we will lose who we are."

→ Song: *This is the day the Lord has made* (hymn 59)

Reading: Isaiah 55:1 – 3 with responses from Romans 8

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters:

The creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God.

And you that have no money, come, buy and eat! The creation will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. *The creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay.*

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now.

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.

For in hope we were saved.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David

The creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God.

Word of God! Word of Life! **Thanks be to God!**

PRAYER

Masai Thanksgiving Prayer (East Africa)

Creator God, we announce your goodness because it is clearly visible in the heavens where there is the light of the sun, the heat of the sun, and the light of night. There are rain clouds.

The land itself shows your goodness.

→ Sung Response: Re a mo

Because it can be seen in the trees and their shade. It is clearly seen in water and grass, in the milking cows and in the cows that give us meat. Your love is visible all the time: morning and daytime, evening and night.

→ Sung Response: Re a mo

Your love is great. It has filled the land; it has filled people. We say: "Thank you, our God," because you have given us everything we have.

You have given us our fathers and mothers, our brothers and sisters, our children and friends. You have given us cows, grass and water.

We have nothing except what you have given us.

→ Sung Response: *Re a mo*



2. Ga a yo yo tshwanang le wena. 3x 3. Re pholositswe ke wena. 3x 2. There is no one like God. 3x 3. We have been saved by God. 3x Modimo wa rona. There's no one like our God. We've been saved by our God.

You are our shield; you protect us.

You are our guard; you take care of us.

You are our safety, all days. You stay with us for ever and ever. You are our father and mother. Therefore we say: "Thank you". We worship you with our mouths. We worship you with our bodies. We worship you with everything we have, because only you have given us everything. We say: "Thank you" today. And tomorrow. And all days. We do not tire in giving thanks to you. Amen.

→ Sung Response: Re a mo

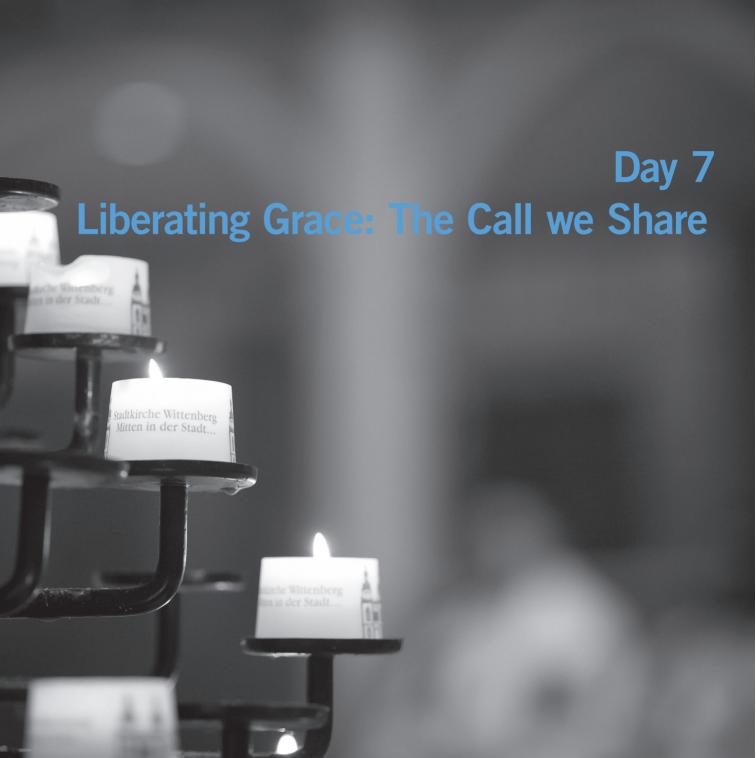
→ Local Choir

Blessing

Go with the wonders of the grace of God. Be filled with the fire of the Holy Spirit, with the compassion and tender love of Jesus Christ and with the wisdom of our Creator God.

Amen.

→ Song: May the Peace from the Earth Follow You (hymn 63)



Morning Prayer

OPFNING - PSAI MODY

→ Opening Music: Choir from Zimbabwe

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.

→ Hymn: Paradiscomnak te szé élőfäja (hymn 60)

> During the hymn. fruits of the Spirit – water and baskets of fruit – are brought to the tree, along with the colorful baskets full of Makalani nuts

WORD

Reading: Revelation 22:1-5

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

→ Song: Buah Rukodus (hvmn 62)

Reading: John 15:1-5

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

Word of God! Word of Life Thanks be to God!

→ Choir song

Response to the Word

"Faith takes the doer and makes him into a tree, and his deeds become fruit. First there must be a tree, then the fruit. For apples do not make a tree, but a tree makes apples. So faith first makes the person, who afterwards performs works." (Martin Luther, commentary on Galatians 3:10) Take the Makalani nut. Hold it and think about the fruits of

this time together.

What will you take with you from here?

What gifts will you share with others?

What promises will you keep?

What story will the Makalani nut remind you to tell? What fruit of this meeting will you invite others to share?

→ Processional Song: This is the day the Lord has made (hymn 59)

Bible Study

Jn 15:1-5

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

Called to be Fruitful

Kenneth Mtata

Positioned to produce fruit

John 15 opens with Jesus' symbolic discourse on the vine. The vine is a strong biblical symbol for fruitfulness and productivity. The image of "God's vineyard" is frequently used as a metaphor for Israel in the Old Testament. Perhaps the most prominent example is the song of the vineyard in Isaiah 5. This poetic song depicts the intimate relationship between God and God's people and portrays God's vision for the vineyard to flourish. The song powerfully illustrates that the criteria for fruitfulness are justice and righteousness. In keeping with the prophetic biblical tradition, the song levies a strong critique whenever these fruits are not found among the people. The metaphor of a vineyard, with its emphasis on fruitfulness, forms the heart of this passage from John's Gospel.

The metaphor of the vine in John 15 includes three interrelated themes that recur in John's Gospel: the first one relates to remaining or abiding; the second to productivity, multiplication or growth; and the third to participation or relationships. In the fourth Gospel, true and authentic productivity is determined by one's proximity to God through Jesus and in participating in what God does through God's Spirit.

At the beginning of this Gospel, the disciples' first encounter with Jesus highlights the relationship between place, productivity

and participation. They ask him where he is staying. Then they seek to bring more people to join him, especially their relatives (Jn 1:35–51). Those who found a place in Jesus' life became productive and started to participate in his mission.

In John 2, we read about a crisis—the wine has run out. Wine is one of the essential elements of a hospitable wedding in first-century Palestine. Multiplication or productivity in this case requires the catalytic role of the mother, who has a special place in Jesus' life, and the participation of those who draw water. The multiplication of the best wine can be understood as a reference to the Holy Spirit. Fruitfulness, multiplication and increase are all closely related to the work of the Holy Spirit whenever Jesus is at work.

Later in John 4, Jesus encounters a woman from Samaria. She is socially displaced, dislocated, or "out of place." Her dialogue with Jesus repositions her in society. From her new position she invites and points others to Jesus. While Jesus' disciples have not yet fully understood, Jesus can already see the results of her participation in his mission: "Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see how the fields are already white for harvest" (Jn 4:35). Similarly, in John 6 we read that the participation of the young boy results in the multiplication of the bread and the feeding of many.

What we find in John 15 is therefore rather like a theological summary of a series of narratives about positioning, productivity and participation. In this pericope, abiding or remaining on the vine is vital to being a productive branch. Jesus is the true vine and his Father is the one who tends to the vine. From the beginning, the relationship is designed for productivity. To make sure that the vine is productive the one who tends to it must regularly prune it. On this vine there is no place for branches that draw nutrients without producing fruit—they will be removed. However, the productive branch and the unproductive one have something in common—they are both "cut." The difference is that the pruning of the productive branch facilitates and increases its productivity, while the cutting of the unproductive branch leads to its destruction. What Jesus emphasized in this text is that the secret of productivity is abiding or remaining in him. For "apart from me you can do nothing" (Jn 15:5).

Fellowship with the Father and the Son in the power of the Holy Spirit

John 15:1–5 can be understood as a call to justice and righteousness as fruits of the Spirit. In John 14, it is clear that the time after Jesus will be the age of the Spirit. Jesus will send the Spirit to embolden the disciples to witness to the "truth" and enable them to appreciate the depth of fellowship with God and among themselves: "On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you" (Jn 14:20). This fellowship with God the Father and the Son in the power of the Holy Spirit will determine the fruit of discipleship referred to in John 15:1–5.

Verse 1 reminds us that fruitfulness is the production of righteousness and justice. This fruitfulness, which is demanded by the vine grower, is guaranteed by remaining connected to the vine, Jesus. While it is the Father who demands fruit for the disciples, it is Jesus who makes fruitfulness possible. The rest of the passage expands on this basic understanding.

What does this mean for our churches? How can the church effectively work to promote and defend justice in the world while maintaining righteousness that is its spiritual vitality? There is a temptation among churches today to choose between individual

moral and spiritual righteousness and socioeconomic and political justice. I will propose that such an imbalance is the result of not feeding the vine with the right food of the Word. The church could produce abiding and fruitful discipleship that is characterized by spiritual vitality and commitment to socioeconomic justice if it pursues three key elements raised in the "farewell discourse" (Jn 13:31–17:26):

- Hearing God's promising and demanding Word
- Pursuing life-giving fellowship
- Appropriating the citizenship of heaven and earth.

Hearing God's promising and demanding Word

According to Jesus, hearing and obeying God's Word are crucial to abiding in life-giving fellowship. This is the nature of divine communication—it promises and demands. It invites us to the love of God and love for one another: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (Jn 13:34-35). It is also a Word of judgment to those who betray the Gospel as spoken to Judas: "Do quickly what you are going to do" (Jn 13:27). It is a Word that discloses human frailty as spoken to Peter on behalf of all the disciples: "Very truly, I tell you, before the cock crows, you will have denied me three times" (Jn 13:38). It is also a Word of invitation to the new way: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (Jn 14:6). It is also a Word of promise: "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you" (Jn 14:18).

It is a Word that does not call for a transaction, rather it moves us towards results: "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them" (Jn 14:23). These can remain mere words were it not for the power of the Spirit who will realize the results: "I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you" (Jn 14:25-26). This Word has vitality because it carries the Spirit of God: "the Spirit of truth

who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf" (Jn 15:26). The one who has heard this Word will also be motivated by the same power of the Spirit to bear witness: "You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning" (Jn 15:27).

Pursuing life-giving fellowship

The drama before Jesus' departure is set in the context of worship. Here Jesus bids farewell to his friends by performing a liturgical act of relationship. By washing their feet he shows how to continue in true fellowship as brothers and sisters. It will be a fellowship of equals who seek to serve each other. It is a fellowship freed from betrayal such as that of Judas. It is a fellowship of sacrificial commitment to one another, even to the point of death: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you" (Jn 15:13–14).

This is not only a friendship between human beings. If it were the fellowship would be short lived. It is friendship among people who participate in divine fellowship. It is an abiding fellowship because it abides in the eternal fellowship of the eternal God: "Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me" (Jn14:11).

Jesus incorporates God's people into what could have been an exclusively divine relationship. The coming of the Holy Spirit will ensure this incorporation into deep fellowship between his disciples but also between them and God.

Appropriating the citizenship of heaven and earth

The Gospel of John is considered to be one of the most spiritual gospels. Nevertheless, already in the first chapter it states that the "Word became flesh and lived among us" (Jn 1:14). The incarnation provides a basis for the theology of the fourth Gospel. Although the world is presented in a negative way, Jesus presents the world as the arena for fruitful discipleship. In John, the notion of the world frames the narrative between the prologue (Jn 1:1–18) and epilogue (Jn 21). Jesus left the Father to come into the world (Jn 1:19–12:50) and that Jesus would leave the world and go to the Father (Jn 12–13). In between this coming and going, the world is the focus of Jesus' agenda.

In John 14:2, Jesus says, "I go to prepare a place for you" but in the meantime his disciples understand that they are "in the world." Yet, they should be able to understand that theirs is a dual citizenship; they are in the world, but they do not belong to it. In his priestly prayer, Jesus reinforces this by saying: "I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one" (John 17:15). This "being in the world" but not belonging to it is very characteristic of John's understanding. Even though they do not belong to the world, Jesus is not asking the Father to "take them out of the world" but, instead, sends them "into the world" (Jn 17:16-18). The world is the location for their participation in God's mission. But their heavenly citizenship, as branches belonging to the vine, is the source of their true identity.

Reformation theology and the call to be fruitful

The theology undergirding Christian fruitfulness and productivity has fascinated thinkers throughout history. The underlying question has been, how do people make good things happen? What is the power that ensures that human productivity of such good works is lasting?

This question was central during the sixteenth-century Reformation. It became a pressing issue since the church had prescribed that certain religious works improved one's standing before God. Martin Luther, on the other hand, was accused of exaggerating the significance of faith at the expense of good works. Luther addressed the two issues by showing that, the "first, highest, and most precious of all good works is faith in Christ."

Luther argued that the first condition for a productive Christian life is to believe in the work that God has done for us on the cross. Luther did not believe that it was possible to know all the good works expected of a Christian, nor was it necessary. Once this first step of faith was taken, one would find oneself in a position to know these good works and to be able to produce that which pleases God and serves one's neighbor.

According to John 15, remaining in Christ produces such fruit. Such abiding in Christ is not necessarily a passive state. On the

Martin Luther, "Treatise on Good Works," in LW, 44, 23

contrary, God's Spirit will create faith through the hearing of the Word. At the same time, God will be busy pruning and training believers so that they produce more fruit. The believer will not be passive either. They will hold on in trust as if they were on a fast moving rollercoaster. Putting trust in God is not a self-serving process. Those who know the joy and peace of putting trust in God will burn within themselves to share this life with others.

If the greatest work is faith or trust in God, then the joy of proclaiming the thrill of life in Christ—both in word and deed—will start to bear fruit of justice and righteousness in this world. This morning we are called to meditate on what "abiding in Christ" means to us. From your experience within the context of your church, share examples of ways that you abide in Christ in order to bear fruit of justice and righteousness.

→ Lord's Prayer (prayed in all our languages)

Blessing

→ Hymn: Njoo kwetu (hymn 64)

Midday Prayer (in Plenary): See page 16

Closing Worship

GATHERING

→ Entrance Hymn: God, creator of the earth (hymn 27)

Prayer of Confession

God, our fortress and refuge, how did we lose our trust in you, so we continue to fix fences of fear and divert the streams, which gladden the city of God? Forgive us.

→ Kyrie eleison: Lord have mercy

God, in the midst of us, how did we become bound by an idolatrous, "I," worshiping ourselves rather than loving you with our whole heart.

serving ourselves, rather than loving our neighbors? Forgive us when we do not see you near enough to us.

→ Kyrie eleison : Lord have mercy

God, exalted in the earth, how did we become dependent on bows and spears, guns and bombs?

What silence will it take so we know that you are God, and not rely only on brains or brawn?

What stillness might bring us back to you,

our fortress, our refuge,

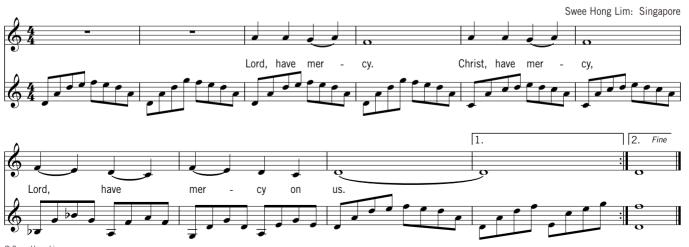
lifted up high on a cross,

nailed to a tree,

deadly quiet,

the emptiness that sets your people free?

→ Kyrie eleison: *Lord have mercy*



© Swee Hong Lim

Words of forgiveness

Sisters and brothers in Christ, believe the gospel: In the silence of Jesus dying on the cross, God's identity. In the humanity of Jesus, vulnerable, open, truly alive, God's dwelling.

In the self-giving of Jesus Christ, God's forgiveness, refuge, life. In Christ, sin and death no longer have you bound. You are free. Amen.

→ Gloria: Esimano (hymn 2)

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray:

O God! You are the vine, we are the branches.

Apart from you, we can do nothing.

Sustain us, prune us, nourish us in the joy of the Resurrection that we may bear fruit, fruits of mercy and reconciliation,

fruits of justice and peace for this world,

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God. now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Jeremiah 29:10-12

For thus says the Lord: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare

and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you.

Word of God! Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

→ Sung Response: *Be Still* (verse 1; hymn 31)

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;

God will help it when the morning dawns.

The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;

he utters his voice, the earth melts.

→ Sung Response: Be Still (verse 2)

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Come, behold the works of the Lord; see what desolations he has brought on the earth. He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.

▶ Silence

I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth.'

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

→ Sung response: *Be Still* (refrain)

Second Reading: Galatians 5:1, 22-26

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another.

Word of God! Word of Life! *Thanks be to God!*

→ Halleluia Pujilah (hymn 22)

Gospel: John 15:1-5

The Gospel according to John

Glory to you, O God!

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

The Gospel of our Lord! *Praise to you, O Christ!*

→ Alleluia (sung)

Sermon - Rev. Lydia Posselt

- → Hymn of Day: Que esta iglesia sea un árbol (hymn 5)
- During the hymn the young reformers and young adult stewards are invited to gather near the altar.

Installation of the LWF Council

"Youth delegates, young reformers and stewards. you are branches of the vine, listening to the Spirit, forging links of friendship, compassion and hope, giving a sense of direction for the Lutheran communion. You have helped this Assembly by being delegates and assisting in countless other ways. So I invite this Assembly, as it nears its end, to acknowledge all that you as young adults have contributed."

→ Haleluya (hymn 3)

Young Reformer: The General Secretary will read out the names of the new Council. As your name is read, will you please rise, and then a young adult will come and escort you to the front

→ Refrain: *I am the vine* (hymn 61)

Young Reformer: Members of the new Council of The Lutheran World Federation, you have been chosen by this Assembly, to be the ongoing voice of Lutheran churches around the world. You are charged to bring the Gospel of liberation to all peoples, engaging all neighbors in building a trust-worthy world. I ask you in the presence of God and of this Assembly: will you accept and carry out your duties as

a Council member in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, ready to bear fruit in the name of Jesus Christ? If so, then answer: I am. God help and guide me.

Council Members: I am, God help and guide me.

→ Refrain: I am the vine

Young Reformer: Our connection is not only arm in arm, but also prayer to prayer. Every young adult will be asked to pray aloud for the council member next to them. You can pray in your own language.

Let us pray:

> Individual prayers are offered.

→ Luther's Hymn: Nun bitten wir (hymn 65)

Outgoing President: You are now members of the Council of the Lutheran World Federation. May the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless you and direct your ways as you counsel together in this service.

And I ask you, people of God, representatives of LWF member churches, will you continue to pray for this Council and support its work?

We will.

Now I invite everyone to stand and we make a vine throughout the tent, so every person is connected.

→ Refrain: *I am the vine*

As branches of the true vine let us rejoice in the faith given to us, confessing our faith in our many languages.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate. was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven. he is seated at the right hand of the Father. and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church. the communion of saints. the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body. and the life everlasting. Amen.

Presider: We sing as we return to our seats.

→ Song: *Mhepo iyapuki* (hymn 11)

Intercessory Prayer

→ Sung Response: Mhepo iyapuki

The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you, and also with you.

Let us share signs of Christ's peace.

The Offering

▶ We are collecting for the diaconia service projects of the local churches in Namibia.

→ Presentation of the gifts: *Hole inene* (hymn 1)

MEAL

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 God thanks and praise.*

Preface

Abiding in your word was a whole cosmos.
You spoke light and whole worlds came alive.
Your Spirit entered into your image formed from the dust, abiding in the very act of breathing,
so song could arise from human voices and worship you.

With fire abiding in a bush, but not consuming it, you announced your name to Moses so he could lead your people from captivity.

Abiding within the words of your prophets, you pronounced judgment on the unjust and promise for those in exile to whom you offered a future with hope.

In the fullness of time, you gave us your Beloved, Jesus Christ, love incarnate,

dwelling with us, abiding in us.

So with all the branches of the true vine, with those of every language, tribe and time, with the whole heavenly chorus, we join the unending hymn of praise.

→ Sanctus: *Omuyapuki Kalunga* (hymn 6)

Eucharistic Prayer

We thank you most of all for the Living Vine, the divine dwelling in the midst of humankind, healing the stranger, making place for the left behind, calling a tax collector out of a tree dining with him, and questionable women, giving himself in the finest fruit pressed into wine lifted up so all people might be free.

Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering

At this table we abide with Christ, and Christ abides with us. We are offered the bread of life and the cup of salvation so we might be nourished and bear good fruit. Here we remember

Christ Jesus, the truth that sets us free. Here is the love that binds us for all eternity. We proclaim the mystery of our faith. *Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.*

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit so we see Jesus, connecting us to each other and to him, forming us into a vine of compassion and hope, a growing vine, reaching out towards the light, a living vine bearing much fruit, offered as a gift to others, so that all we do and say gives honor to Christ Jesus, to whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, we offer all honor and praise, now and forever.

Lord's Prayer in our many languages

→ Agnus Dei: Cordero de Dios (hymn 66)

Communion

- → We are coming Lord to the table (hymn 25)
- → Chon rizad (hymn 28)
- → Anaweza (hymn 21)
- → Liberated by God's Grace (hymn 5)

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray:
God of compassion and mercy,
we thank you for this Assembly,
for all the people who have given their hard work and talent to
bring it about.

Keep us as branches of the true vine, Jesus Christ, ever closer to each other as we become closer to him.

Produce in us an abundance of the fruits of your Spirit, so creation is not consumed but enjoyed, and justice brings each child a future with hope, each woman, dignity, each man, the freedom to give himself away for others, following Christ, all together forming his body, bearing his name, liberated by his grace, free.

Amen.

SENDING

Closing of the General Assembly

The business of this Assembly is over, but our work is just beginning. Our songs in this tent will ring hollow unless we find the energy to sing the Lord's song to people unfamiliar with the melodies of grace. Our plans and projects will fail unless we abide in Christ. The whole world awaits the freedom Christ offers. The whole world becomes the place where God is active, where the Spirit offers gifts, where we and our churches become alive with the freedom of Christ Jesus, which is truly free.

People from Asia, will you abide in Christ and bear much fruit?

People from Asia: We are liberated by God's grace.

People from Latin America and the Caribbean, will you proclaim God's future with hope?

People from Latin America and Caribbeans. We are liberated by God's grace.

People from North America, will you be still and know the presence of God?

People from North American. We are liberated by God's grace.

People from Eastern Europe, will you proclaim God's gift of freedom and dignity for all humankind?

People from Eastern Europe: We are liberated by God's grace.

People from Northern Europe, will you proclaim God as your refuge and strength and not be afraid?

People from Northern Europe: We are liberated by God's grace.

People from Western Europe, will you keep the commandments of Christ, so Christ's word dwells in you? *People from Western Europe: We are liberated by God's grace.*

People from Africa, will you live by the Spirit, being guided by the Spirit.

People from Africa: We are liberated by God's grace.

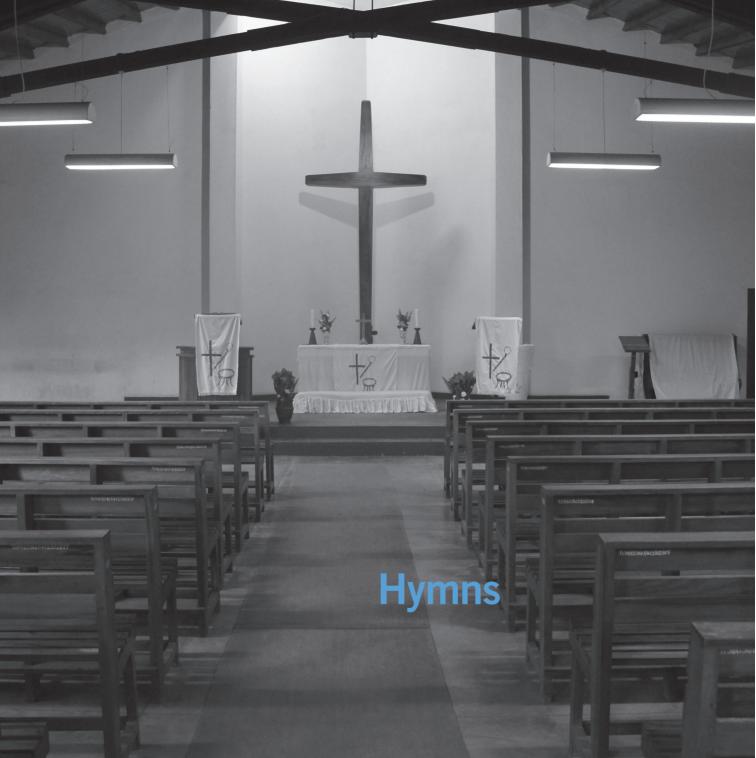
From all corners of the world, are you ready to live the love of Christ

All: We are liberated by God's grace. We will abide in Christ, who sets us free.

I declare that the Twelfth Assembly of The Lutheran World Federation in Windhoek, Namibia, is now over.

Go to the north, to the south, to the east, and to the west and proclaim freedom, and live the gift of God's grace.
Go forth into the world in peace. Hold fast to that which is good. Give to no one evil for evil. Support the weak.
Comfort the afflicted. Confront the principalities and powers. Strive for justice.

And may our gracious God, who broods over creation as a mother over her children, bless (+) and keep us all.

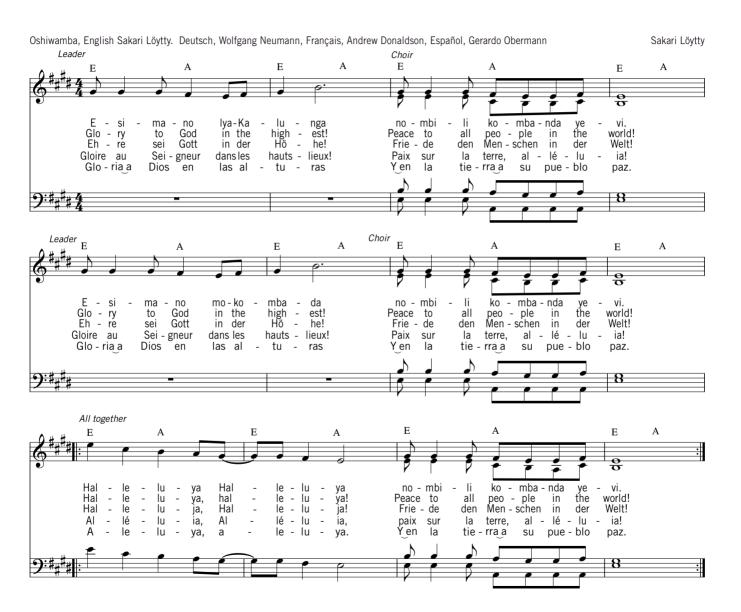


1. HOLE INE

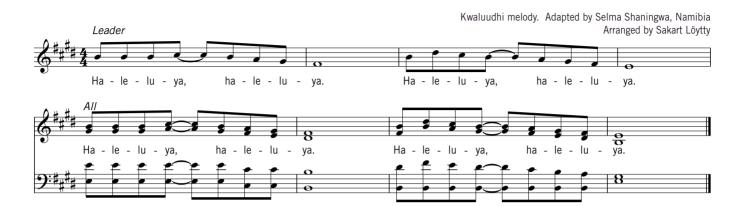


English paraphrase: Terry MacArthur

2. ESIMANO



3. HALELUYA



4. LIBERATED BY GOD'S GRACE



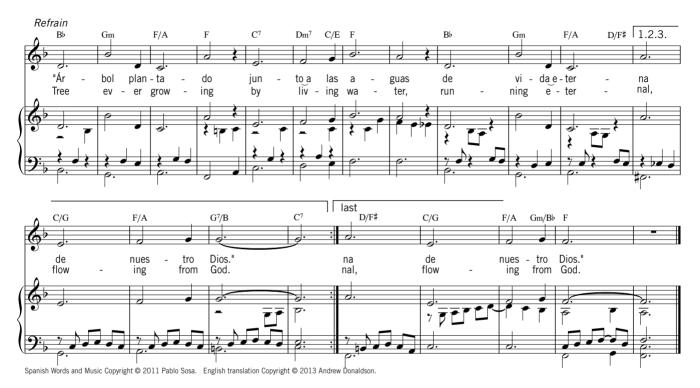
4. LIBERATED BY GOD'S GRACE (CONT.)



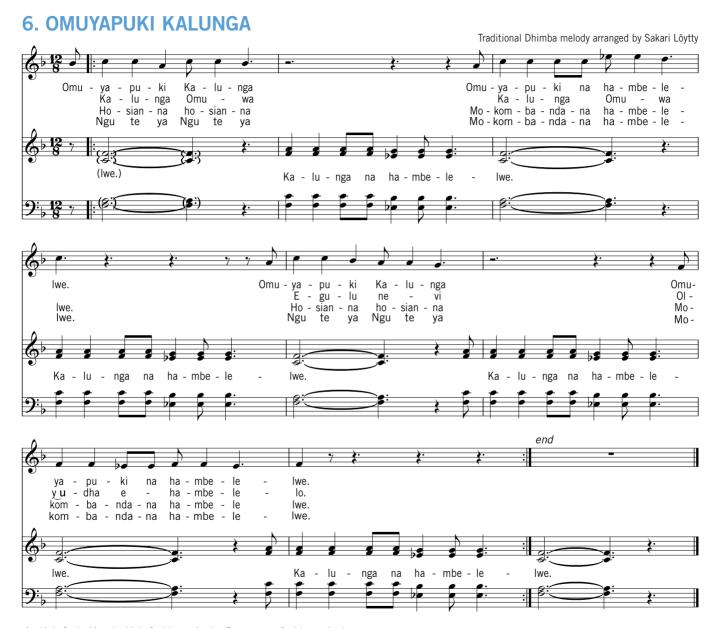
5. QUE ESTA IGLESIA SE UN ÁRBOL



5. QUE ESTA IGLESIA SE UN ÁRBOL (CONT.)



- 2. Que_esta_iglesia también sea como_un árbol de la plaza, nido de pájaros libres y refugio del que pasa, y que sea como_el árbol de la_esquina de mi casa, que me ve llegar de lejos e_imagino que me_abraza.
- 3. Que_esta_iglesia sea_un árbol oh, buen Dios, en donde quieras, pero siempre_apuntalado por tu_amor y_a tu manera. Para dar frutos y sombra o_entregar nuestra madera que_esta_iglesia que te nombra árbol de la vida sea.
- 2. May this church be like a tree, there in the street or in the plaza, For the birds a nesting-branch, for passers-by, a welcome shelter. May it stand as if it's watching, near my house, just round the corner, Waiting for this weary pilgrim with its arms wide to embrace me.
- 3. May this church be like a tree,
- O God, that thrives where you have planted; May it stand to show the way, your way of loving and self-giving, Off'ring shade, and fruit for sharing, giving up its wood for burning, May this living church that names you be a tree of life eternal.



- 1. Holy God. May the Holy God be praised. Response: God be praised.
- 2. God of power and might.
- 3. Hosanna in the highest. Praise the Lord.
- 4. Blessed the one who comes in the highest. Praise the Lord.

7. COME, LET US EAT



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8. EAT THIS BREAD



Music J. Berthier @ Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, 71250 Taizé-Communauté, France.

9. SCHMÜCKE DICH



- 2. Nein, Vernunft, die muß hier weichen, kann dies Wunder nicht erreichen, daß dies Brot nie wird verzehret, ob es gleich viel Tausend nähret, und daß mit dem Saft der Reben uns wird Christi Blut gegeben.
 Gottes Geist nur kann uns leiten, dies Geheimnis recht zu deuten!
- 3. Jesu, meine Lebenssonne, Jesu, meine Freud und Wonne, Jesu, du mein ganz Beginnen, Lebensquell und Licht der Sinnen: hier fall ich zu deinen Füßen; laß mich würdiglich genießen diese deine Himmelsspeise mir zum Heil und dir zum Preise.
- 4. Jesu, wahres Brot des Lebens, hilf, daß ich doch nicht vergebens oder mir vielleicht zum Schaden sei zu deinem Tisch geladen.
 Laß mich durch dies heilge Essen deine Liebe recht ermessen, daß ich auch, wie jetzt auf Erden, mög dein Gast im Himmel werden.

9. SCHMÜCKE DICH (CONT.)

- 2. Those who crave a precious treasure neither cost nor pain will measure; but the priceless gifts of heaven God to us hath freely given.

 Though the wealth of earth were offered, naught would buy the gifts here offered: Christ's true body for thee riven, and his blood, for thee once given.
- 3. Sun, who all my life dost brighten; light, who dost my soul enlighten; joy, the best that any knoweth; fount, whence all my being floweth; at thy feet I cry, my Maker, let me be a fit partaker of this blessed food from heaven, for our good, thy glory, given.
- 4. Jesus, bread of life, I pray thee, let me gladly here obey thee; never to my hurt invited, be thy love with love requited. From this banquet let me measure, Lord, how vast and deep its treasure; through the gifts thou here dost give me, as thy guest in heav'n receive me.

2. Tu prépares notre place A ce festin de ta grâce. Tu nous donnes en silence La douceur de ta présence. Reçois-nous à cette table Au repas inépuisable, Avant que tu nous appelles A tes tables éternelles.

- 2. Vida ofrece, y paz preciosa tu palabra ponderosa; por unirse al elemento hace el santo sacramento. Con el pan y vino adquiero cuerpo y sangre del Cordero ¡Oh misterio tan profundo! ¿Quien lo entiende en este mundo?
- 3. En tu mesa bendecida, tú me das la bienvenida : los misterios de tu gloria hoy celebro en tu memoria. Con tu santo cuerpo y sangre sacias hoy de mi alma el hambre. Haz que en fe, amor, constancia, frutos lleve en abundancia.
- 4. Ya mi alma tú libraste, y el pecado tú quitaste, cual preludio de tu cielo, hoy me gozo en tu consuelo. Cielos, tierra, noche y día te den gracias a porfía : "Por tus múltiples favores, ¡gracias mil y mil loores!"

10. SINA MEID OLED VALINUD



Estonian and Music © Katrin Luhamets

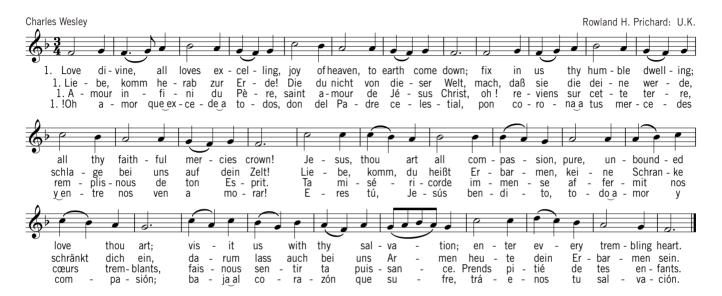
11. MHEPO IYAPUKI



French: Andrew Donaldson www.andrewdonaldson.ca

WORSHIP. BIBLE STUDIES AND HYMNS

12. LOVE DIVINE



- 2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.
- 3. Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive; suddenly return and never, nevermore thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above, so pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.
- 4. Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be. Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee; changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

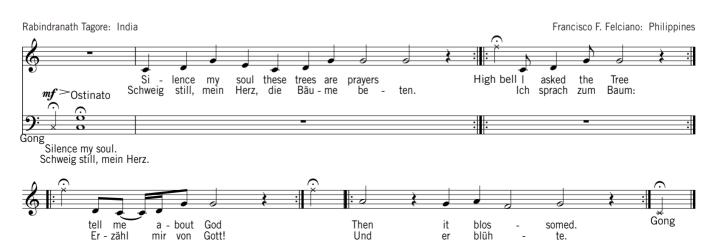
- 2. Noch ist unser Herz gefangen, Angst und Trauer hält es fest; aber es war dein Verlangen, das uns Ruhe finden lässt. Lieber, komm, komm und befreie eilends uns aus aller Not, schenk das Leben uns, das neue, schenk das Leben ohne Tod!
- 3. Komm, o Gott, uns zur Erlösung, schaffe unser Leben neu! Komm und mache uns zur Wohnung deines Geists in deiner Treu! Herr, wir wollen für dich leben dienen dir bei Tag und Nacht, loben dich auf allen Wegen. Preis sie deiner Liebesmacht!
- 4. Dann vollende deine Werke, laß uns rein und heilig sein! Gib uns durch den Geist die Stärke dir zu dienen, dir allein! Denn du gibst uns ja das Beste, jeder von uns ist dein Kind. Du lädst uns zu deinen Feste, dass wir ewig die dir sind. Johann Christoph Hampe, st. 1,2. Lothar Pöll st. 3. Christoph Klaiber st. 4 ⊚ bei den Urhebern

12. LOVE DIVINE (CONT.)

- 2. Saint Esprit, Esprit de vie, sois vainqueur de notre effroi ! Ton people en toi se confie notre repose est en toi. Oh ! Jésus, céleste frère, nous célébrons ton amour reçois-nous dans ta lumière, nous attendons ton retour.
- 3. Nous voulons la délivrance promise par toi, Jésus. lci-bas, bonheur, souffrance sont le lot de tes élus. Nous te bénissons sans cesse comme ceux qui sont au ciel. Joyeux, tes enfants confessent : « Gloire à l'amour éternel. »
- 4. Notre vie sur cette terre tout à coup ne sera plus. Et restaurée tout entière jouira de ton salut. Car ta gloire tu nous donnes ; bientôt nous serons au ciel pour déposer nos couronnes à tes pieds, Emmanuel. Van der Beken st. 1,2. Aimée Tschnaz st. 3,4.

- 2. ¡Ven, amor, a cada vida, mueve toda inclinación; Guárdanos del mal deseo y de andar en tentación! Tú el Alfa y Omega, sé de todo nuestro ser; Que tu gracia nos proteja y sostenga nuestra fe.
- i, jOh amor, no te separes de la iglesia terrenal;
 Ünela estrechamente con el lazo fraternal
 iPerfecciona a cada miembro, ilumina nuestro andar,
 Y que el alma se complazca en tu nombre proclamar.
 Juanita Rodriguez de Labboch.

13. SILENCE MY SOUL



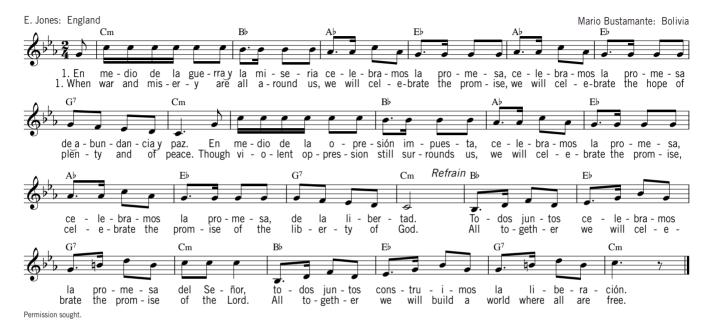
Music © Francisco F. Feliciano, Asian Institute for Liturgy and Music, Samba-Likhaan, Manila, Philippines.

14. FREEDOM IS COMING



2. Justice is coming. 3. Jesus is coming.

15. EN MEDIO DE LA GUERRA



- 2. En medio de la duda_y de la niebla, celebramos la promesa, celebramos la promesa de esperanza y fe. En medio de los miedos y traiciones, celebramos la promesa, celebramos la promesa, de solidaridad.
- 3. En medio de la muerte y del odio, celebramos la promesa, celebramos la promesa de vida v amor. En medio del pecado_y de la ruina, celebramos la promesa. celebramos la promesa de la salvación.

Repite la primera línea +. En medio de la muerte que rodea. celebramos la promesa. celebramos la promesa, del Tata Jesús. 2. When all the world seems filled with doubt and darkness, we will celebrate the promise. We will celebrate the hope that comes with having faith.

we will celebrate the promise. We will celebrate the hope of solidarity.

3. Though every day exposes death and hatred, we will celebrate the promise. We will celebrate the cherishing of life and love.

When every turn seems fraught with new betrayal,

When all around are sin and ruin.

we will celebrate the promise.

We will celebrate the promise of the saving grace of God.

Repeat the first line +.

Though death is everywhere; we can't escape it.

We will celebrate the promise.

We will celebrate the promise found in Jesus Christ.

16. PÜHA



16. PÜHA (CONT.)

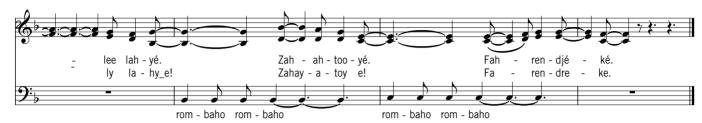


Music Urmas Sisask, Estonia © 1993 Fazer Music Estonia Inc. Espoo, Finland.

17. WHOA WHOA RUMBOW



17. WHOA WHOA RUMBOW (CONT.)



Embrace us, Lord, Embrace us otherwise we are lost.

18. AUS TIEFER NOT



English verses 1, 3, 4 © 1978, 2006 Augsburg Fortress. Printed under One License Lutheran World Federation Assembly', E-803640 for May 10, 2017 - May 17, 2017

- 2. Bei dir gilt nichts denn Gnad und Gunst, die Sünde zu vergeben; es ist doch unser Tun umsonst auch in dem besten Leben. Vor dir niemand sich rühmen kann, des muß dich fürchten jedermann und deiner Gnade leben.
- 3. Darum auf Gott will hoffen ich, auf mein Verdienst nich bauen; auf ihn mein Herz soll lassen sich und seiner Güte trauen, die mir zusagt sein wertes Wort; das ist mein Trost un treuer Hort, des will ich allzeit harren.
- 4. Und ob es währt bis in die Nacht und wieder an den Morgen, doch soll mein Herz an Gottes Macht verzwiefeln nicht noch sorgen. So tu Israel rechter Art, der aus dem Geist erzeuget ward und seines Gotts erharre.

- 2. Your love and grace alone avail to blot out my transgression; the best and holiest deeds must fail to break sin's dread oppression. Before you none can boasting stand, but all must fear your strict demand and live alone by mercy.
- 3. In you alone, O God, we hope and not in our own merit; We rest our fears in your good Word and trust your Holy Spirit. Your promise keeps us strong and sure; we trust the cross, your signature inscribed upon our temples.
- 4. My soul is waiting for you, Lord, as one who longs for morning; no watcher waits with greater hope than I for your returning. I hope as Israel in the Lord, who sends redemption through the Word Praise God for grace and mercy!

18. AUS TIEFER NOT (CONT.)

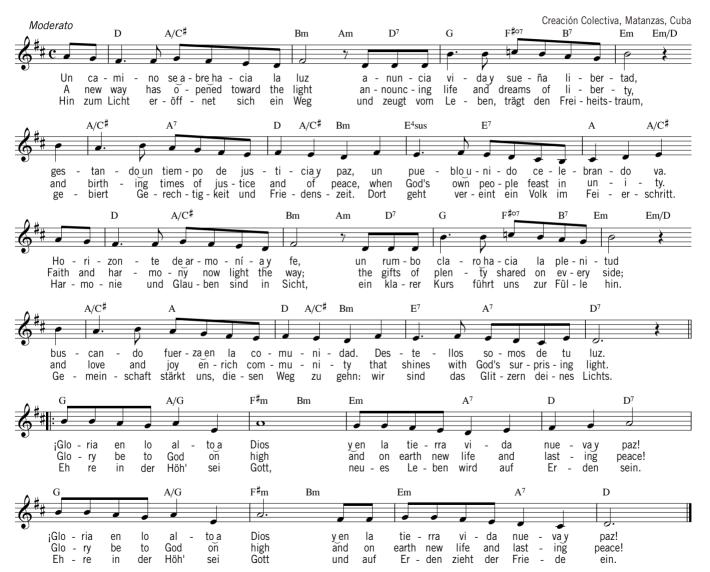
- 2. Qui donc pourra nous pardonner sinon toi dans ta grâce ? Tous nos efforts sont condamnés, quelque bien que l'on fasse. Devant toi qui voudrait crâner, au lieu d'humblement t'adorer et vivre de ta grâce !
- 3. En Dieu seul je veux espérer non pas en mon mérite. En Dieu mon cœur veut demeurer, son amour m'y invite. Sa parole est mon seul appui, ma foi repose toute en lui, si sûre est sa conduite!
- 4. Le mal vient m'accabler de nuit, m'étreint jusqu'à l'aurore. En Dieu je trouve un sûr ami : sans douter je l'implore. Aussi, ô peuple d'Israël, invoque ton Dieu, l'Eternel, en ton Sauveur espère.

Pierre Valloton

- 2. Delante de tu santidad es mala nuestra vida, y nuestra culpabilidad aumenta cada día. Las obras nuestras vanas son; tu gracia sola da el perdón, ¡Oh, ten misericordia!
- 3. Por tanto, en Dios esperaré, luchando en todo tiempo; y nunca más me confiaré en mis merecimientos. Promesas firmes de su amor, de gracia santa y de perdón, me infunden esperanza.
- 4. Un día y otro pasará en dura lucha y pena; el alma mía esperará en la victoria plena, que un día me concederá el Dios de luz y de verdad: no falta a su palabra.

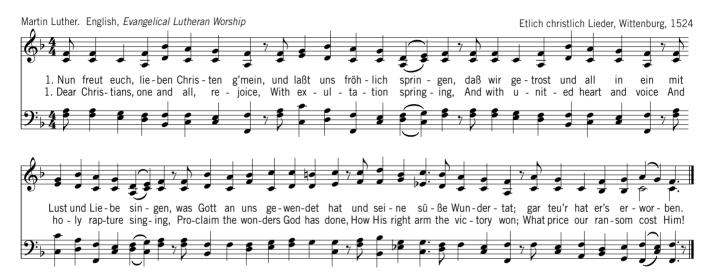
Juan Baptista Cabrera

19. UN CAMINO SE ABRE



Creative Commons 2008. Creación Colectiva, Matanzas, Cuba. Collective Creation, Matanzas, Cuba.

20. NUN FREUT EUCH



- 2. Dem Teufel ich gefangen lag, im Tod war ich verloren, mein Sünd mich quälte Nacht und Tag, darin ich war geboren. Ich fiel auch immer tiefer drein, es war kein Guts am Leben mein, die Sünd hatt' mich besessen.
- 3. Mein guten Werk, die galten nicht, es war mit ihn' verdorben; der frei Will hasste Gotts Gericht, er war zum Gutn erstorben; die Angst mich zu verzweifeln trieb.

dass nichts denn Sterben bei mir blieb, zur Höllen musst ich sinken.

- 4. Da jammert Gott in Ewigkeit mein Elend übermaßen; er dacht an sein Barmherzigkeit, er wollt mir helfen lassen; er wandt zu mir das Vaterherz, es war bei ihm fürwahr kein Scherz, er ließ's sein Bestes kosten.
- 5. Er sprach zu mir: "Halt dich an mich, es soll dir jetzt gelingen; ich geb mich selber ganz für dich, da will ich für dich ringen; denn ich bin dein und du bist mein.

und wo ich bleib, da sollst du sein, uns soll der Feind nicht scheiden.

- 2. Fast bound in Satan's chains I lay, death brooded darkly o'er me, sin was my torment night and day, in sin my mother bore me; yea, deep and deeper still I fell, life had become a living hell, So firmly sin possessed me.
- 3. My own good works availed me naught, no merit they attaining; Free will against God's judgment fought, dead to all good remaining. My fears increased till sheer despair

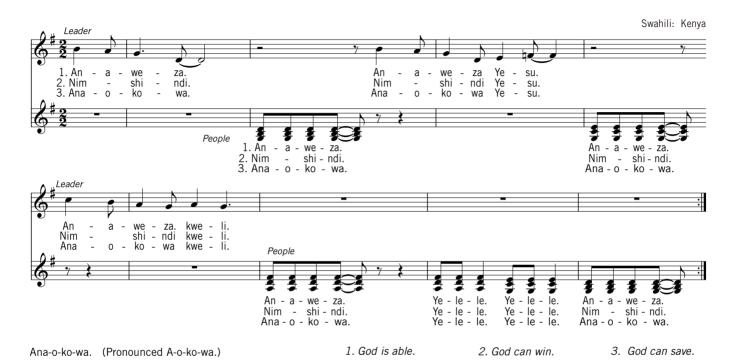
left naught but death to be my share; The pangs of hell I suffered.

- 4. But God beheld my wretched state before the world's foundation, And, mindful of his mercies great, he planned my soul's salvation. A father's heart he turned to me, sought my redemption fervently: he gave his dearest treasure.
- 5. To me he spake: 'hold fast to me, I am thy rock and castle; thy ransom I myself will be, for thee I strive and wrestle; for I am with thee, I am thine, and evermore thou shalt be mine; the foe shall not divide us.

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WORSHIP, BIBLE STUDIES AND HYMNS

21. ANAWEZA



22. HALELUYA PUJILAH TUHANMU

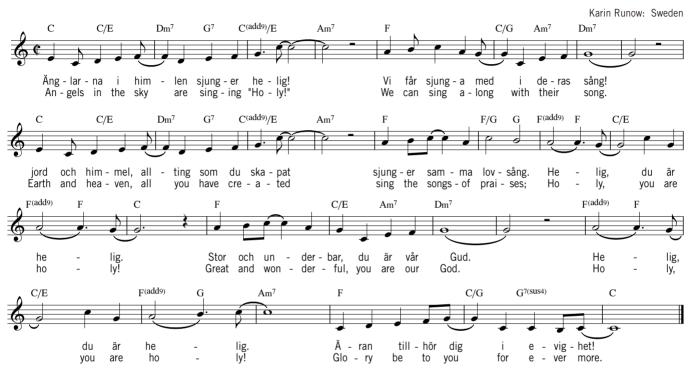


- is a long step, one beat. : is a quick step, one-half a beat.

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WORSHIP, BIBLE STUDIES AND HYMNS

23. ÄNGLARNA I HIMLEN



Church of Sweden

24. CHRISTUS, ANTLITZ GOTTES



Text und Musik: Jochen Arnold. © Strube Verlag, Munchen

25. WE ARE COMING LORD TO THE TABLE



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26. AMAZING GRACE





- 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved; how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.
- 3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come; 'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
- 4. When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.
- 2. J'ai été été instruit par la grâce de ne jamais avoir peur. Cette grâce était précieuse la première fois i'ai crû.
- 3. Au travers les dangers les peines j'ai été victorieux, la grâce m'a mené jusqu'ici, elle me menera au ciel.
- 4. Nous serons toujours avec Jésus là haut au paradis nous ne serons pas fatigués de chanter ses louanges.

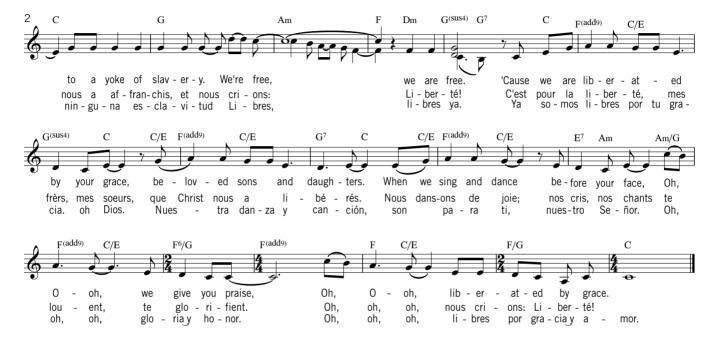
Deutsch, Dieter Trautwein © Strube, München.

- 2. Die Gnade mein Herz sich fürchten lehrt und Gnade die Angst mir nimmt. Welch köstliches Geschenk, das erstmals ich begriff, als ich zum Glauben kam!
- 3. Durch viele Gefahren, Müh und Not, hat mich schon mein Weg geführt die Gnade gab Geleit, hat sicher mich bewahrt, und Gnade bringt mich heim.
- 4. Und sind wir am Ziel zehntausend Jahr' und strahlen der Sonne gleich, dann fehlt uns nicht ein Tag, zu singen Gottes Lob frisch wie zum erstenmal.
- 2. Por gracia mi corazón temió por gracia la calma hallé Preciosa gracia se mostró cuando comencé a creer.
- 3. Peligros, trampas y pesar yo tuve que pasar su gracia me condujo a salvo hasta aquí v me guiará a mi hogar.
- 4. Mientras que estuvimos años mil brillando como el sol ni un día nos perdimos de alabar a Dios como al principio fue.

27. GOD CREATOR OF THE EARTH



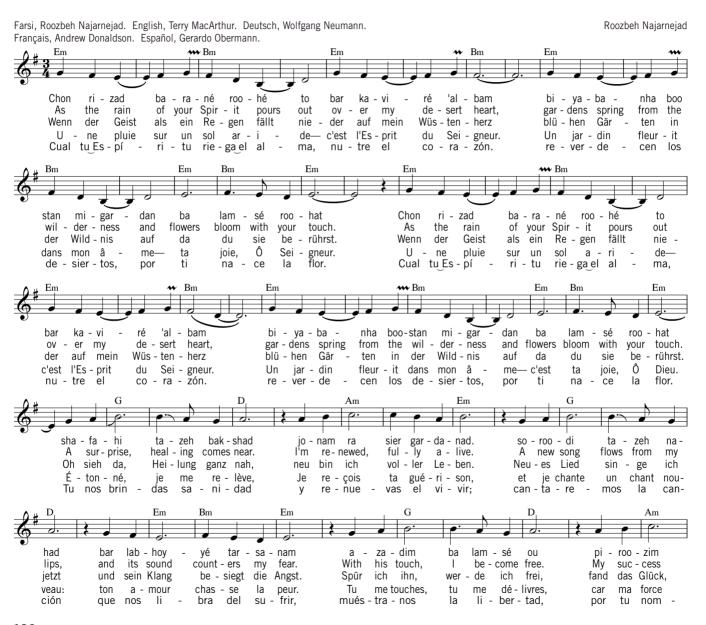
27. GOD CREATOR OF THE EARTH (CONT.)



- 2. Every child your likeness bears, you count every hair. Break the chains, the deep despair. Restore the human care. Help us realize; no one is for sale.
- 2. Jedes Kind nach deinem Bild, zählst du jedes Haar. Lös' die Ketten tiefe Not, mach uns als Menschen ganz. Hilf uns zu verstehn, Schöpfung gibt's nicht für Geld

- 2. Chaque enfant est à l'image du Dieu souverain. Crée en nous le saint désir d'aimer notre prochain. Car l'humanité n'est pas à vendre. www.andrewdonaldson.ca
- 2. Hechos a tu_imagen, Dios, nos conoces bien. Sana nuestra humanidad, que no caiga la fe. Nadie está a la venta, no, sepámoslo.

28. CHON RIZAD



28. CHON RIZAD (CONT.)



Permission sought. Français www.andrewdonaldson.ca

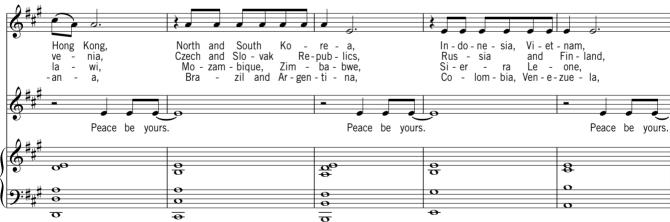
29. I'M DETERMINED TO WALK WITH JESUS



A and B can be sung at the same time.

30. FOR THE HEALING OF THE NATIONS

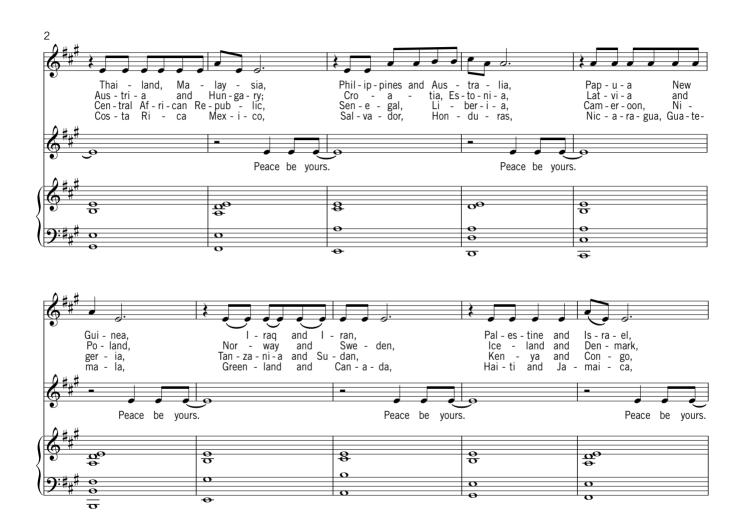




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30. FOR THE HEALING OF THE NATIONS (CONT.)



30. FOR THE HEALING OF THE NATIONS (CONT.)

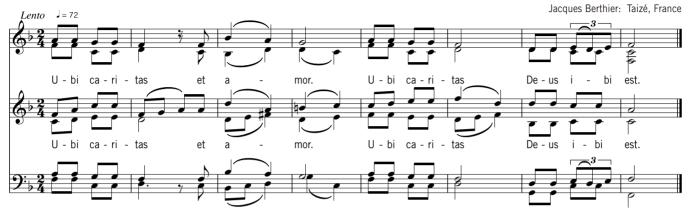


31. BE STILL



WORSHIP, BIBLE STUDIES AND HYMNS

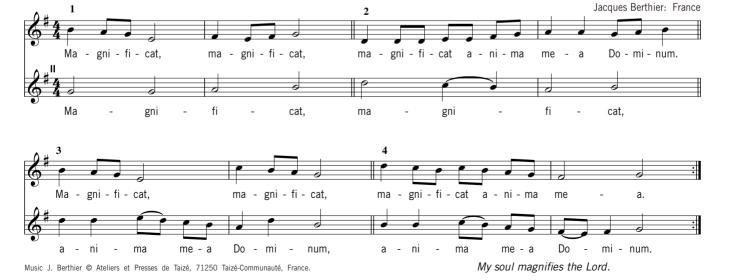
32. UBI CARITAS



Where there are charity and love, there is God.

Music J. Berthier © Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, 71250 Taizé, France.

33. MAGNIFICAT



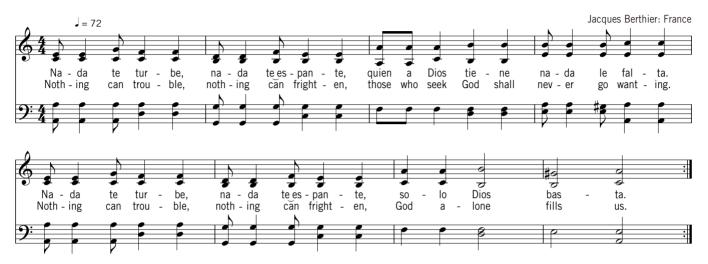
34. ES SEÑOR ÉS LA MEVA FORÇA



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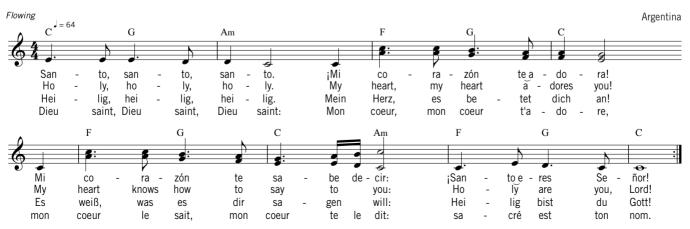
WORSHIP, BIBLE STUDIES AND HYMNS

35. NADA TE TURBE



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36. SANTO, SANTO MI CORAZON



French, Joëlle Gouël © 1990 WCC 150, Route de Ferney, 1211, Geneva, Switzerland. Deutsch, Wolfgang Leyk.

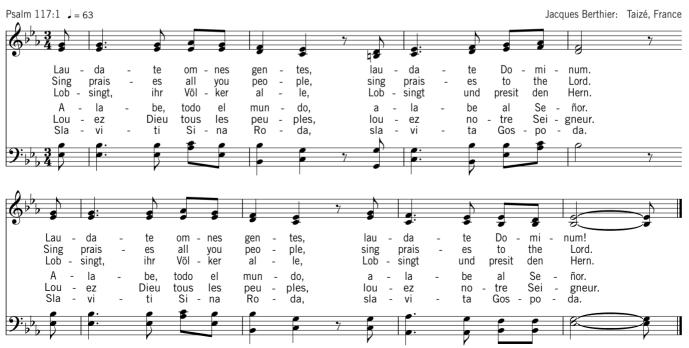
37. I WILL LIVE FOR YOU ALONE



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38. LAUDATE OMNES GENTES



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39. I'M DEEP IN LOVE WITH YOU LORD



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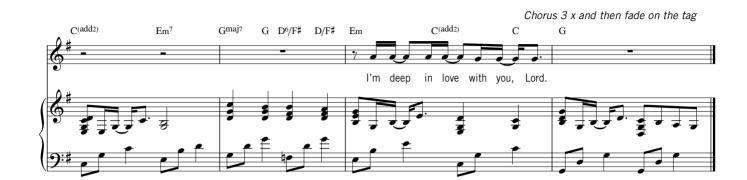
39. I'M DEEP IN LOVE WITH YOU LORD (CONT.)



39. I'M DEEP IN LOVE WITH YOU LORD (CONT.)



39. I'M DEEP IN LOVE WITH YOU LORD (CONT.)



40. TEN THOUSAND REASONS



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40. TEN THOUSAND REASONS (CONT.)



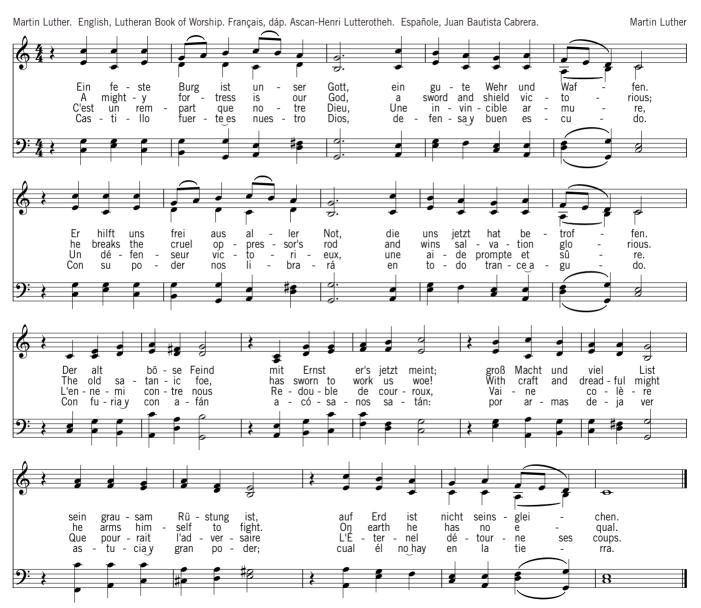
40. TEN THOUSAND REASONS (CONT.)



40. TEN THOUSAND REASONS (CONT.)



41. A MIGHTY FORTRESS



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41. A MIGHTY FORTRESS (CONT.)

- 2. Mit unsrer Macht ist nichts getan wir sind gar bald verloren; es streit' für uns der rechte Mann, den Gott hat selbst erkoren. Fragst du, wer der ist? er heißt Jesus Christ der Herr Zebaoth, und ist kein andrer Gott. das Feld muss er behalten.
- 3. Und wenn die Welt voll Teufel wär' Und wollt' uns gar verschlingen. So fürchten wir uns nicht so sehr. Es soll uns doch gelingen. Der Fürst dieser Welt. Wie sau'r er sich stellt. Tut er uns doch nicht, Das macht, er ist gericht't, Ein Wörtlein kann ihn fällen.
- Er ist bei uns wohl auf dem Plan Mit seinem Geist und Gaben. Nehmen sie den Leib. Gut. Ehr'. Kind und Weib: Lass fahren dahin. Sie haben's kein'n Gewinn. Das Reich muss uns doch bleiben
- 2. Seuls, nous bronchons à chaque pas, notre force est faiblesse ; mais un héros dans les combats, pour nous lutte sans cesse. Quel est ce défenseur ? C'est toi, divin sauveur ! Dieu des armées, tes tribus opprimées connaissent leur libérateur
- Quand tous les démons déchaînés. prétendraient te détruire. Ne crains point! ils sont comdamnés et ne sauraient te nuire. Constant dans son effort. en vain avec la mort Satan conspire ; Pour bri-ser son empire, il suffit d'un mot du Dieu fort.
- 4. Dis-le, ce mot victorieux, dans toutes nos détresses ; Répands sur nous du haut des cieux ta force et ta sagesses. Qu'on serre nos liens, que nous importe! Ta grâce est plus forte et ton royaume est pour les tiens.

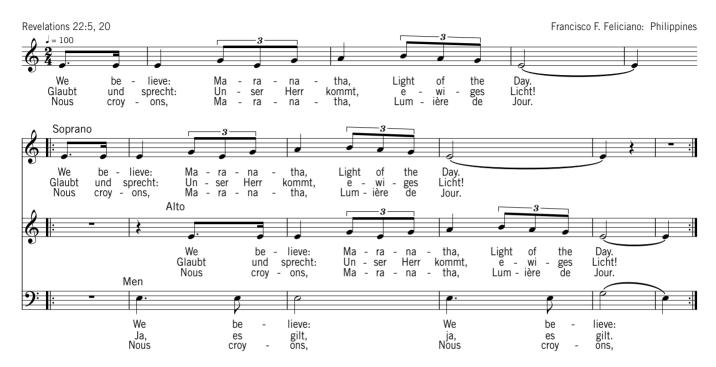
- 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, rejected. But now a champion comes to fight, whom God himself elected. You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Jesus, mighty Lord, God's only Son, adored, He holds the field victorious
- 3 Though hordes of devils fill the land all threat'ning to devour us, we tremble not, unmoved we stand; they cannot overpow'r us. Let this world's tyrant rage: in battle we'll engage! His might is doomed to fail; God's judgment must prevail! One little word subdues him.
- 4 God's word forever shall abide, no thanks to foes, who fear it: 4 Das Wort sie sollen lassen stahn und kein'n Dank dazu haben; for God himself fights by our side with weapons of the Spirit. Were they to take our house, goods, honor, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched away, they cannot win the day, The Kingdom's ours forever.
 - 2. Nuestro valor es nada aquí, con él todo es perdido; Mas con nosotros luchará de Dios el escogido. Es nuestro Rey Jesús, el que venció en la cruz, Señor v Salvador, v siendo El solo Dios. El triunfa en la batalla
 - 3. Y si demonios mil están prontos a devorarnos. no temeremos, porque Dios sabrá cómo ampararnos. ¡Que muestre su vigor Satán, y su furor! Dañarnos no podrá, pues condenado es ya Por la Palabra Santa.
 - 4. Esa palabra del Señor, que el mundo no apetece, por el Espíritu de Dios muy firme permanece. Nos pueden despoiar de bienes, nombre, hogar. el cuerpo destruir, mas siempre ha de existir de Dios el reino eterno. Amén.

42. LORD, KEEP US STEADFAST



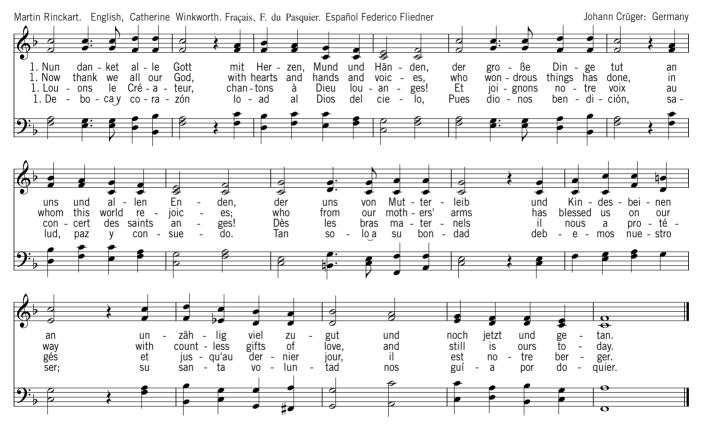
- 2. Lord Jesus Christ, your power make known, for you are Lord of lords alone; defend your holy church that we may sing your praise eternally.
- 3 O Comforter of priceless worth, send peace and unity on earth; support us in our final strife and lead us out of death to life.

43. WE BELIEVE: MARANATHA, LIGHT OF THE DAY



@ The Asian School of Music, Worship and the Arts, P.O. Box 10533, Quezon City 1112, Philippines. Deutsch Dieter Trautwein @ Strube-Verlag, München.

44. NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT



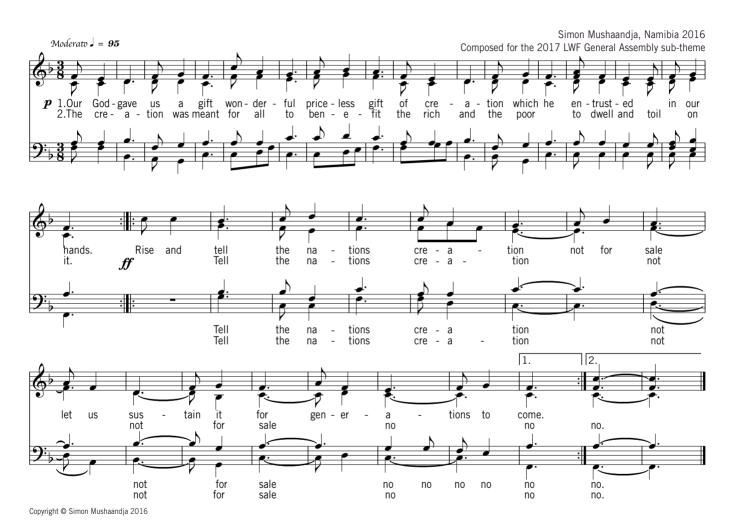
English, Catherine Winkworth. French, F. du Pasquier. Spanish, Federico Fliedner.

44. NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT (CONT.)

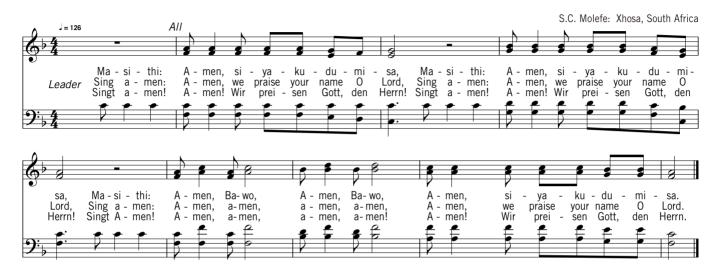
- 2. Der ewigreiche Gott woll uns bei unserm Leben ein immer fröhlich Herz und edlen Frieden geben und uns in seiner Gnad erhalten fort und fort und uns aus aller Not erlösen hier und dort.
- 3. Lob, Ehr und Preis sei Gott, dem Vater and dem Sohne und Gott dem Heilgen Geist im höchsten Himmelsthrone, ihm, dem dreiein'gen Gott, wie es im Anfang war und ist und bleiben wird so jetzt und immerdar.
- 2. Loué soit notre Dieu! Que notre vie entière tous nous vivions joyeux sous le regard du Père, qu'il nous tienne en sa grâce et nous guide toujours, nous garde du malheur par son unique amour.
- 3. De ce Dieu trois fois saint qui règne dans la gloire, chrétiens empressons-nous de chanter la victoire; son Royaume est aux cieux où plein de majesté, il règne, seul vrai Dieu, de toute éternité.

- 2. O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us, with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us; and keep us still in grace, and guide us when perplexed; and free us from all ills, in this world and the next.
- 3. All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given; the Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven; the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore; for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.
- 2. ¡Oh Padre celestial! Danos en este día un corazón filial y lleno de alegría. Consérvanos la paz; tu brazo protector nos lleve a ver tu faz en tu ciudad. Señor.
- 3. Dios Padre, Creador, con gozo te adoramos. Dios Hijo, Redentor, tu salvación cantamos. Dios Santificador, te honramos en verdad. Te ensalza nuestra voz. bendita Trinidad.

45. CREATION NOT FOR SALE



46. MASITHI AMEN



From the Lumko Song Book © Lumko Institute, P.O. Box 5058, 1403 Delmenville, Republic of South Africa. Transcription and English, Dave Dargie © Lumko Institute.

47. JESUS O LAMB OF GOD



© Tumaini University Makumira

48. KYRIES (MIDDAY PRAYERS)



Hymns of Praise #560, Melody by Mabel Wu, ©1994 Taosheng Publishing house Hong Kong.







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49. LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER

Deutsch, Dieter Trautwein. Français, Marc Ginot. Españole, Federico J. Pagura.

African-American spiritual

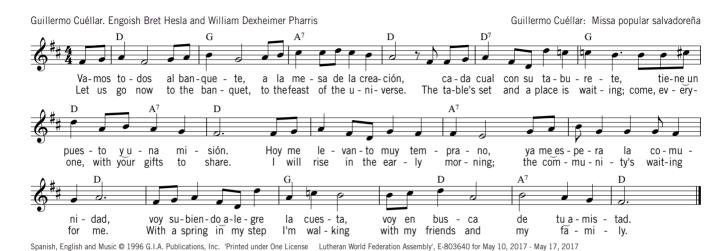


Deutsch @ Strube, München,

- 2. Let us drink wine together on our knees.
- 3. Let us praise God together on our knees.
- 2. Partageons tous le vin
- 3. Partageons tous l'Amour

- 2. Nehmt den Kelch, trinkt, und laßt uns dankbar sein.
- 3. Laßt uns Gott loben und ihm dankbar sein.
- 2. Compartamos la copa en gratitud,
- 3. De rodillas loemos al Señor

50. VAMOS TODOS AL BANQUETE



- donde no_hay acaparadores, y_a nadie le falta_el conqué.
- 3. Dios nos manda_a hacer de_este mundo, una mesa donde haya igualdad, trabajando y luchando juntos, compartiendo la propiedad.
- 2. Dios invita_a todos los pobres, a_esta mesa común por la fe, 2. God invites all the poor and hungry to the banquet of justice and good where the harvest will not be hoarded so that no one will lack for food.
 - 3. May we build such a place among us where all people are equal in love. God has called us to work together and to share everything we have.

51. HALELUJAH! PELO TSA RONA



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2. Now he sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt, strong in faith, free of doubt. Tell to all the joyful Gospel.

2. Alle sendet er aus, stark und ohne Zweifel, stark und ohne Zweifel: Allen sagt die frohe Botschaft! 2. Ya nos manda a salir, firmes en nuestra fe, firmes en nuestra fe, anunciando el evangelio.

52. GOD MARKED A LINE



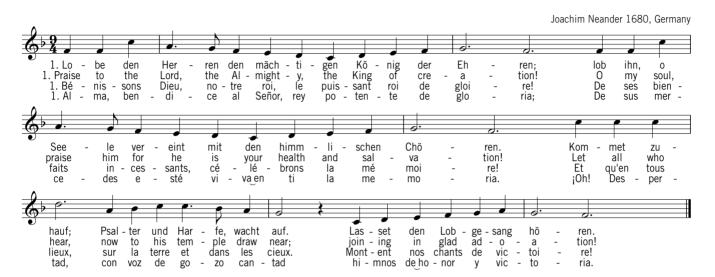
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- 2. God set one limit in the glade where tempting, fruited branches swayed. And that first limit stands behind the limits that the law defined.
- 3. The line, the limit, and the law are patterns meant to help us draw a bound between what life requires and all the things our heart desires.
- 4. But, discontent with finite powers, we reach to take what is not ours and then defend our claim by force and swerve from life's intended course.
- 5. We are not free when we're confined to every wish that sweeps the mind. But free when freely we accept the sacred bounds that must be kept.

- Gott setzt' die Grenze wo Licht scheint, wo Äste voller Früchte sind.
 Und diese Grenze stand zuerst, dann Grenzen des Gesetzes.
- 3. Der Strich, die Grenze das Gesetz sind als die Hilfen für uns da, zu scheiden was das Leben braucht, von allem was das Herz begehrt.
- 4. Doch nicht genug der Endlichkeit wir wollen das was nicht für uns und haltens mit aller Macht und kommen ab im Lebenslauf.
- 5. Wir sind nicht frei wenn wir beschränkt durch jeden Wunsch der und bedrängt, doch frei wenn wir sagen ja zu Grenzen heilig und Gesetz.

- Dios puso_un límite_al jardín al fruto tentador sutil.
 Y aquel límite_aun es fiel y ayuda a definir la ley.
- 3. Los límites, junto a la ley son una_ayuda_a nuestra fe, nos dan consejo_al definir lo justo_y digno al vivir.
- 4. Más, aferrados al poder, solo pensamos en pose_er, por fuerza queremos ganar, y nos perdemos al andar.
- 5. No hay libertad al confundir lo que deseamos con vivir, sagrado_el límite de_amor que nos libera y_es de Dios.

53. LOBE DEN HERREN



- 2. Lobe den Herren, der alles so herrlich regieret, der dich auf Adelers Fittichen sicher geführet, der dich erhält, wie es dir selber gefällt. Hast du nicht dieses verspüret?
- 3. Lobe den Herren, der künstlich und fein dich bereitet, der dir Gesundheit verliehen, dich freundich geleitet. In wieviel Not hat nicht der gnädige Gott über dir Flügel gebreitet!
- 4. Lobe den Herren, was in mir ist, lobe den Namen. Lob ihn mit allen, die seine Verheißung bekamen. Er ist dein Licht; Seele, vergiß es ja nicht. Lob ihn in Ewigkeit. Amen.

- 2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining. Have you not seen all that is needful has been sent by his gracious ordaining?
- 3. Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you; surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you. Ponder anew what the Almighty can do if with his love he befriend you.
- 4. Praise to the Lord! Oh let all that is in me adore him.
 All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him.
 Let the Amen sound from his people again.
 Gladly forever adore him.
 Catherine Winkworth adp. Hedwig T. Durnbaugh

53. LOBE DEN HERREN (CONT.)

- 2. Bénissons Dieu, notre roi, dont la main étendue Porte ses faibles enfants comme l'aigle en la nue! Il nous guérit. Son pouvoir est infini, Il nous remplit d'allégresse.
- 3. Bénissons Dieu, notre roi, qui toujours fait justice, A l'orgueilleux redoutable, au plus humble propice! Riche en bonté, pour ses enfants révoltés Son amour est sans limite.
- 4. Bénissons Dieu, notre roi! Célébrons ses louanges. Car il demeure à jamais quand tout passe et tout change. Il nous entend: adressons-lui notre chant. Unis aux chœurs de ses anges!

 D'après J. Vincent 1924

- 2. Alma, bendice al Señor, rey potente de gloria; De sus mercedes esté viva_en ti la memoria. ¡Oh! Despertad, con voz de gozo cantad himnos de honor y victoria.
- 3. Alma, bendice al Señor que prospera tu estado, Y beneficios sin fin sobre ti ha derramado. Piensa en que es El rico, amoroso y muy fiel, Como mil pruebas te ha dado.
- 4. ¡Alma, bendice al Señor y su amor infinito! Con todo el pueblo de Dios su alabanza repito. ¡Dios, mi salud, de todo bien plenitud, Seas por siempre bendito! Amén.

Español, Federico Fliedner

54. SIYAHAMB'



54. SIYAHAMB' (CONT.)



South African traditional music and English and Zulu text. German: Dieter Trautwein. Spanish: Basel Mission © Strube Verlag, München/Germany. Printed under One License Lutheran World Federation Assembly', E-803640 for May 10, 2017 - May 17, 2017

55. SENZENINA



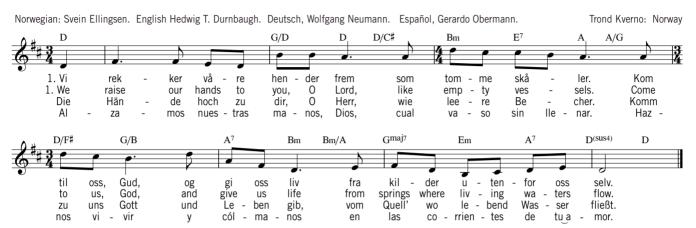
Transcription as sung in the Western Cape: Maggie Hamilton © 1998 Counterpoint, Christian Aid.

56. NO ROTO MAI AU

I come from the land. I am part of the land. It is from the land that I receive my life.

Je suis né de la terre Je fais partie de la terre C'est de la terre que je reçois la vie.

57. VI REKKER VÅRE



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- 2. Alt godt, til vårt og andres vel, er dine gaver. I svakhet fremmer du ditt verk, vår bare kvist skal skyte knopp!
- 3. Vi løfter våre hender opp i bønn for verden. La dem som lider, finne vern mot kalde hjerters is og sne!
- 4. La våre henders nakne tre få blomst og blader. La våre liv få bære frukt til legedom for andres sår!
- 5. Vi venter, efter smertens vår, din nådes sommer. Og sorg og glede blir til verkst med frukt vi ikke selv kan se.
- 6. Din nådes skaperverk skal skje i tomme hender. O Gud, all godhets giver: Kom, ta bolig i vår fattigdom!

- 2. What good and blessing you bestow is freely given. Your power will make the weakest strong and barren branches start to bud.
- 3. We lift our hands to you, O God, our world upholding. Let those who suffer shelter find from human hearts of ice and snow.
- 4. O make our barren trees to grow our hands to blossom, and let our lives bring forth such fruit that heals our neighbour's grief and pain.
- 5. As summer follows springtime's rain, so grace to sorrow and grief and joy shall bear much fruit, though hidden from our human eyes.
- 6. Through grace your new creation lies in open, empty hands. God, giver of all goodness, come, dwell with us in our earthly home!

57. VI REKKER VÅRE (CONT.)

- 2. Was Gut's und Segen du uns schenkst, ist frei gegeben. Dein' Macht macht alle Schwachen stark und trockne Äste sprießen.
- 3. Die Hände hoch zu dir, O Gott, die Welt darbringend. Gib Leiden den Schutz, sie bewahr vor Herzen voller Eis und Schnee.
- 4. Die trocknen Bäume wachsen lass, die Hände lass erblühn. Dass unser Leben Früchte bring und heil des Nächsten Schmerz und Gram.
- 5. Wie Sommer auf den Frühling folgt, so Gnad' auf Sorgen. Und Gram und Freud' viel Frucht erbringt verborgen doch vor unserm Aug'.
- 6. Durch Gnad die neue Schöpfung liegt in offner leerer Hand. Gott Geber alles Guten komm in unser irdsches Heimatland.

- 2. El bien que nos concedes hoy de gracia es señal. Por tu poder nos das valor y del retoño nace flor.
- 3. Alzamos nuestras manos, Dios, abraza_al mundo hoy, que quienes sufren hallen ya almas sensibles, compasión.
- 4. Que pueda_el árbol florecer nuestras manos también, y que sus frutos sanen bien las muchas penas y_el dolor.
- 5. Cual a la lluvia sigue_el sol, tu gracia al pesar, tristeza_en gozo cambiarás a_un si no lo podemos ver.
- 6. Por gracia_en tu nueva cre_ación podemos ayudar; habita, oh Dios, con tu bondad nuestra morada terrenal.

58. BÉNISSEZ LE SEIGNEUR



J. Berthier © Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, 71250 Taizé, France.

59. THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE



59. THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE (CONT.)



60. PARADISCOMNAK TE SZÉ ÉLÖFÄJA

Pécselyit Kiràly Imre. English, Erik Routley. Deutsch, Dieter Trautwein und Vilmos Gyöngyösi. Español, Gerardo Obermann

Hungary



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- Ertünk egyedül szörnyű kint szenvedtél, megfeszittetvén töviset viseltél mi büneinkért véreddel fizettél, megölettettél.
- 3. Edes Jézusunk, szenteld meg lelkünket, hogy megbocsàssuk mi is a bünöket mindeneknek, kik ellenük vétettek es elestenek.
- Adjad, hogy mi is értük könyörögjünk, téged követvén szivböl esedezzünk, hogy sok szentekkel tehozzàd mehessünk, idvezülhessünk.
- A pàlyafutàst mi is elvégezvén, lelkünket anjànl-hassuk szent kezedbe, mint megvàltottak mondhassuk nagy szépen eletünk végében.
- Hála légyen a mennybeli Istennek, ki megvàltója a bünös embernek, es megszerzöje szent békességünknek, idvességünknek.

- 2. Its name is Jesus, name that says, 'Our Saviour!" There on its branches see the scars of suffering; see where the tendrils of our human selfhood feed on its life-blood.
- 3. Thorns not its own are tangled in its foliage; our greed has starved it; our despair has choked it. Yet look, it lives! Its grief has not destroyed it, nor fire consumed it.
- 4. See how its branches reach to us in welcome; hear what the voice says, "Come to me, you weary! Give me your sickness, give me all your sorrow. I will give blessing.'
- 5. This is my ending; this my resurrection; into your hands, Lord, I commit my spirit. This have I searched for; now I can possess it. This ground is holy!
- 6. All heaven is singing, "Thanks to Christ, whose Passion offers in mercy healing, strength and pardon. All men and women, take it, take it freely!' Amen! My Master!

60. PARADISCOMNAK TE SZÉ ÉLÖFÄJA

- 2. Nur unsretwegen hattest du zu leiden, gingst an das Kreuz und trugst die Dornenkrone. Für unsre Sünden mußtest du bezahlen mit deinem Leben
- 3. Lieber Herr Jesus, wandle uns von Grund auf, daß allen denen wir auch gern vergeben, die uns beleidigt, die uns Unrecht taten, selbst sich verfehlten.
- 4. Für diese alle wollen wir dich bitten, nach deinem Vorbild laut zum Vater flehen, daß wir mit vielen Heilgen zu dir kommen in deinen Frieden.
- 5. Wenn sich die Tage unsres Lebens neigen, nimm unsren Geist, Herr, auf in deine Hände, daß wir zuletzt von hier getröstet scheiden, Lob auf den Lippen:
- 6. Dank sei dem Vater, unsrem Gott im Himmel, er ist der Retter der verlornen Menschheit, hat uns erworben Frieden ohne Ende, ewige Freude.

- 2. Jesús, su nombre, nuestro Salvador es, en sus sarmientos, ved sus sufrimientos. Nuestro_egoísmo se _alimenta de su sabia bendita.
- 3. Muchas espinas lastiman su tronco: nuestras codicias, mal le han causado. ¡Mira, a_ún vive!, no_está destruido ni consumido.
- 4. Sus tiernas ramas son la bienvenida su voz nos dice, ¡ven a mí, cansado! Dame tu llanto, tu dolor, tus cargas; ¡serás bendito!
- 5. Esta_es mi muerte, mi resurrección; Dios, en tus manos, encomiendo mi_alma. Esto_he buscado y_a_hora ya lo tengo: ¡la tierra santa!
- 6. Cantan los cielos, "gratitud a Cristo, con su pasión nos dio perdón y fuerzas. Quien necesite, tome libremente."

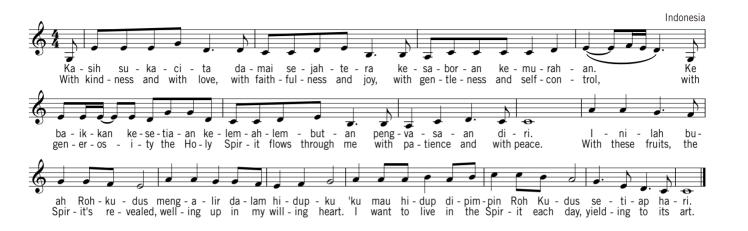
 Amén. maestro.

61. I AM THE VINE



Copyright @ Tom Witt

62. BUAH ROKUDUS



63. MAY THE PEACE FROM THE EARTH FOLLOW YOU



English by Christine Carson © Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community, Glasgow G51 3UU, Scotland

64. NJOO KWETU



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- 2. Utufanye waamini Wa Yesu Mwokozi. Tukaishi kikundini, Kanisani mwako.
- 3. Roho Mwema, Mfariji, Utupe hekima; Tukiwaza na kutenda, Yote yawe yako.
- 4. Tudumishe,tuwe hai Na ukweli wako. Tusivutwe na dunia, Tushu'die neema.

- 2. Loving Spirit, come and kindle faith in our Lord, God's Son. Make your people in their worship and in their action one.
- 3. Loving Spirit, let your wisdom guide what we think and do. Make us willing and responsive as you make all things new.
- 4. From the grip of fear and conflict, Spirit! your world release. Help your people to discover things that will make for peace.

- 2. Mach uns frei in frohem Glauben, der Christi Heil erfasst, in Gemeinschaft so zu leben, wie Du geboten hast.
- 3. Bleibe bei uns, führe Du uns, gnädig in allem Tun: Dein Erbarmen uns bestimme täglich in unserm Mühn.
- 4. Geist der Güte, wahrer Tröster, Du bist der Weisheit Quell. Unser Herz füll, unsre Sinnen, mach unsre Augen hell.
- 5. Deine Fülle gibt uns Leben, Wahrheit und Weg und Ziel. Mut und Freude willst Du geben: Boten Christi sind wir.

65. NUN BITTEN WIR

Medieval German Leise, st. 1, st. 2-4 Martin Luther. Français, James Siordet. Español, Albert Lehenbauer. J. Walter: Germany 1524 Hei li. hit - ten wir Geist Glau - ben al ler -1. Nun gen IJМ den rech - ten meist. 1 Now to the Ho - Iv Spir - it let ันร pray for true faith, most need - ed on our way: 1. Es - prit de Dieu. la force est en toi. Viens en nous, aug men - te nous la foi. Con - so la dor 1. Rog - a - mos al buen Nos con - ce gra - cia, fe y fer - vor; die - sem E - len - de. er uns be - hü - te an un - serm En - de, wenn wir heim - fahrn aus Kv - ri - e - leis. Guide us and de-fend us when life is end-ing and our jour-ney home-ward is tend ing. Lord, have mer - cv! Si, dans la dé-tres-se, le mal nous pres-se, af-fer-mis nos cœurs et les rends vain queurs. Ky - ri - e - leis.

fuer - te Nos am - pa - re en la an - gus - tia y en

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2. Du wertes Licht, gib uns deinen Schein, lehr uns Jesus Christ kennen allein, daß wir an ihm bleiben, dem treuen Heiland, der uns bracht hat zum rechten Vaterland. Kyrieleis.

El nos dé su a - vu - da. su ma - no

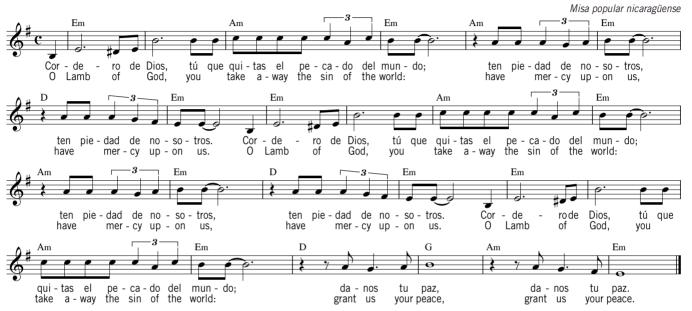
- 3. Du süße Lieb, schenk uns deine Gunst, laß uns empfinden der Lieb Inbrunst, daß wir uns von Herzen einander lieben und im Frieden auf einem Sinn bleiben. Kyrieleis.
- 4. Du höchster Tröster in aller Not, hilf, daß wir nicht fürchten Schand noch Tod, daß in uns die Sinne nicht verzagen, wenn der Feind wird das Leben verklagen. Kyrieleis.
- 2. Esprit de Dieu, l'espoir est en toi, dans la nuit d'un monde obscur et froid! Viens et nous éclaire de ta lumière aujourd'hui, demain, dans tous nos chemins. Kyrieleis.
- 3. Esprit de Dieu, l'amour est en toi. C'est l'amour du Christ offert en croix. Qu'il mette en notre âme le vive flamme de la vérité dans la charité. Kyrieleis.

2. O sweetest Love, your grace on us bestow; set our hearts with sacred fire aglow, that with hearts united we love each other, every stranger, sister, and brother. Lord, have mercy!

la muerte. Ten pie - dad Se - ñor.

- 3. Transcendent comfort in our every need, help us neither scorn nor death to heed, that we may not falter, nor courage fail us when the foe shall taunt and assail us. Lord, have mercy!
- 4. Shine in our hearts, O Spirit, precious light, that we Jesus Christ may know aright, clinging to our Savior, whose blood has bought us, who to our true homeland has brought us. Lord, have mercy!
- 2. ¡Oh sol de gracia, divina luz, guíanos hacia el Señor Jesús! Haz que en el quedemos en todo día, hasta entrar en su Edén de alegría. Ten piedad, Señor.
- 3. Amor sin par, danos tu favor, Ilénanos de fervoroso amor, para que hermanado tu pueblo entero marche en paz por el mismo sendero. Ten piedad, Señor.
- 4. Consuelo fiel, poderoso Dios, de maldad y afrentas líbranos. Contra el enemigo cruel y malvado, sé al fin. nuestro fuerte abogado. Ten piedad. Señor.

66. CORDERO DE DIOS



Permission sought.

DANK:

- Peter Kewowo
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