

Laurentian Conference Deacons and Pastors
Present Worship Celebrating Women of our Church



**We Are Church,
We Are Called**

50•40•10

Welcome—Pastor Sarah Fike

Hymn We Are Called ELW #720 (Pastor Liz Cheney, Pastor Amy Janssen and Deacon Brenda Tibbetts)

We Are Called



1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the
 2 Come! O - pen your heart! Show your . . mer - cy to all those in
 3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be



Lord! We are called to be light for the king - dom, to
 fear! We are called to be hope for the hope - less so
 one! God will reign, and we'll walk with each oth - er as



live in the free - dom of the cit - y of God.
 ha - tred and blind - ness . . . will be . . . no more.
 sis - ters and broth - ers . . . u - nit - ed in love.



Refrain
 We are called to act with jus - tice, we are called to



love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -



oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.

Text: David Haas, b. 1957

Music: WE ARE CALLED, David Haas

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Confession and Forgiveness—Pastor Sarah Fike

P: We are God's people, sheep of the Spirit's fold, lambs of Christ's flock, sinners of God's redeeming.

C: Amen.

P: Let us come before God, who already knows our hearts and welcomes our humility.

P: Loving God,

C: Our thoughts, our words, and our deeds are an open book to you.

You have seen where we fall short.

You know where we have strayed as individuals

And as your church.

In your mercy, forgive us and guide us into right ways of being—

Ways of welcome, paths of mercy, habits of grace—

So that we may live renewed in the joy of our salvation,

Prepared, equipped, and ready to meet Christ

In our neighbors and in your creation.

Amen.

P: God's ways are not our ways

And God's thoughts are not our thoughts.

Before we were made, God brought creation out of nothing

And peace out of chaos.

In this same love, God unyokes you from sin

And binds you to a new life and new living in Jesus Christ.

Rejoice and be glad,

Yours is the kingdom of God.

Amen.

Greeting—Pastor Sarah Fike

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Kyrie Litany of the Saints—Selected verses (Pastor Liz Cheney, Pastor Amy Janssen and Deacon Brenda Tibbetts)

Litany of the Saints

Leader Assembly

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
 Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
 Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Be gra - cious to us: Hear us, O God.
 De - liv - er your people: Hear us, O God.

You loved us before the world was made: Hear us, O God.
 You rescued the people of your promise: Hear us, O God.
 You spoke through your prophets: Hear us, O God.
 You gave your only Son for the life of the world: Hear us, O God.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: Great is your love.
 and was born of the vir - gin Mary: Great is your love.
 who by his cross and suffering re - deemed the world: Great is your love.
 and has washed us from our sins: Great is your love.
 who on the third day rose from the dead: Great is your love.
 and has given us the vic - to - ry: Great is your love.
 who ascend - ed on high: Great is your love.
 and intercedes for us at the right hand of God: Great is your love.

For the gift of the Ho - ly Spirit: Thanks be to God.
 For the one holy catholic and apos - tol - ic church: Thanks be to God.
 For the great cloud of witnesses into which we are bap - tized: Thanks be to God.

For Sarah and Abraham, Isaac and Re - bekah: Thanks be to God.
 For Gideon and Deborah, Da - vid and Esther: Thanks be to God.
 For Moses and Isaiah, Jeremi - ah and Daniel: Thanks be to God.
 For Miriam and Rahab, Abi - gail and Ruth: Thanks be to God.

For Mary, mother of our Lord: Thanks be to God.
 For John, who baptized in the Jordan: Thanks be to God.
 For Mary Magdalene and Joanna, Ma - ry and Martha: Thanks be to God.
 For James and John, Pe - ter and Andrew: Thanks be to God.
 For Paul and Apollos, Ste - phen and Phoebe: Thanks be to God.

For all holy men and women, our mothers and fa - thers in faith: Thanks be to God.
 For the noble band of the prophets: Thanks be to God.
 For the glorious company of the a - postles: Thanks be to God.
 For the white-robed ar - my of martyrs: Thanks be to God.
 For cherubim and seraphim, Michael and the ho - ly angels: Thanks be to God.

Be gra - cious to us: Hear us, O God.
 De - liv - er your people: Hear us, O God.

Give new life to your servants by the grace of baptism: Hear us, O God.
 Strengthen all who bear the sign of the cross: Hear us, O God.
 Clothe us in compas - sion and love: Hear us, O God.
 Bring us with all your saints to the riv - er of life: Hear us, O God.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
 Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
 Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Text: *Welcome to Christ*, 1997
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Canticle of Praise: My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness (Pastor Liz Cheney,
Pastor Amy Janssen and Deacon Brenda Tibbetts)

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!
2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer - cy ev - er flows.
3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;

You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.
With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem - ing hearts ex - pose.
the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.

Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless - ing shall pro - claim—
The ruth - less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,

great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

Text: *With One Voice*, 1995, based on the Magnificat
Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
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Prayer of the Day—Pastor Sarah Fike

Most high God, you know our whole truth, and you give us refuge in the shadow of your wings. Continue to raise up girls and women to serve Christ's church and strengthen all in the vocations to which you call us. And at the last, gather us with Miriam and the saints to dance on the safe side of the sea, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hebrews 12:1-2—Deacon Brenda Tibbetts

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely,^[a] and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Reflections of Biblical Women

Hymn For All the Faithful Women vrs. 1,4,11,2,last (Pastor Liz Cheney, Pastor Amy Janssen and Deacon Brenda Tibbetts)

For All the Faithful Women



1 For all the faith - ful wom - en who served in days of old,
Insert one or more of stanzas 3-11 or this general stanza 2:
 2 O God, for saints and ser - vants, those named and those un - known,
 Last All praise to God the Fa - ther! All praise to Christ the Son!



to you shall thanks be giv - en; to all, their stor - y told.
 in whom through all the a - ges your light of glo - ry shone,
 All praise to God the Spir - it, who binds the church as one!



They served with strength and glad - ness in tasks your wis - dom gave.
 we of - fer glad thanks - giv - ing and fer - vent prayer we raise
 With saints who went be - fore us, with saints who wit - ness still,



To you their lives bore wit - ness, pro - claimed your pow'r to save.
 that, faith - ful in your ser - vice, our lives may sing your praise.
 we sing glad al - le - lu - ias and strive to do your will.

Miriam

3 We praise your name for Miriam
 who sang triumphantly
 while Pharaoh's vaunted army
 lay drowned beneath the sea.
 As Israel marched to freedom,
 her chains of bondage gone,
 so may we reach the kingdom
 your mighty arm has won.

Hannah

4 To Hannah, praying childless
 before the throne of grace,
 you gave a son and called him
 to serve before your face.
 Grant us her perseverance;
 Lord, teach us how to pray
 and trust in your deliv'rance
 when darkness hides our way.

Ruth

5 For Ruth who left her homeland
 and ventured forth in faith,
 who pledged to serve and worship
 Naomi's God till death,
 we praise you, God of Israel,
 and pray for hearts set free
 to bind ourselves to others
 in love and loyalty.

Mary, Mother of Our Lord

6 We honor faithful Mary,
 fair maiden, full of grace.
 She bore the Christ, our brother,
 who came to save our race.
 May we, with her, surrender
 ourselves to your command
 and lay upon your altar
 our gifts of heart and hand.

Martha and Mary

7 We sing of busy Martha
 who toiled with pot and pan
 while Mary sat in silence
 to hear the word again.
 Christ, keep our hearts attentive
 to truth that you declare,
 and strengthen us for service
 when work becomes our prayer.

The Woman at the Well

8 Recall the outcast woman
 with whom our Lord conversed:
 Christ gave her living water
 to quench her deepest thirst.
 Like hers, our hearts are yearning;
 Christ offers us his word.
 Then may our lips be burning
 to witness to our Lord.

Mary Magdalene

9 We praise the other Mary
 who came at Easter dawn
 and near the tomb did tarry,
 but found her Lord was gone.
 As joyfully she saw him
 in resurrection light,
 may we by faith behold him,
 the day who ends all night.

Dorcas

10 Lord, hear our praise of Dorcas
 who served the sick and poor.
 Her hands were cups of kindness,
 her heart an open door.
 Send us, O Christ, your Body,
 where people cry in pain,
 and touch them with compassion
 to make them whole again.

Eunice and Lois

11 For Eunice and for Lois,
 we sing our thanks and praise.
 Young Timothy they nurtured
 and led him in your ways.
 Raise up in ev'ry household
 true teachers of your word
 whose lives will bear clear witness
 to Christ, our risen Lord.

Apostle's Creed—Pastor Erika Foss

**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 into hell.
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 the People—Pastor Erika Foss

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

A brief silence.

For the women who faithfully serve as bishops, pastors, and deacons; for those first to be ordained and those most recently ordained [especially Pastor Amy Janssen and soon Vicar Christina Kadelbach in our synod]. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the visible unity of the church, and for ongoing dialogue between church bodies that do not agree on the ordination of women. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For laypeople, who do vital work through church ministries of hospitality, outreach, teaching, music and dance. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For women and girls around the world who are ostracized from their communities for any reason, or treated as less than children of God. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those whose hard work is rarely praised, and whose names are forgotten though their work lives on. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who suffer from bleeding disorders; for children who are too sick or weak to get up; for all who continue to pray for healing in their bodies especially those we now name before you silently or aloud. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the women who nurtured us in faith, whether in our family of birth or in the family of God. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For what else do we pray? We lay our prayers before you now Lord (silence). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most high God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting that your steadfast love is greater than the heavens and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace—Pastor Erika Foss

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Offering

Offertory Music—Deacon Brenda Tibbetts

Offertory Prayer—Pastor Erika Foss

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. You have blessed us with our bodies, our minds, our hearts, our communities, and the resources of this earth. Lead us and guide us to use these gifts in accordance with your will, for the sake of the one who is with us to the end, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Litany of Lament—Deacon Kari Olson

We come before God and each other today celebrating the anniversaries of the ordination of women in the Lutheran church in the United States. Within the celebration there is also our corporate need to acknowledge the ways in which we have not supported women in ministry, overtly and covertly, knowingly and unknowingly.

I invite you to respond to each petition with: "Hear our prayer."

O God, as we give thanks for the ministry of ordained women throughout the decades, we also acknowledge and name the ways in which we have not been faithful supporters of women in ministry. For women who have been excluded from

ministry because they were women, God of mercy ... **Hear our prayer.**

For women who were dismissed from positions they held, those who quietly or not so quietly disappeared with little warning or explanation, God of mercy ... **Hear our prayer.**

For women who have been bullied, harassed, mistreated or abused by ministers and laypeople in this church, God of mercy ... **Hear our prayer.**

For women who have voluntarily left positions they held because they could no longer withstand the pressures and stresses placed upon them by impossible expectations, God of mercy ... **Hear our prayer.**

For female pastors of color who have had to deal with microaggressions, insults and injuries, and for female pastors who had to wait many years for a call and those who never received a call, God of mercy ... **Hear our prayer.**

For women who not only are targeted by sexism but also deal with intersecting burdens of racism, heterosexism, ableism and socioeconomic inequality, God of mercy ... **Hear our prayer.**

For female pastors whose commitment to motherhood has been questioned or judged, and for female pastors whose singleness has been questioned or judged, God of mercy ... **Hear our prayer.**

For women who were passed over for positions of leadership because they were women; for women whose gifts were rejected or never acknowledged because they were women. For the thoughts, words and deeds we have participated in that have excluded women; and for the work that is left undone, God of mercy ... **Hear our prayer.**

Receive our confession, God of mercy, and give us strength to commit anew to the full inclusion of women at all levels of work and ministry in this church and throughout the world. **Amen.**

Litany of Thanksgiving—Vicar Christina Kadelbach

For the many ways that women have proclaimed the gospel, including as pastors for the past 50 years, and for the impact that proclamation has had on more people than we can ever count or know ... **We rejoice and give thanks to God.**

For the many ways that women have proclaimed the gospel, including as pastors for the past 50 years, and for the impact that proclamation has had on more people than we can ever count or know ... **We rejoice and give thanks to God.**

For the ways the church's decision to ordain women allowed fresh air to blow through the church, opened up closed windows and flung wide closed doors,

enabling new possibilities for women to answer God's call and fresh ways for people to hear the good news ... **We rejoice and give thanks to God.**

For the ways women have pushed this church in new directions; for the distinctive gifts each woman brings, from her culture, her gender, her sexuality and far beyond ... **We rejoice and give thanks to God.**

For the ministries of women of color, the vibrancy they bring, the wisdom they share, the Word they proclaim and the sacraments they administer ... **We rejoice and give thanks to God.**

For the ministry of LGBTQIA+ pastors who have enriched the church by their dedicated service throughout history, and for the 10 years since the ELCA's policy change enabling them to serve publicly and live authentically, including while in partnered relationships ... **We rejoice and give thanks to God.**

For the people who had the courage and perseverance to work for the ordination of women, including our predecessor women's organizations; for congregations who had the courage to call female pastors; and for the church's ability to change ... **We rejoice and give thanks to God.**

For all women, the polite and the pushy, the troublemakers and the peacemakers, those who make the coffee, those who pay the bills, those who put the chairs away and lock the doors at the end of the night; for the deacons and deaconesses, the teachers, and the prayer-chain maintainers; for all those who stayed up late and got up early doing work that no one ever saw or acknowledged but that slowly transformed people's lives and the church; and for the generations of women who didn't get a title but served God just the same ... **We rejoice and give thanks to God.**

For the support women have given and received over the decades; for the late-night phone calls, the chats over lunch, the affirmations and the hugs when words fell short; for the spouses, children, parents, mentors, teachers and theologians, whose impact cannot be measured; and for those who show up and those who speak out, in quiet and loud ways ... **We rejoice and give thanks to God.**

For the apostolic witness of Mary Magdalene, the dance of Miriam, the hospitality of Lydia, the prayer of Mary, the discernment of Deborah, and the courage of Rahab, and for the faithfulness of our biblical foremothers ... **We rejoice and give thanks to God.**

Gracious and living God, we rejoice and give you thanks for your strength on display throughout time and place, calling all kinds of people to be witnesses to your grace and power. We celebrate how the Spirit has blessed your church through the work of women and girls, including in this time and place. Guide us, as your people, into welcoming your prophets and teachers among us and into hearing Christ's good news through them. With gratitude, we pray. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer—Pastor Erin Coutts
**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.**

Blessing—Pastor Erin Coutts

Hymn Let All Things Now Living (Pastor Liz Cheney, Pastor Amy Janssen and Deacon Brenda Tibbetts)

Let All Things Now Living



1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours-es and



God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;



who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who
the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the



still guides us on to the end of our days.
deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.



God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -
We too should be voic - ing our love and re -



fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,
joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise



till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as
till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To



for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892-1980, alt.
Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune
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Dismissal—Pastor Erin Coutts

Sundays and Seasons v.20200325.1254

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Worship participants:

Pastor Sarah Fike—Our Saviors, Hibbing

Pastor Liz Cheney—Immanuel, Tower

Pastor Amy Janssen—Gethsemane, Virginia

Deacon Brenda Tibbetts—Assistant to the Bishop Northeastern MN Synod

Pastor Erika Foss—Trinity, Cook

Vicar Christina Kadelbach—Faith United, Iron

Deacon Kari Olson—Messiah, Mountain Iron

Pastor Erin Coutts—First, International Falls