

September 7th, 2025
Rooted and Renewed: Gathering
(setting three in the ELW)

What makes a worship service? The basic pattern of ELCA worship—Gathering, Word, Meal, Sending—gives us a structure that allows flexibility while focusing on what the church holds in common. Each Sunday this month, we will focus on one of these four elements in order to explore and affirm what worship means to us.

This week we are focused on Gathering. When we gather, the Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God. God is the one who first spoke, calling creation into being and giving people language as a way of responding to God and forming community. God calls each of us by name, and calls the church into being, giving us language to praise and pray, witness and serve for the life of the world.

We often think of church as a building, but the Greek word for church is *ecclesia*, meaning assembly-- the ***people gathered by God's call***. In our gathering together, we make the church through the community we share with each other: as individual congregations, as two congregations in shared ministry, and as members of the universal church body.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Gathering

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Siblings in Christ,
there is joy when we gather, even to confess our sin.
As a community dependent on the grace of God,
let us affirm our brokenness and trust God's goodness
to carry us through to a new day.

God of Gathering,
too often, we point only to ourselves.
We point to our worship preferences rather than the God we worship.
We point to our values rather than the One who has always valued everyone.
We point to our traditions rather than to the One who calls us to let go.
We point to our past rather than to the One who calls us into the future.
Forgive us, Lord, for pointing in all the wrong directions.

God of all our hope,
Forgive us when we do not wait patiently for your direction.
Forgive us when we are too patient with our misdirection.
Forgive us when we forget your invitation to abundant life,
given to us through the power of the One, Jesus Christ.
Give us the courage to speak what we have seen
and point to the One who takes away the sins of the world.
In the name of the One, we pray.

Siblings in Christ,
Our God knows us each by name. In the name of Christ,
I declare that your story is known, your sin is forgiven,
and your life is made anew. Let us live as ones who have been reborn.
Thanks be to God.

We gather here
as people who have faith
in a story that stretches far before
and beyond us.
It's a story that tells us that
what we know of life is only
a tiny part of the picture;
that here, who we are is still unfinished.

It's a story of how God's redemption and restoration
rewrites what we know of ourselves,
editing our lives with words
of grace and forgiveness
and creating an ending
that speaks only of love.
We gather to worship God.

***GATHERING HYMN** *O Day of Rest and Gladness, ELW #521 all verses*

***GREETING**

*** HYMN OF PRAISE** *This is the Feast, ELW pg. 140*

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

God, the encourager, God, the compassionate, God, the merciful, holy, and blessed:
Enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy.
Change us, move us, mold us for the better;
so that, at the sound of your voice,

at the call of our name,
we will never be the same.
May our worship do this and so much more,
in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Word

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-5

Hear, everyone who thirsts;
 come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
 come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
 without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread
 and your earnings for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
 and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me;
 listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
 my steadfast, sure love for David.
See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
 a leader and commander for the peoples.
Now you shall call nations that you do not know,
 and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
 for the LORD has glorified you.

God's Word for God's People. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 95:1-7

¹ O come, let us sing to the LORD;
 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
² **Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving;**
 let us make a joyful noise to the LORD with songs of praise!
³ For the LORD is a great God
 and a great Ruler above all gods.
⁴ **O God, in your hand are the depths of the earth;**
 the heights of the mountains are yours also.
⁵ The sea is yours, for you made it,
 and the dry land, which your hands have formed.

**⁶ O come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!**

**⁷ For you are our God,
and we are the people of your pasture
and the sheep of your hand.**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:19-25

¹⁹ Therefore, my brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

God's Word for God's People. **Thanks be to God.**

*** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** pg. 142

*** GOSPEL: John 1:35-46**

³⁵ The next day John the Baptist again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" ³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" ³⁹ He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). ⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." ⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."

SERMON

* **HYMN OF THE DAY** *Will You Let Me Be Your Servant, ELW 659*

* **APOSTLES' CREED**

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

United in Christ who gives us the victory, let us pray to God:

For the Church, the Body of Christ,
that we might truly live the unity we receive
through the Holy Spirit. God our strength:
Change us by your grace.

For the leaders of our churches
that they may be faithful to the unity
to which all Christians are called. God our strength:
Change us by your grace.

For the nations of the world,
that they may live in peace with one another
and promote justice for all. God our strength:
Change us by your grace.

For all that you have created, and for all people,
that we may be good stewards of the earth. God our strength:
Change us by your grace.

For the people of our society,
that we may be transformed to live
as caring neighbors to each other. God our strength:
Change us by your grace.

For the sick and suffering,
that they may be transformed
by your healing presence. God our strength:
Change us by your grace.

For all families and households,
that their struggles and joys may find their fulfillment
in your love. God our strength:

Change us by your grace.

For the dying,
that they may be comforted by your presence.
For those who now dwell with the saints, that they
find peace and rest in your loving embrace.
God our strength:

Change us by your grace.

Lord, stand in our midst and grant us unity and peace. We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Meal

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND TITHES

* **OFFERTORY HYMN** God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending, ELW #759 vs. 1-2

*** OFFERTORY PRAYER**

God of all creation,
your claim on us is total;
your desire for us, complete.
We ask that you would receive us this day
and use what we bring for the good of your church.
Keep sending your Spirit into our hearts,
to your holy purpose.
For we long to give our lives to you;
we long to know the fullness of your joy.
We pray in the name of Jesus,
who gave his life out of love for the world.
Amen.

*** THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Sending

*** BLESSING**

May the God who is community

be with us as we seek to be a community.

May God help us to be real

and to find depth in authenticity.

May God continue to grant us the gift of an extraordinary love

that flows from the heart of God

that covers a multitude of wrongs.

And may God be with you and speak through you;

May Christ Jesus be one with you and raise you to life;

And may the Holy Spirit dwell within you and make you holy. **Amen.**

*** SENDING HYMN** *Go My Children With My Blessing, ELW 543*

*** DISMISSAL**

Siblings in Christ, let us now go into the world,

remembering all we have in each other,

and all that God had provided for us in Jesus Christ. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE