

A Thankoffering Service for
Pivot, Don't Panic!

Synodical Leaders' Event
Women of the ELCA

February 20, 2021

You may set out a bowl of water in preparation for the Thanksgiving for Baptism.

GATHERING

Entrance Song

O Holy Spirit, Enter In (ELW 726)

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

Amen.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Amen.

Sign of the Cross

You may make the sign of the cross on your forehead using the water in your bowl.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Amen.

WORD**First Reading****Exodus 2:1-10**

We honor Miriam, whose ingenuity saved a nation.

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

Responsive Reading**Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (NKJV)**

Part 1, in regular type, is proclaimed by those from east of the Mississippi River.

Part 2, in italic type, is proclaimed by those from west of the Mississippi River.

To everything there is a season, a time for every matter under heaven:

A time to be born, and a time to die;

A time to plant, and a time to pluck what is planted;

A time to kill, and a time to heal;

A time to break down, and a time to build up;
A time to weep, and a time to laugh;
A time to mourn, and a time to dance;
A time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones;
A time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
A time to gain, and a time to lose;
A time to keep, and a time to throw away;
A time to tear, and a time to sew;
A time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
A time to love, and a time to hate;
A time of war, and a time of peace.
To everything there is a season, a time for every matter under heaven.

Second Reading

Philippians 4:1-9

We rejoice with the women of the New Testament who struggled yet stood firm in the gospel.

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel

Luke 10:38-42

We learn about the ways we serve from Mary and Martha.

Now as they went on their way, [Jesus] entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

Hymn of the Day

For All the Faithful Women (ELW 419)

(Verses 1, 2, 7, 8)

Meditation

THANKOFFERING

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

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

You may make your Thankoffering with a credit card online at welca.org/give, or you may mail in a check. Please make out your check to Women of the ELCA and write "WOG0420 Thankoffering" on the memo line. Then please mail it to:

Women of the ELCA

c/o ELCA Gift Processing Center

P.O. Box 1809

Merrifield VA 22116.

Offering Song

For All the Faithful Women (ELW 419)
(Last verse)

OFFERING PRAYER

God of grace, you have showered us with gifts of grace and abundance, entrusting to us the ministries of Women of the ELCA. Help us to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.

Accept these gifts and our prayer that, nurtured by your Word, filled with your Spirit, and fed at your table, we may share with gladness all that you have shared with us, until all creation is satisfied.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We continue in a time of prayer, embraced by the Spirit, seeking the renewal of the church as we pray for those in need, and for all of God's creation.

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

Christ, be our light.

Shine in your women gathered today.

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

Christ, be our light.

Shine in your women gathered today.

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

Christ, be our light.

Shine in your women gathered today.

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

Christ, be our light.

Shine in your women gathered today.

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

Christ, be our light.

Shine in your women gathered today.

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

Christ, be our light.

Shine in your women gathered today.

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

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Please pray in the language of your heart.

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 for ever.

Amen.

SENDING

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

Amen.

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

Amen.

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

Amen.

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

Amen.

Sending Song

Shall We Gather at the River (*ELW 423*)

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

Thanks be to God.

Acknowledgments

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