

A Worship Service of Vocation

GATHERING

Remembrance of Baptism

Thanksgiving for Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of baptism as the presiding minister begins:

P Blessed be God, who gives us life with all of creation, joins us to the saving death of + Christ, and raises us to new life by the Holy Spirit. Blessed be the Holy Trinity.

C **Blessed be God forever.**

The assisting ministry invites the assembly into the remembrance of baptism:

A When we were joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we were clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Together let us remember our baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks:

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

P We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit brooded over the waters and you created the world by your Word, calling forth life in which you took delight. You led Israel safely through the Red Sea into the land of promise, and in the waters of the Jordan, you proclaimed Jesus your beloved one. By water and the Spirit you adopted us as your daughters and sons, making us heirs of the promise and servants of God.

Through this water remind us of our baptism. Shower us with your Spirit, that your forgiveness, grace, and love may be renewed in our lives. To you be given honour and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

The water may be sprinkled over the people or they may be invited to use it to sign themselves with the cross.

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Entrance Hymn

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.**

Call to Worship (sung)

L This little light of mine,

C **I'm goin' a let it shine!**

L This little light of mine,

C **I'm goin' a let it shine!**

L This little light of mine,

C **I'm goin' a let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

(pg. 73, This Far by Faith (TFF), Epiphany) This Far By Faith Copyright © 1999 Augsburg Fortress. All Rights Reserved.)

OR Call to Worship (spoken)

L Once God called prophets to speak out for justice and mercy,

C **Now God calls us to speak.**

L Once God sent a child into the world to show it love and kindness,

C **Now God sends us.**

L Once God breathed the Holy Spirit upon the church, calling it to go into all world.

C **Now that same Spirit is breathing upon us, calling us to go.**

L In the name of the Father, and + the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

C **Amen.**

AND/OR Hymn of Praise (optional)

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray ...

Gracious and loving God, thank you for making us all unique, with our individual interests and abilities. Help us to hear your call clearly that we might use all you have given us to serve you and others according to your will for us. Grant us wisdom and patience as we wrestle with decisions about the direction our lives will take. Be our guide and our guest this day and all days. This we pray in Jesus' name. AMEN.

(from "Closing Prayer," Listen Up Pre-Gathering Bible Study)

WORD

First Lesson Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 23

Second Lesson 1 Peter 2:19-25

Gospel John 10:1-10

Sermon "Called by Name" by David Kaiser from Restored Circles. *Permission for reproduction and one time use given by the author and the publisher. Other similar dramas are available from Epiphany Press, 1725 Empress Street, Regina, SK S4T 5E9 under the titles Restored Circles and Talking Circles. Or write your own sermon/drama focussing on the theme of vocation, giftedness, to be God's chosen...*

NOTES ON THE DRAMA

This drama was written with the intention to be used on the 4th Sunday of Easter using the gospel of John 10: 1-6, the Good Shepherd. John 10 focusses on each of the sheep being called by God, who knows the sheep and the sheep know God's voice.

Note that at the end of the drama, David Kaiser suggests that everyone in the congregation receive a name tag that reads "Child of God". These can be a simple "Hello My name is sticker", to be distributed by the youth or by ushers. Or they can be included in the bulletin to be used later in the service.

Hymn of the Day

Prayers of the People (either use the response given or choose a sung response)

A As God's people called in our baptisms to be light to the world. Let us pray for the needs of the Church, the human family and all the world.

A Come Holy Spirit, breathe upon your people today. Reminding us of your promise to be with us always, guiding us and inviting us to go into the world, being God's arms in an often hurt and broken world. We pray for the ministry of this congregation of (Name), the (Name) conference, the Eastern Synod and for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. For its leaders and all of its members united in the water and the word.
(Silence) Hear us O God,

C **Your mercy is great.**

A Come Holy Spirit, renew the world. Where there is war, let there be peace. Where there is hatred, let there be love. Where there is hunger, let there be a harvest for all. Where there is injustice, let there be justice. Where there is darkness, let there be light. (Silence)
Hear us O God,

C **Your mercy is great.**

A Come Holy Spirit, call your people to service in your world. Awaken in us the baptismal promises made over us as we were claimed in God's name. Give us the strength to discern our calls and vocations in our lives. Knowing that we do not do this alone, for you are with us always. (Silence) Hear us O God,

C Your mercy is great.

A Come Holy Spirit, bring healing and peace to all who are hurt, ill, or dying this day. May the church minister to those who suffer and for those who care for them. Especially ... (name). Touch their lives with healing peace, this day and always. (Silence) Hear us O God,

C Your mercy is great.

A Come Holy Spirit, may we, like the saints who have gone before us, hear God's call to serve in the many ministries of the church and in the world. (Silence) Hear us O God,

C Your mercy is great.

A/P All these things and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, O God, for the sake of Christ who died and rose again, and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

C Amen.

MEAL

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Offering (As we gather the gifts from the people of God, may we know that we are invited to return to God the gifts that God has first given us: our selves, our time and our possessions. It is not only the gifts of money that we return to God, but the gifts of our whole selves)

Offertory (Whatever is your custom, or choose something new)

Offertory Prayer

A Wise and gracious God,

C receive the labour of our hands – these gifts of money, bread and wine – along with the offering of our lives. Nourish us with the life of your Son, that we might be his body in the world, making known your abundant mercy in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen. (pg. 81, *TFE*, Season after Pentecost A)

Great Thanksgiving

Lord's Prayer

Communion

Canticle / Post-Communion Song

Prayer

- A Let us pray.
Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with spiritual food, the body and blood of Christ. All who come to you will not hunger, all who believe in you will not thirst. Empowered by this sacrament, send us back into the world to do the work you have given us to do: to share the gospel and be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C **Amen.** (*pg. 89, TFF, B*)

SENDING

- L People of God,
you have been called to be disciples of Christ.
Whatever you do, in word or deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God through him. (*pg. 90, TFF, D*)
- P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

- A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**