

DIACONAL SUNDAY February 26, 2012

Worship Ideas

Hymn Suggestions

Will you let me be your servant?

Evangelical Lutheran Worship #659

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

Evangelical Lutheran Worship #712



Prayer

Most gracious God,

We give thanks that through the waters of our baptism you have sealed us as your children forever, and called us to a life of service in the name of Jesus Christ. Help us to claim with confidence this new life given to us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. May your Holy Spirit open our eyes and make our hearts tender to the many needs and hurts in this world. Give us the courage and desire to serve those around us, that we might generously share your extravagant gift of love.

We give thanks for the numerous ways you have gifted each of us with our particular temperaments, skills, talents, interests and life experiences. Help us to attune ourselves to you, so that our service will uphold the individual worth and mutual respect of all persons. May your Holy Spirit continue to guide each of us in our words and actions so that our daily lives may be a witness to others of your love.

We give you thanks for opportunities to serve. Bless our efforts
to reach out to the stranger;
to create inclusive communities where all are welcome;
to be good stewards of your natural creation
and to struggle for justice for everyone.

Open up opportunities for us to be in meaningful dialogue with one another, and give us the willingness to address the many varied needs for transformation in the world. May your Spirit empower us and inspire us to boldly advocate for those who are without voice, and for those who feel marginalized or disenfranchised.

On this diaconal Sunday, we give thanks for those individuals who serve in the ELCIC as diaconal ministers, and for those who are candidates for diaconal ministry. We ask that you bless and direct their ministries. We also remember all who are feeling called to new ways to serving, and all who are exploring the possibility of a vocation as a rostered minister. May your Holy Spirit guide this discernment.

We give thanks for the privilege and opportunity to be your servants, and to work in partnership with others to do your will. Equip us, strengthen us, and embolden each of us to be generous in giving wholly of ourselves as your peoples in a world that is hungering and hurting for good news. May your Holy Spirit empower us to be a church in mission for others. In Jesus' name we pray, AMEN.



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