



CELEBRATE BOLD WOMEN'S DAY

A resource from Women of the ELCA

A LITURGY TO CELEBRATE BOLD WOMEN

See the notes at the end of this worship service for hymns suggestions. Liturgical music is from Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW), Setting 1.

GATHERING

The service may begin with Confession and Forgiveness or Thanksgiving for Baptism which begin on page 94 of ELW.

GATHERING HYMN

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

Lord our God, we give thanks for the witness of bold women. In early times, today and into the future, bold women show us how to live as God's beloved children in God's beloved creation. We live into our baptismal call to work for justice and peace for all God's creatures. Together, we say:

Thank you, God!

The litany may continue with these petitions centered on the witness of women from the Reformation. You may also substitute or add like petitions about bold women from more recent history and around the world.

For Katharine von Bora Luther, who ran to embrace change in her world, we say:

Thank you, God!

For Katharina Schutz Zell, a publishing 'Church Mother' who married to bring voice to God's truth in her time, we say:

Thank you, God!

For Argula von Grumbach, who wrote letters and poems defending the Reformers as bearers of the true faith, we say:

Thank you, God!

For Olimpia Fulvia Morata, blessed by God as a child to study and boldly proclaim the Gospel, we say:

Thank you, God!

Each of us has been surrounded by bold women on our way, if only we look for them. For whom do you thank the Lord today? Name her aloud and let us thank God for her witness.

*The leader invites members of the assembly to speak the names of other bold women out loud. When the assembly has finished naming their names, the leader guides the assembly to respond saying, **Thank you, God!***

When all have spoken, the leader concludes:

Thank you, God, for the witness of all bold women yesterday, today, and tomorrow. We praise you for their witness to your love and mercy. Strengthen us to live out our baptismal call to serve you and our neighbor with all our heart, with all our mind, with all our strength. **Thank you, God! Alleluia, Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

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.

God of tender care, like a mother, you never forget your children, and you know already what we need. In all our anxiety give us trusting and faithful hearts, that in confidence and boldness we may embody the peace and justice of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

READING

Joel 2:27-32

A reading from the prophet, Joel.

You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the LORD, am your God and there is

no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame. Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female slaves, in those days, I will pour out my spirit. I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD comes. Then everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved; for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the LORD has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the LORD calls.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 34:1-8

The psalm may be spoken or sung using the refrain and a psalm tone from ELW page 337.



Psalm 34:3

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I will bless the LORD | at all times;
the praise of God shall ever be | in my mouth.
I will glory | in the LORD;
let the lowly hear | and rejoice. **R**
Proclaim with me the greatness | of the LORD;
let us exalt God's | name together.
I sought the LORD, who | answered me
and delivered me from | all my terrors.
Look upon the LORD | and be radiant,
and let not your faces | be ashamed. **R**
I called in my affliction, and | the LORD heard me
and saved me from | all my troubles.
The angel of the LORD encamps around those who | fear the LORD
and de- | livers them.
Taste and see that the | LORD is good;
happy are they who take ref- | uge in God! **R**

READING

2 Peter 1:17-21

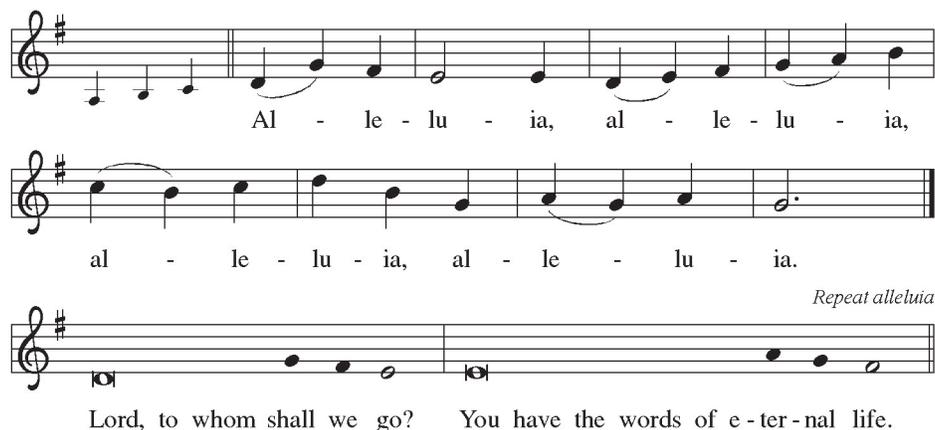
A reading from the second letter of Peter.

For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain. So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL

Matthew 28:1-10

The gospel may be proclaimed as written below, or proclaimed as story as described in the notes of this service.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became

like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9 Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

THE WITNESS OF THE WOMEN

In lieu of a sermon, the stories of bold women of faith may be shared by a variety of women in your community. Scripts for the women's voices of the Reformation are available and may be read as if the character is speaking. Scripts may also be written locally for other bold witnesses to the faith, especially women known to your community. Emphasis for each script is on the gift of their witness as an example of God's action in their lives and inspiration for our lives today.

HYMN OF THE DAY

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

God our Creator, you made us in your image

And you call us from wherever we are in time and place to be your disciples.

Through your Holy Spirit, we are empowered to bring the Gospel to all your people

by your grace, you listen to our prayers.

Let us pray.

God of Generations, we celebrate the lives of the women who fought the good fight and stood up for the Gospel and the truth of Scripture, yesterday and today. Strengthen our voice of proclamation. In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of Life, we give thanks for the bold women among us today who serve with a sense of holy purpose in their vocations as daughters, mothers, grandmothers, sisters and mothers. Empower us by faith and bless our vocations at home and in the church. Inspire us to encourage one another in fellowship, laughter, hospitality and sharing. In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Loving God, we pray for the men throughout the ages who support and encourage women in their quest to use their God-given gifts for your purpose. Give us courage to work together as equals to proclaim your grace and hope. In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

O God our Greatest Friend, surround us with your love and affirmation through the kindness of others, be they friend or stranger, young or old. Give us eyes to see the love you lavish on all your people. Make us bold to speak your truth and act on behalf of your kingdom with courage and strength of purpose. In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of Understanding, give us courage to stand up for the abused, the needy, the sick, the poor and the stranger. We pray for those who suffer in mind, body or spirit, that you might bring healing and comfort. Inspire us to be your hands to provide for those in need as we are able. In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

O God, our Help through the Ages, we thank you for the gifts of wisdom and insight brought to us through the lives of your saints, [Katie, Argula, Katharina, Olivia, (add names of local bold women)]. Inspire us by their witness as we continue their legacy of faith. In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Holy God of the Universe, throughout history you have given us the courage to form and re-form your church against all odds and into pathways as yet unknown. By your Spirit and in unexpected ways, you have brought us to this place in the circle of your love. Guide our ways that we may grow in faith and hope.

Make us your bold and faithful servants, this day and forevermore through Jesus Christ, our savior and Lord. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF BOLD WOMEN OF THE CONGREGATION

At this time, the leader may recognize bold women in the local congregation by calling them forward and sharing their stories. The brief rite of Affirmation of Christian Vocation may be used to affirm their ongoing ministry. It is found on page 84 of ELW.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

MEAL

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, especially ministries that support the work of women or serve women in need. A choir may give an offering of song or a hymn may be sung.

OFFERTORY

An offertory song may be sung by the assembly as the offering and gifts for the meal are brought forward. See the notes for suggested hymns.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT TABLE

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.

By the witness of your saints

you show us the hope of our calling,

and strengthen us to run the race set before us,

that we may delight in your mercy and rejoice with them in glory.

And so, with all the saints,

with the choirs of angels and all the hosts of heaven,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
 pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

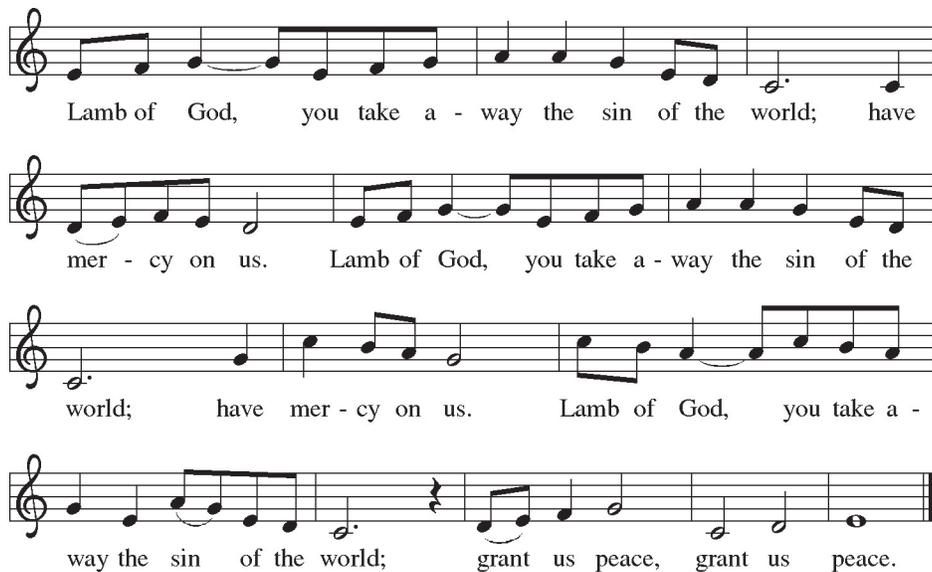
Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
 and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
 the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
 to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
 be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION

See the notes for additional songs for singing during the distribution of Holy Communion.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The God of all grace bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The litany, prayers of intercession and scripts were prepared by Donna Rutten, MDiv.'13, and Barbara Krumm, MDiv.'14. Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, March 19, 2014. Updated November, 2018.

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The prayer of the day is appointed for the 8th Sunday after Epiphany. See ELW, page 72.

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Notes:

This service may be used as it is presented or may be contextualized for the particular congregational setting. Worship planners may choose hymns or liturgical music that the community knows while also intentionally introducing some new music for the occasion. Many hymns listed below were written, composed or arranged by women.

Use the gifts and talents of the women in your community to lead varying portions of the service. It is particularly appropriate for lay women to lead the litany, pray, read scripture and participate in the presentation of scripted materials after the Gospel is read.

GATHERING HYMN

ELW #314 Arise, Your Light Has Come!

ELW #454 Remember and Rejoice

ELW #771 God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

GOSPEL

The gospel may be proclaimed in storytelling style. Find a video version here, http://gotell.org/stories/by-text/matthew/mt28_01-10/

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #672 Signs and Wonders

ELW #419 For All the Faithful Women, verses 1, 2, and "last" (Other verses may be added as desired)

ELW #428 Give Thanks for Saints

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

ELW #182 Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

ELW #677 This Little Light of Mine

HYMNS FOR COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION:

ELW #469 By Your Hand You Feed Your People

ELW #486 God Extends an Invitation (Nuestro Padre nos invita)

ELW #793 Be Thou My Vision

SENDING HYMN

ELW #546 To Be Your Presence

ELW #548 Rise, O Church, Like Christ Arisen

ELW #875 Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord!

ELW # 881 Let All Things Now Living

Resources:

Bushkofsky, Linda Post. *Celebrating Bold Women's Day: A Resource from Women of the ELCA* (<https://www.womenoftheelca.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/2019BWDresource.pdf>). Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. 2010.

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