



Metropolitan New York Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

FOR THIS SEASON OF DISCERNMENT AS WE APPROACH THE ELECTION OF A NEW BISHOP: Resources for Worship, Prayer, Study, and Conversation

METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD 2019

INTRODUCTION:

“Electing a bishop is one of the most important responsibilities in the life of a synod in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and a key responsibility of the Synod Assembly. As an election, it is a process governed by the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of the synod; however, it is also a call process. As such, it involves discernment, from the perspective both of individual potential nominees and of the synod as a whole. Thus, engaging in prayerful reflection and seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit are indispensable aspects of the process of nomination and election, regardless of the particular provisions in the synod’s governing documents.”

—From *“Prayer Resources for Synods Preparing for Bishop Elections, Tool Kit, Exhibit F,” ELCA Churchwide Organization*

To serve our synodical discernment in this season of our life together, and inspired by tools offered by our ELCA Churchwide organization, we have utilized some of their materials, with additional items from other sources, along with our own creations, to offer resources for worship, prayer, study, and discerning conversations in our various local ministry settings. The materials that follow are organized as a liturgy of Holy Communion that can be flexibly adapted for local use – in congregations, conference meetings, and other local gatherings of one sort or another. You may use this material as is, choosing among options of hymns, lessons, prayers, and so on. Or you can cut and paste portions from this material to tailor all of this to your own local needs – Bible Studies, a Service of the Word, litanies and petitions for Prayers of Intercession for use during Sunday morning worship, hymn sings, and perhaps other occasions that you are drawn to creatively plan.

In what follows there are also suggestions for guiding informal holy conversations on such documents as our synodical ministry site profile, our synod’s constitution

describing the responsibilities of a Bishop in the ELCA, as well as the Rite for Installation of a Bishop. Again, you can adapt the material as is, and/or use it as inspiration for your own creativity in planning and leading local discernment occasions.

Suggestions for the uses of this material:

- *For Use as a Liturgy of Holy Communion – As is, unabridged:*
 - *Engaging all the following material would require an occasion longer than an hour – a full morning, afternoon, or evening, or even the better part of a Saturday.*
- *For Use as a Liturgy of Holy Communion – Abbreviated:*
 - *The material that follows can be edited for occasions lasting an hour or 90 minutes*
- *For Use as a Service of the Word:*
 - *The materials under the headings of Gathering, Word, and Sending may be used and adapted*
 - *In place of the Meal, a Thanksgiving may be included (cf. ELW pew edition, pages 219-221)*
- *For Use also Incorporating a Rite for Healing:*
 - *Adapt the following material to appropriately include a Rite for Healing (cf. ELW pew edition, pages 276-278)*
- *For Use also Incorporating Corporate Confession and Forgiveness:*
 - *Adapt the following material to appropriately include a Rite for Corporate Confession and Forgiveness (cf. ELW pew edition, pages 238-242)*
- *For Use as a Liturgy of Readings and Songs (cf. Lessons and Carols or a Hymn-Sing):*
 - *The following pattern may be used:*
 - *Begin with a Litany for the Holy Spirit (see choices in the following materials)*
 - *Reading from Scripture (see the many selections in the following materials)*
 - *Collect (see the many choices in the following materials)*
 - *Song (see the many choices in the following materials)*
 - *Follow the pattern of reading, collect, song for as many of the same as you wish*

- *Conclude with prayers of intercession (see such prayers in the following), Lord's Prayer and Blessing*
- *For Use as a Prayer Service:*
 - o *Center such a service on a Litany for the Holy Spirit and extended Prayers of Intercession, including other features as you desire, such as hymns and songs, and time for free prayer with prayer stations for individuals*
- *Portions Appropriate for Use on Sunday Mornings:*
 - o *Choose among the litanies of the Holy Spirit and Prayers of Intercession*
- *For Use as Stand-Alone Bible Studies:*
 - o *The following materials contain many suggestions of biblical passages that relate to the nature of God's call, the ministry, especially of bishops, and the nature of our life together in the church*
 - o *Choose one or more of the passages*
 - o *Incorporate suggestions for reading the passage more than once*
 - o *Use the discussion questions provided and/or develop other such focusing questions for conversation*
- *For Use as Stand-Alone Occasions for Conversation:*
 - o *Discussion questions are suggested for the following documents related to the election of a bishop and the ministry of a bishop:*
 - *Our synodical ministry site profile that guides our thoughts about the qualities needed for our next bishop*
 - *Our synodical constitution's chapter on the duties of a bishop*
 - *The Rite for Installation of a Bishop*
- *For Other Uses:*
 - o *Creatively use, adapt, and/or combine whatever materials that follow to assist you in conceiving other appropriate occasions that serve this season of discernment about the election of a new bishop*
 - o *Let the following material inspire you to come up with your own materials appropriate to your local ministry needs and opportunities*

GATHERING

GATHERING CONVERSATION

You may wish to begin your gathering time by reviewing the Bishop's Election Process and Timeline approved by our Synod Council, stating that prayerful, worshipful experiences and conversations undergird and guide this whole process.

It should be emphasized that this is a season for vocational and missional discernment, not a time for campaigning for an election. Participants may also be introduced to the Report from our Town Hall Meetings in the Autumn of 2018 as a way of gathering hearts and minds for this occasion:

Invite participants into a period of quiet reflection on the following questions:

- What's on your hearts and minds concerning our life together as a Synod which you bring to this occasion?*
- What are your hopes and dreams for our life together?*
- What are your concerns?*
- What charisms or gifts would a new bishop need to lead our Synod into its future?*

Invite participants to prayerfully respond briefly, naming in a word or two their reflections, hopes and concerns.

A leader can draw this segment to a close with an extemporaneous prayer that seeks to lay all that has been expressed at the foot of the cross and/or the portal of the empty tomb.

Or the time for gathering can include free holy conversation with focus on the above and/or other questions.

LITANY FOR THE INVOCATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Come, Holy Spirit!

Come, Holy Spirit!

Come, breath of God and fill the minds and hearts of your people.

Come, Holy Spirit!

Come, fire of truth and kindle in us the flame of your love.

Come, Holy Spirit!

Come, font of wisdom, enlighten us and give us counsel and insight.

Come, Holy Spirit!

Come, claim us as your own.

Come, Holy Spirit!

Come, gather us to together in Word and Sacrament.

Come, Holy Spirit!

Come, send us for the sake of the world.

Come, Holy Spirit!

Come, lead our discerning.

Come, Holy Spirit!

Come, guide us into all truth as you have promised.

Come, Holy Spirit!

Come, accompany us during this time of waiting and anticipation.

Come, Holy Spirit!

Come, bless our holy conversations.

Come, Holy Spirit!

Come, inspire those discerning a call to the office of Bishop.

Come, Holy Spirit!

Come, give wisdom to those who will serve as voting members to our Synod Assembly.

Come, Holy Spirit!

Come, deepen our unity as your people in your church.

Come, Holy Spirit!

Come, focus our minds and hearts on our vision for your mission.

Come, Holy Spirit!

Come, embolden our witness for the sake of the world.

Come, Holy Spirit!

Come, strengthen our trust in your promised future.

Come, Holy Spirit!

Other petitions may be added.

Come, Holy Spirit!

Come, Holy Spirit!

Come, Holy Spirit! Amen.

[Adapted from “Responsive Prayer” from Exhibit F Churchwide tool kit for bishop’s elections with additional petitions included]

OR

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, in all ages you have raised up faithful servants to shepherd and guide your holy people and to make known your will among us: increase in us the gifts of discernment and understanding that we might know and do your will as we prepare to elect a bishop for your Church.

Send your Holy Spirit among us, O God.

Open our minds, our hearts, and our eyes that we may see you and choose as you would, a new bishop of faith and godliness.

Send your Holy Spirit among us, O God.

Open our ears and guide our tongues that, in all our conversations and deliberations, our listening and speaking might be filled with your grace and favor.

Send your Holy Spirit among us, O God.

Make known to us who best will share compassion and grace to care for our clergy and lay leaders, for our churches and ministries, and for ourselves.

Send your Holy Spirit among us, O God.

Reveal to us a leader who is filled with the Holy Spirit and who will passionately support the mission and ministries of our Synod.

Send your Holy Spirit among us, O God.

Gracious and loving God, you are our guide and Good Shepherd, in you we place

our hope and trust: hear the prayers of your faithful people, lead us to one mind and one heart in you, and reveal to us that bishop who will feed and tend your flock.

Send your Holy Spirit among us, O God. Amen.

*[Adapted from “Litany of Discernment for the Election of a Bishop,”
Episcopal Diocese of Southeast Florida]*

OR

Gracious God, we are your humble servants.

Come, Holy Spirit.

We are claimed, gathered, and sent for the sake of the world.

Come, Holy Spirit.

We come before you today in need of hope.

Come, Holy Spirit.

There are times when we feel helpless.

Come, Holy Spirit.

There are times when we feel weak.

Come, Holy Spirit.

There are times when we find ourselves in the shadows.

Come, Holy Spirit.

We pray for hope.

Come, Holy Spirit.

We hope for a better future.

Come, Holy Spirit.

We hope for a better life.

Come, Holy Spirit.

We hope for greater love and kindness.

Come, Holy Spirit.

We hope for our life together as a Synod.

Come, Holy Spirit.

We hope for one who will serve us as our next Bishop.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Other petitions may be added extemporaneously or prepared beforehand.

We yearn for your light, O Lord, in every way.

Come, Holy Spirit.

We pray to be filled with your light from head to toe.

Come, Holy Spirit.

We seek to bask in the light of your glorious presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Help us to walk in your light, and live in faith, hope, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit. Amen.

[Adapted from “Prayer Service for Healing and Hope,” ELCA South-Central Synod of Wisconsin]

GATHERING SONG

[Select from choices of hymns, For the Holy Spirit, listed at the conclusion of this document]

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. *[Choose one of the following options for the Prayer of the Day]*

Almighty God, you have given your Holy Spirit to the church to guide us into all truth. Bless with the Spirit’s grace and presence the people of the Metropolitan New York Synod as we prepare to elect a bishop. Keep us steadfast in faith and united in love, that we may manifest your glory and prepare for the way of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, giver of all good gifts, look on your church with grace and guide the minds of those who shall choose the bishop of the Metropolitan New York Synod, that we may receive a faithful servant who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

Most high and holy God, pour out upon us your one and unifying Spirit, and awaken in every confession of the whole church a holy hunger and thirst for unity in you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

God Almighty, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Grant us, we pray, to be grounded and settled in your truth by the coming of the Holy Spirit into our hearts. That which we know not, reveal; that which is wanting in us, fill up; that which we know, confirm; and keep us blameless in your service; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, by the power of the Spirit you have knit your servants into the one body of your Son, Jesus Christ. Look with favor upon them as they discern a new call in Christ's name. Give them courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation of witness to the world and of service to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Holy Spirit, pour yourself upon the Metropolitan New York Synod. Be with our Synod as we elect a bishop to lead us forward in the name of Christ. Help us in our work of discernment to call a pastor who can lead us in your work of loving neighbor in word and deed, proclaiming your good news, ministering to those in need, setting captives free, and consoling those who mourn. Help us, we pray, to choose a pastor who is humble, kind, strong, trustworthy and wise to be our bishop. Help us, Holy Spirit, as we wait. Open our hearts to hear your words and our hands to do your work; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

God of Love, you are with us in every transition and change. As we enter into this season of discernment with excitement and even some anxiety, we recall your deep compassion, presence, and abounding love. We thank you for the gifts, talents and skills with which you have blessed us. We thank you for the experiences that we have brought to this moment. We thank you for the work of others that gives breadth and depth to our own work. Be with us as we move forward, rejoicing with you and supporting one another. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

WORD

[Choose from among the following lessons which focus on the themes of God's call, the nature of ministry, and the qualities of our life together in the church for the sake of the world. Some of following passages are suggested for use during the Rite of Installation of a Bishop. You may also be drawn to choose scriptural passages that are not listed below.]

FIRST READING

Exodus 3:1-12	God calls Moses at the Burning Bush
Joshua 1:1-9	God's Commission to Joshua
1 Samuel 3:1-20	God Speaks to and Calls Samuel
1 Samuel 16:1-13	David Anointed by Samuel
Isaiah 6:1-8	Vision in the Temple and the Call of Isaiah
Isaiah 42:5-9	I have Called You; I have Taken You by the Hand
Jeremiah 1:1-10	Jeremiah's Call and Commission
Jeremiah 23:1-6	God will Raise up Faithful Shepherds
Jonah 1:1-2:10	Jonah Tries to Flee God's Call

PSALM

Psalm 8
Psalm 15
Psalm 16
Psalm 23
Psalm 24
Psalm 46
Psalm 62
Psalm 91

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Psalm 121
Psalm 131
Psalm 133
Psalm 139:1-18, 23-24
Psalm 145

SECOND READING

Acts 1:12-26	Matthias Chosen to Replace Judas
Acts 2:1-12	The Coming of the Holy Spirit
Romans 8:22-27	Praying with the Spirit
Romans 8:31-39	God's Love in Christ Jesus
1 Corinthians 12:13-14, 27-28	One Body with Many Members
2 Corinthians 4:1-7 [8-12]	Treasure in Clay Jars
2 Corinthians 5:16-21	The Ministry of Reconciliation
Ephesians 2:13-22	One in Christ
Ephesians 4:1-16	Unity in the Body of Christ
Colossians 3:12-17	The New Life in Christ
1 Timothy 3:1-7	Qualifications of Bishops
2 Timothy 1:3-14	Encouragement for Ministry
2 Timothy 4:1-5	Exhortation to Ministry
Titus 1:7-9	Qualifications of Bishops
Hebrews 12:1-13	Encouragement in Ministry
1 Peter 5:1-11	Tending the Flock of God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Choose a seasonal gospel acclamation or sing a hymn

GOSPEL

Matthew 9:1-8	God Gives the Authority to Forgive
Matthew 28:18-20	The Commissioning of the Disciples
Mark 1:16-20	Jesus Calls the First Disciples
Mark 10:35-45	Not to be Served but to Serve
Luke 5:1-11	Jesus Calls the first Disciples
Luke 10:1-12, 16-20	Sending of the Seventy

John 1:35-51	The First Disciples of Jesus
John 10:1-18	Jesus the Good Shepherd
John 17:6-19	I have Sent Them into the World
John 20:21-23	Jesus' Charge to the Disciples
John 21:15-19	Jesus' Charge to Peter

RESPONSE TO THE WORD:

As a response to the Word, and instead of a homily, you may wish to engage in a conversational Bible Study on one or more of the passages chosen for this occasion.

In the spirit of lectio divina (sacred reading), read aloud again one of the assigned readings three separate times with silent reflection following each reading, inviting participant responses to the reading according to the following pattern:

After the silence following the first reading of the selected passage, invite participants to share aloud the main words and ideas of the passage.

After the silence following the second reading of the passage, invite participants to share reflections on one or more of the following questions:

- *What does the passage suggest about how God calls those whom God has chosen to lead people of faith?*
- *What does the chosen passage suggest or reveal about the nature of the ministry of a Bishop?*
- *What does the passage suggest about the nature of our life together as a Synod and what kind of Bishop would serve our needs and opportunities well?*
- *You may wish to pose other appropriate questions as well*

After the silence following the third reading of the selected passage, invite participants to offer prayers, silent or aloud, in response to the reading and reflections.

HYMN OF THE DAY

[Select from choices of hymns, Vocation and Ministry, listed at the conclusion of this order of service]

CREED

Together with the whole church throughout the world and through the centuries, let us confess our faith:

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

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father,**

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

For the church universal, its ministry, and the mission of the gospel; for our Synod with its gifts of diversity and passion for mission; for our Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, and our Interim Bishop, Donald McCoid; for the one who will become our next Bishop, that she or he may be a bridge to the wider church and a sign of our unity in Christ.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For your Spirit's guidance and direction during this season of discernment, that our conversations may be holy and uplifting; for your leading of those who shall elect the next Bishop of our Synod, that we may receive an upright and faithful shepherd who will care for your people and encourage us for the mission we share.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For the well-being of creation, that our leaders would be courageous and bold in advocating for the healing of the natural world.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For peace and justice in the world, for the nations, for those in authority, and for our communities, that our leaders would be bold in their public witness for the healing of the nations.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For the poor, oppressed, sick, bereaved, lonely; for all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; for our many local and synodical efforts to care for all in need.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For our congregations, and other local ministry settings; for our pastors, deacons, and lay leaders; for our synodical officers, for our Synod Council, for the committees charged with the implementation of our strategic plan, for all Synod committees and initiatives, *[especially the ones we now name]*.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

[Other intercessions may be crafted and/or invited, according to local desire]

For the faithful departed... *[including those who recently have died and those commemorated on the church's calendar]*.

Hear us, O God.

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.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

HYMN AT THE SETTING THE TABLE

[Select from choices of hymns listed at the conclusion of this order of service]

OFFERING PRAYER

Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection,
you pour out the fire of your Spirit,

uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

[Spoken or use musical setting/tune of your choice]

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us and upon these gifts the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,**

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

BREAKING OF BREAD AND INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

LAMB OF GOD AND COMMUNION SONG(S):

[Select from settings of “Lamb of God” as you desire along with choices of hymns listed at the conclusion of this order of service]

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

SENDING CONVERSATION

An extended conversation at the time of sending, building on our time of worship, prayer, and Bible Study, could focus on one or more of the following documents with discussion guided by the questions suggested, or other questions emerging from the local setting:

- *Our Synod's Ministry Site Profile*
 - o *What charisms/gifts, qualities, skills sets, personality, background, and experiences does our Synod Ministry Site Profile suggest that we need in a new Bishop?*
 - o *What aspects of our Synod Ministry Site Profile are most important to you as you consider gifts and skills of a new Bishop?*
- *Our Synod Constitution's chapter listing the duties of the Office of Bishop*
 - o *The listing of the responsibilities of a synodical bishop is exhaustive, if not to say exhausting. What duties of a Bishop would you highlight as the most important for our Synod for such a time as this?*
- *The Rite of Installation of a Bishop*
 - o *What charisms/gifts, qualities, skills sets, personality, background, and experiences do the prayers, readings, exhortations and other aspects of the Rite of Installation of a Bishop suggest that we need in a new Bishop?*

[After the conversation(s), the liturgy may conclude with the Affirmation of Christian Vocation, Blessing, Song, and Dismissal.]

AFFIRMATION OF CHRISTIAN VOCATION

Sisters and brothers, both your work and your rest are in God. Will you endeavor to pattern your life on the Lord Jesus Christ, in gratitude to God and in service to others, at morning and evening, at work and at play, all the days of your life?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

Almighty God, by the power of the Spirit you have knit these your servants into the one body of your Son, Jesus Christ. Look with favor upon them in their commitment to serve in Christ's name. Give them courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation of witness to the world and of service to others; may your Holy Spirit lead and guide this season of discernment, as we prepare to elect a new Bishop; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

[Select from choices of hymns listed at the conclusion of this order of service]

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN OPTIONS TO GUIDE YOUR SELECTIONS:

Choose hymns appropriate for your ministry context and occasion from selections below and/or from other sources.

FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT:

- “Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord” ELW 395
- “Spirit of Gentleness” ELW 396
- “Holy Spirit, Truth Divine” ELW 398
- “O Holy Spirit, Root of Life” ELW 399
- “God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind” ELW 400
- “Gracious Spirit, Heed our Pleading” ELW 401
- “Like the Murmur of the Dove’s Song” ELW 403
- “Veni Sancte Spiritus”/“Holy Spirit, Come to Us” ELW 406
- “O Living Breath of God” ELW 407
- “Holy Spirit, ever Dwelling” ELW 582
- “Now to the Holy Spirit Let us Pray” ELW 743
- “O Holy Spirit, Enter In” ELW 786
- “Spirit of God, Descend Upon my Heart” ELW 800

VOCATION, MINISTRY:

- “Here I Am, Lord” ELW 574
- “In Christ Called to Baptize” ELW 575
- “We All Are One in Mission” ELW 576
- “Lord, You Give the Great Commission” ELW 579
- “How Clear is Our Vocation, Lord” ELW 580
- “Take My Life, That I May Be” ELW 583
- “The Son of God, Our Christ” ELW 584
- “Jesus Calls Us; O’er the Tumult” ELW 696
- “The Church of Christ, in Every Age” ELW 729
- “We are an Offering” ELW 692

PRAYER:

- “Lord, Teach Us How to Pray Aright” ELW 745
- “Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart” ELW 750
- “O Lord, Hear My Prayer” ELW 751

“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying” ELW 752
“Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ” ELW 402
“Send Me, Lord” ELW 809

WITNESS:

“Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said” ELW 667
“Rise Up, O Saints of God!” ELW 669
“Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak” ELW 676

HOPE, ASSURANCE:

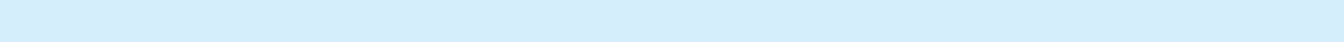
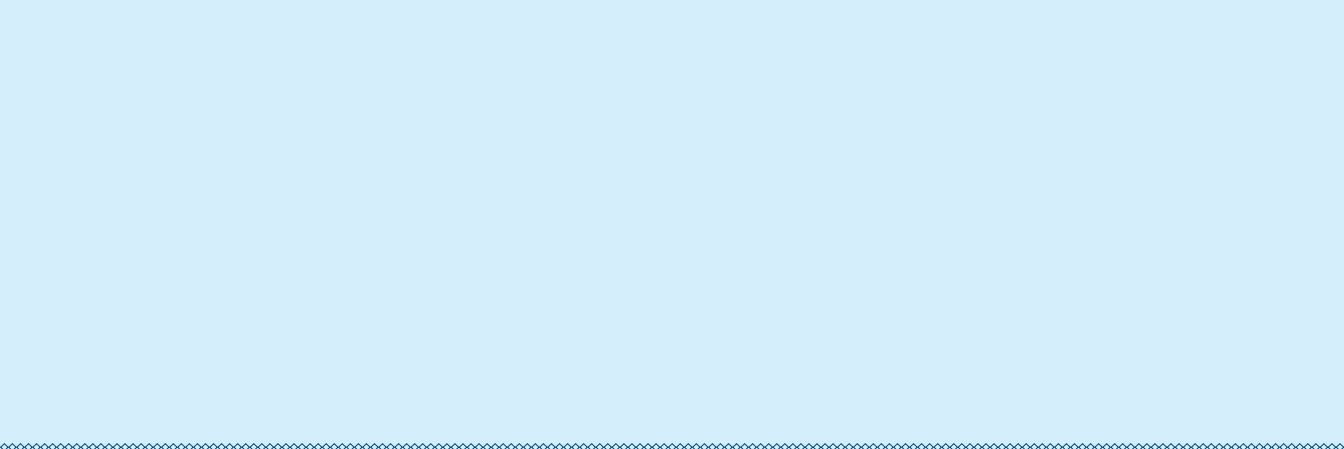
“Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer” ELW 618
“Jesus, Still Lead On” ELW 624
“We’ve Come This Far by Faith” ELW 633
“We Walk by Faith” ELW 635

COMMUNITY IN CHRIST:

“Ubi Caritas et Amor” ELW 642
“We Are All One in Christ” ELW 643
“The Church’s One Foundation” ELW 654
“Blest Be the Tie That Binds” ELW 656

TRUST, GUIDANCE:

“All My Hope on God is Founded” ELW 757
“You Are the Way” ELW 758
“Have No Fear, Little Flock” ELW 764
“Lead Me, Guide Me” ELW 768
“Precious Lord, Take My Hand” ELW 773
“Day by Day” ELW 790



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