

everlasting
FAITHFULNESS

PRE-ASSEMBLY REPORT

for the 2021 Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly

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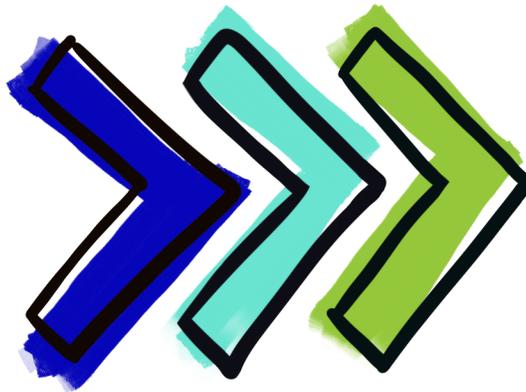


Southeastern Minnesota Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



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**2021 Synod Assembly
Southeastern Minnesota Synod
Online Only! - May 8**

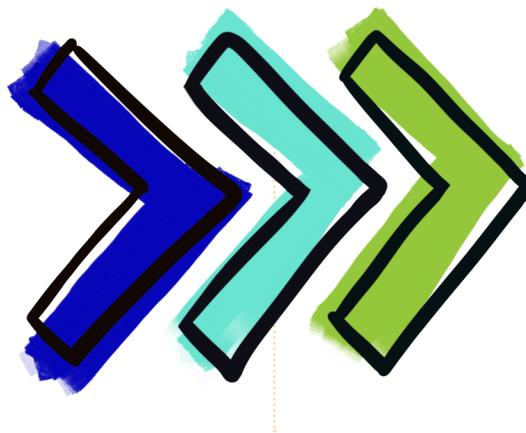
Event Website:

www.semnsynod.org/assembly

*check here regularly for details, links, tips, and more!

Share pictures, quotes, and thoughts from your assembly experience on social media (like Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter) using the hashtag:

#SEM21



OPENING WORSHIP

Prelude

Dialog:

L: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,

C: God's mercies never come to an end;

L: They are new every morning;

C: Great is your faithfulness!

Opening Psalm of Praise: **Psalm 95: Come, Let Us Sing Unto the Lord!**

Group I:



Come, let us sing un - to the Lord:

Group II:



— Come, let us shout for joy — to the

Group I:



Rock of our sal - va - tion! Let us



sing un - to the Lord.

Group II:

— Come, let us en - ter in - to God's

Group I:

pre - sence with Thanks - giv - ing. Let us

Group II:

shout a Psalm to God, — Come, let us

sing un - to the Lord! —

Song Leader: For the Lord is a great God, and the King of all the world.
In God's hands are the caverns of the earth.
The heights of the hills belong to God.

(Repeat Refrain above)

Song Leader: The sea belongs to God, because God made it,
and God's hands have formed the earth.
Let us bow down and bend the knee, for we are
the sheep of God's pasture.

Group I:

Come, let us sing un - to ___ the ___ Lord:

Group II:

___ Come, let us shout for joy ___ to the

Group I:

Rock of our sal - va - tion! Let us

sing un - to ___ the ___ Lord. ___

Group II:

— Come, let us en - ter in - to God's

Group I:

pre - sence with Thanks - giv - ing. Let us

Group II:

shout a Psalm to God, — Come, let us

sing un - to the Lord! —

Musical score for a vocal setting, featuring ten staves of music. The lyrics are: "Come, let us sing! (Come, let us sing!) Come, let us sing! Sing to the Lord, Come, let us sing, un - to the Lord! Come, let us Sing to the Lord. Sing to the Lord."

The score includes musical notations such as triplets (marked with a '3' and a bracket) and first/second endings (marked with '1.' and '2.'). The lyrics are placed below the corresponding musical notes.

Setting Copyright © 2020, by Robert Tewes. All rights reserved. Used by Permission.

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

John 15:9-17 is read.

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 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. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: Bishop Regina Hassanally

Hymn of the Day: **Great Is Thy Faithfulness** – ELW 733

**featuring video snippets of members throughout our Synod reflecting on how they have witnessed God's unfaltering faithfulness throughout this last year*

INTRODUCTION

Stanza One

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
as thou hast been, thou forever will be.

interlude, videos

REFRAIN

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

interlude, videos

Stanza Two

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

interlude, videos

REFRAIN

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

interlude, videos

Stanza Three

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

REFRAIN

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

interlude, videos

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Prayers

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

Mighty God of mercy, we thank you for the resurrection dawn, bringing the glory of our risen Jesus who makes every day new. Especially we thank you—

For your Faithfulness to your people...

For the sustaining goodness of your creation....

For the new creation in Christ and all gifts of healing and forgiveness...

For the gifts of relationship with others...

For the communion of faith in your church...

For the ministry we share as members of the SE Minnesota Synod of the ELCA...

Merciful God of might, renew this weary world, heal the hurts of all your children, and bring about your peace for all in Christ Jesus, the living Lord. Especially we pray---

For those who govern the nations of the world...

For the people in countries ravaged by strife or warfare...

For all who work for peace and international harmony...

For all who strive to save the earth from carelessness and destruction...

For the church of Jesus Christ in every land...

Almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin nor be overcome in adversity. In all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

L: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

C: 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.

Thanksgiving for Baptism (*from the font*)

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(*Water is poured into the font as the leader gives thanks*)

L: Ever-living God, author of creation, we give you thanks for your gift of water that brings life and refreshes the earth. We bless and praise you, for by water and the Word we are cleansed from sin and receive everlasting life. Join us again this day to the saving death of Christ; renew in us the living

fountain of your grace; and raise us with Christ Jesus to live in newness of life; for you are merciful, and you love your whole creation, and with all your creatures we give you glory, through your Son Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

L: Almighty God, who gives us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Song: **When Peace Like a River** – ELW 785

When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll,
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
it is well, it is well with my soul.

It is well, with my soul,
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control,
that Christ hat regarded my helpless estate,
and hath shed his own blood for my soul.

It is well, with my soul,
it is well, it is well with my soul.

He lives—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;
my sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord; praise the Lord, O My soul!

It is well, with my soul,
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
even so it is well with my soul.

It is well, with my soul,
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Portions of this Service are adapted from ELW Morning Prayer, Copyright © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
This service will be available for SE Minnesota congregations to use again tomorrow morning on May 9, 2021.

CLOSING WORSHIP

Hymn of the Day: **Great Is Thy Faithfulness**

Stanza Three

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

REFRAIN

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

Jesus sends us out,

Yet promises to be with us always.

We have been called to proclaim to the world,

That love which abides in us today.

We know not what tomorrow will bring,

Yet trust the steadfast love of the Lord will never cease.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Great is your faithfulness, O Lord God. In this past year we have been witness to your never-ending mercies. The stories of our lives will forever be added to the stories of your people; the stories that stand as testimony to your faithfulness from age to age.

As we turn off our screens, may your presence abide with us wherever we may be. May your guiding Spirit direct the work of the Church across this synod that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name and proclaim every new mercy we see through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Great is thy Faithfulness - Refrain

I declare this assembly closed in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

OFFERING

We will be celebrating God's everlasting faithfulness as we gather on May 8, 2021 for Synod Assembly. Through the advance gifts of individuals and congregations along with the worship service offering, we will raise \$40,000 which will be stewarded to support the work of our synod's ministry partners and start the Holy Spirit Fund.

75% Ministry Partners - \$30,000

Crossroads Campus Ministry (Mankato) - \$12,500

Lutheran Campus Center (Winona) - \$12,500

Luther Seminary - \$1,500

Good Earth Village - \$1,500

Minnesota Council of Churches - \$1,000

Lutheran Advocacy-Minnesota - \$1,000

25% Holy Spirit Fund - \$10,000

The Holy Spirit Fund is a new account designed to provide a way for the synod to come alongside congregations who are following the movement of the Holy Spirit in innovative, Gospel-centered ways. The congregations of the synod are all invited into the same central purpose; we are "called and sent to bear witness to God's creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world." The intention of the Holy Spirit Fund is to support congregations as they explore new ways to bear witness to God's activity in the world.

To give online, visit [semnsynod.org/assembly!](https://semnsynod.org/assembly)