

Human Beings — Not For Sale

Praise Appeal Service
Holy Communion



Today's service was prepared with material provided by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC). A special "Praise Appeal Offering" envelope is provided, in which we hope you will make a special offering that is gifted to the ELCIC.

Background Information: Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery, and involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to exploit human beings for some type of labour or commercial sex purpose. Globally, according to the International Labour Organization, it is estimated that there are some 20.7 million men, women, and children who are detected as victims of human trafficking.

Today's Praise Appeal Service follows the initiative of the Lutheran World Federation that the three years leading up to the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in 2017, focus on Creation—Not for Sale; Human Beings—Not for Sale; Salvation—Not for Sale.

GATHERING

Voice 1: Around the world in every land, the cries of those in bondage are muted by greed, indifference and ignorance.

All: Open our hearts to the suffering of others.

Voice 2: We do not want to know, we do not want to hear, we turn away from painful truth of slavery in our modern world.

All: Open our hearts to the suffering of others.

Voice 3: Give us strength to be advocates of the forgotten; to stand up for those whose lives have been stolen by human trafficking.

All: Open our hearts to the suffering of others.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God: the source of all that is; who looks into the darkest portion of our being with compassion and mercy. **Amen.**

Leader: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

All: All knowing God, have mercy on us.

We confess that we are held by our selfish desires, while we ignore the cries of those who suffer. We have turned from your will and have not loved you or our neighbours as ourselves. Forgive us, embrace us, and move us to new awareness of the needs of our brothers and sisters, here and around the world. Flood our hearts with your merciful love, and turn us from our sins that we may serve you and your children with transformed attitudes and loving hearts. Amen

Leader: By grace we are saved; in God's mercy through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. May our lives be renewed in forgiveness, grace and love given by the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. Amen

Leader: "Gather Us In" #532
OR "Christ Be Our Light" #715

Apostolic Greeting; Kyrie; Gloria p.165

Prayer of the Day: *Pour your grace into our hearts O God that we, who have been gifted with the truth of your loving presence in Jesus Christ, may be made truly free and fearless. Help us to see you in the faces of those around us: the stranger, the outcast, the victims of human trafficking. May we live as your heirs—seeking justice for all—as we follow the way of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Hymn: "When Pain of the World Surrounds Us" #704
OR "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service" #712

WORD

First Lesson: Exodus 6:2-11

Children's Message

Psalm 146 (read responsively, men odd numbered verses; women even.)

¹ Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

² I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

³ Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.

⁴ When their breath departs, they return to the earth;
on that very day their plans perish.
⁵ Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God,
⁶ who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith for ever;
⁷ who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The
Lord sets the prisoners free;
⁸ the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed
down; the Lord loves the righteous.
⁹ The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
¹⁰ The Lord will reign for ever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the Lord!

Second Lesson: Galatians 3:25-29

Gospel Acclamation p.171

Gospel: John 8:31-38

Adult Meditation

Written by National Bishop Susan C. Johnson, read by _____

Hymn of the Day: "You Are Mine" #581
OR "Light Dawns on a Weary World" #726

Affirmation of Faith

*We believe in God the Creator who was, who is and who will be forever the source
of all that is; who loves the world and says it is good.*

*We believe in Jesus Christ—the presence of God embodied and among us. Jesus
walks with the lonely; eats with sinners; feeds the hungry; forgives the unforgivable;
and continues to show us the way. He calls us to a life that death cannot end.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit of God, who has spoken through the prophets and
continues to urge us to live fully and honestly—seeking justice, loving kindness, and
walking humbly, as a forgiven and forgiving people whose joy gives life.*

*We believe in the church as community. Though flawed and imperfect, the
church offers a place for everyone. We believe that Christ is among us and leads us
to give ourselves away in love. We believe we are called to choose hope, to resist evil,
to advocate for the oppressed, and to rejoice in the gift of life. Amen.*

Prayers of the People: Response: "*Hear our prayer.*"

Sharing of the Peace

Offering

Offering Hymn: "To Be Your Presence"..... #546
OR "We Are an Offering" #692

Prayer

MEAL

Great Thanksgiving p.172

The Lord's Prayer p.173

Communion

Lamb of God p.174

Hymns During Communion:

"By Your Hand You Feed Your People"..... #469
"Rise, Shine You People" #665
"Now We Remain" #500

SENDING

Blessing p.221

Sending Hymn: "The Church of Christ" #729
OR "A Mighty Fortress" #504

Dismissal

