

2019 ECMN CONVENTION EUCHARIST
13 SEPTEMBER 2019

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Before the liturgy begins, the Presider says

Presider We are on a sacred journey,

***People* called to walk lightly on the earth.**

Presider To let the oppressed go free,

***People* and to proclaim God's Jubilee—a time of freedom and liberation.**

Presider We gather this evening on land that is part of the 1851 Treaty of Traverse des Sioux, land that belonged the Dakota. This treaty was violated by both the settlers and agents of the federal government of the United States and led to great suffering for the Dakota. Eventually, this dishonoring of the Treaty led to the Dakota War of 1862 and the subsequent mass execution of 38 Dakota men in December of that year. The forced removal of the Dakota and our national legacy of white supremacy continues to cause harm to Indigenous communities and other communities of color to this day.

***People* We acknowledge with humility the historical and contemporary trauma faced by the Dakota and other Indigenous people and ask God to make us reconcilers, healers, and repairers of the breach.**

Presider May our worship this evening strengthen us to become the Beloved Community,

***People* and may we strive for justice, freedom, and peace for all people.
*AMEN.***

THE ENTRANCE RITE

MUSIC

The People standing, the Presider says

Presider Blessed be God: most holy, glorious, and undivided Trinity.

People* And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. *AMEN.

Presider Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

People *AMEN.*

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you, bring the nations into your fold, pour out your Spirit upon all flesh, and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People *AMEN.*

The People sit.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:1-3, 6-11 (proclaimed in Karen)

လံာ်စီဆုံလာတၢ်ကဘၣ်ဖးအီၤဖဲ လံာ်ယရှုယၤ ၅၅:၁-၃, ၆-၁၁

ဟဲ, ကယံာ်ပုၤလၢတၢ်သူအသးလၢထံတဂၤလၢလၢ်လၢ်သ့ၣ်ၤ, ဟဲဆူထံအအိၣ်တက့ၢ်.

ဒီးပုၤလၢအစ့တအိၣ်သ့ၣ်ၤ, ဟဲပုၤတၢ်ဒီးအိၣ်တၢ်တက့ၢ်.

ဒီးစ့တအိၣ်, အပုၤတၢ်အိၣ်ဘၣ်န့ၣ်ဟဲပုၤစပံးထံဒီးတၢ်န့ၣ်ထံတက့ၢ်.

သုလၢ်စ့လာတၢ်လၢအတမ့ၢ်ဘၣ်ကိၣ်အဂီၢ်, ဒီးသုမၤတၢ်လၢ အတဒုးဘျးအိၣ်ဘၣ်န့ၣ်အဂီၢ်မ့ၢ်အဘၣ်မနုၤလဲၣ်.

ဒိကန့ၣ်ယကလုာ်လီၤတၢ်လီၤဆဲး, ဒီးအိၣ်တၢ်အဂ့ၤန့ၣ်တက့ၢ်. ဒီးသုသးကမ့ၢ်ထီၣ်က့ၤလၢတၢ်ဝံၣ်တၢ်ဆၢအပူၤလီၤ.

ဒီးသုန့ၢ်ဒီးဟဲဆူယအိၣ်တက့ၢ်. ဒိကန့ၣ်ဒီးသုသကမ့ၢ်,

ဒီးယကမၤတၢ်အၢၣ်လီၤအိၣ်လီၤအထူအထီၣ်ဒီးသုတၢ်ဘျးတၢ်ဖျိၣ်အဂၢၢ်အကျၢၤဘၣ်ဃးဒီးစီၤဒၢဝံးလီၤ.

ယုယွၤလၢ ပထံၣ်န့ၢ်ဘၣ်အီၤသ့အဖၢမ့ၢ်န့ၣ်တက့ၢ်. ကိးထီၣ်အီၤလၢအအိၣ်ဘျးအဖၢမ့ၢ်န့ၣ်တက့ၢ်.

Raise up those whose gifts have been suppressed, neglected, ignored, or rejected.

Renew your people through humble service and prophetic witness, that your Name may be known in the face of injustice, poverty, and tyranny.

Show your glory through agents of healing and learning, and shower your people with your love, until the day comes when every eye beholds you, full of grace and truth, ever one God, world without end.

People *AMEN.*

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Prayed in the language of your own heart.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

FRACTION ANTHEM

MUSIC

THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

MUSIC

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Presider Loving God,

People **we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ’s Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. AMEN.**

BLESSING

MUSIC

DISMISSAL

All sing

People Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Presider Source of Life, at the Incarnation of your Son you gave us your divine presence. At his Resurrection you dismantled sin and death and made the whole creation new. At Pentecost you empowered us to bear your image and share your grace.

In mission you equip us to go to the four corners of the earth, to rediscover what your Spirit is doing and meet you in the face of the stranger.

In ministry you share with us the abundance of your love in sacrament and story, in prayer and in teaching, in reconciliation and in bringing your world home to you.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

People Great is the mystery of faith.
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Presider Fulfilling God, in Jesus' dying and rising you show us the extent of mission and the cost of ministry. Send your Holy Spirit, that your people may be filled with love, joy, and peace, and that these gifts of bread and wine may be for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

As you take bread and wine and make them the bearers of your Son's risen life, take our flesh and blood and make us channels of your peace.

Transform your Church that it may resemble your generosity, your joy, and your abundance.

မိပုတတီတလိဘာန်န့ၣ်လဲၤသဒၣ်အကျဲဒၣ်ဝဲ, ဒီးပုၤအာန့ၣ်အဆိကမိၣ်တၢ်, ဒီးဟဲက့ၤကဒါက့ၤဆူယုၤအအိၣ်တက့ၢ်.
ဒီးကသ့ၣ်ကညီၤကသးကညီၤအီၤလီၤ.မိအဟဲဆူပကစၢ်အအိၣ်တက့ၢ်. အဂ့ၢ်ဒိအံၤ,ကပျၢ်တၢ်အါအါကလဲၣ်လီၤ.

အဂ့ၢ်ဒိအံၤ, ယတၢ်ဆိကမိၣ်တမ့ၢ်ဘၣ်သုတၢ်ဆိကမိၣ်ဘၣ်,ဒီးသုကျဲတမ့ၢ်ဘၣ်ယကျဲဘၣ်,ယွၤစံးဝဲဒၣ်.

အဂ့ၢ်ဒိအံၤ, ဒ်မူခိၣ်ထီၣ်ဟီၣ်ခိၣ်အသိး,ယကျဲထီၣ်သုကျဲ, ဒီးယတၢ်ဆိကမိၣ်ထီၣ်သုတၢ်ဆိကမိၣ်ဒ်န့ၣ်သိးလီၤ.

အဂ့ၢ်ဒိအံၤ, ဒ်တၢ်စူၤ,

ဒီးမူခိၣ်ဖိဟဲလီၤလၢမူခိၣ်,ဒီးတက့ၤကဒါက့ၤဘာန်ဆူန့ၣ်,မ့ၢ်မၤဘၣ်စီၣ်ဟီၣ်ခိၣ်,ဒီးဒုးမဲထီၣ်ဒီးဖးထီၣ်တၢ်သတးဒီး,
ဒုးဟ့ၣ်ပုၤဖဲတၢ်လၢ တၢ်ချံ, ဒီးပုၤအိၣ်တၢ်လၢတၢ်အိၣ်အသိးန့ၣ်, ယတၢ်ကတိၤလၢအဟဲထီၣ်လၢ
ယထးခိၣ်ကမၤအသးဒ်န့ၣ်,ဒီးတဟဲက့ၤကဒါက့ၤဆူယုၤအိၣ်ကလီၤကလီၤဘၣ်.မ့ၢ်အကမၤထီၣ်တၢ်လၢအဘၣ်ယသး
ဒီးကဒုးကဲထီၣ်တၢ်လၢယမၤအမၤတၢ်န့ၣ်လီၤ.

ဖဲဖးလံၣ်စီဆံၣ်ဝဲအခါ ဝုၤဖးတၢ်ကစံး အဆံၣ်မ့ၢ်ယုၤကလုၢ်ကထီၣ်လီၤ.

(English)

Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that 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 labor 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.
See, 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 he has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found,
 call upon him while he is near;
 let the wicked forsake their way,
 and the unrighteous their thoughts;
 let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,
 and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
 For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
 nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
 For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
 so are my ways higher than your ways
 and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
 and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
 making it bring forth and sprout,
 giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
 it shall not return to me empty,
 but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
 and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

THE PSALM

Psalm 19:7-14

The Law of the LORD is perfect
 and revives the soul; *
 the testimony of the LORD is sure
 and gives wisdom to the innocent.

The statutes of the LORD are just
 and rejoice the heart; *
 the commandment of the LORD is clear
 and gives light to the eyes.

The fear of the LORD is clean
 and endures for ever; *
 the judgements of the LORD are true
 and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold,
 more than much fine gold, *
 sweeter far than honey,
 than honey in the comb.

REST

One of the strongest commandments from scripture is the commandment to rest. In the face of a culture of endless consumption and production, the message from God is that we are neither what we do nor what we have. We are beloved simply because we are.

1. At this station, you are invited simply to sit quietly and to become aware of the abundance of God's presence. Right here. Right now. Always. And Forever.

Since this station is about rest, there is nothing to do. Simply breathe deeply. Perhaps consider the parts of your life that are resistant to slowing down. You may also ponder how observing God's invitation to rest might impact your life.

BRING BACK TO YOUR TABLE:



A small cup of orange wax and a match

THE PEACE

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

The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

THE OFFERTORY

MUSIC

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Adapted from Eucharistic Prayers by Samuel Wells and Abigail Kocher.

Presider The Lord be with you.
***People* And also with you.**
Presider Lift up your hearts.
***People* We lift them to the Lord.**
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.
***People* It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Presider It is right to praise you, ever-flowing Fountain of Love, for you are great, and you do wonderful things. By your grace you continue to renew us by calling us and the entire world into covenant with you. You invite us to walk your Way of Love.

And so, with joy, we thank you, with saints and angels and archangels, and all the company of heaven, by singing the hymn of your unending praise:

PRAY

Jesus models for us what it looks like to live a life that is perfectly attuned to God. This level of relatedness and awareness can be cultivated when we engage practices of prayer on a regular basis. Prayer is relationship. And while prayer can be formal and liturgical, it can also be as simple as taking a moment to breathe deeply, meditate on a line from the Psalms, journal, or whisper your hopes and fears to God and remembering God's goodness.

1. At this station, you are invited to receive healing prayers from a person from the Episcopal House of Prayer. You may also choose to write a written prayer and clip in on the prayer cross.

However you choose to pray, please be assured that God hears your prayers.

BRING BACK TO YOUR TABLE:



A small cup of white wax

GO

Part of what made Jesus so dangerous was his commitment to cross borders and margins for the sake of the Kingdom of God. Stephanie Spellers writes that "each of us has a margin" across which it is difficult to see the humanity of another. To follow Jesus authentically and faithfully means that we are called to walk up to every margin and border in our life...and then to take one step across them.

1. At this station, you are invited to walk the path following the "stepping stones". As you pass by each table, consider the question it raises. Moreover, consider the implications of a movement of border-crossers?

Write a one-word response to each of these questions:

- 1) What margin do I sense a personal calling to cross now, and you feel ready to?
- 2) How does it feel to cross this particular margin?
- 3) What margins are you aware of, but may not be ready to cross yet? And where is God in that?

BRING BACK TO YOUR TABLE:



A single wick

BLESS

Jesus attracted a crowd everywhere he went because he demonstrated a ministry of blessing. The same was true for his disciples who, after he ascended, went around healing and making whole. To follow Jesus is to seek to be a blessing to other people for no other reason than we have been richly blessed ourselves.

1. At this station, you are invited to trace your reflection in the mirror and, as you do so, imagine yourself being a blessing. Your whole self is a blessing – body, mind, and soul. You bear the image of God.

Say out loud to yourself, while looking in the mirror:
"I am blessed to be a blessing."

2. After you trace your image, write one way you want to be a blessing to someone else this week around the border of the mirror.

BRING BACK TO YOUR TABLE:



A small cup of blue wax

By them also is your servant enlightened, *
and in keeping them there is great reward.

Who can tell how often he offends? *
cleanse me from my secret faults.

Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
let them not get dominion over me; *
then shall I be whole and sound,
and innocent of a great offense.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my
heart be acceptable in your sight; *
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

THE SECOND READING

Romans 12:1-2, 9-21 (proclaimed in Hmong)

Kuv tuav txog tus Tswv Ntuj khuv leej neeg lub npe, kuv thov qhuab ntuas nej, kom nej muab nej lub cev los txi rau Tswv Ntuj, zoo li ib co txim ntshiab muaj txoj sia ntxim Tswv Ntuj lub siab. Qhov ntawd yog txoj kev teev Ntuj nyob hauv nruab siab. Nej tsis txhob koj ib tug cwj pwm raws li lub ntiav teb : vim nej twb hloov ib lub tswv yim tshiab lawm. Lub tswv yim tshiab ntawd yuav ua kom nej hloov txhua yam, kom nej txawj tso Tswv Ntuj lub siab xav, tso qhov zoo, tso qhov ntxim Tswv Ntuj siab, tso qhov zoo tshaj plaws.

Nej tsis txhob ua txuj nyiam luag tej. Nej yuav ntxub txoj kev phem. Nej muab nej lub siab khi ruaj nreb rau hauv txoj kev zoo. Nej yuav sib hlub vim nej yog ib co kwv tij. Nej ib leeg yuav saib ib leeg tsim nyog qhuas. Thaum nej pab luag tej, mas nej txhob ua neeg tub nkeeg. Nej ua neeg siab kub: vim nej tso hwb Huab Tais. Nej yuav xyiv fab nyob hauv txoj kev tso siab rau Ntuj. Thaum nej raug txom nyem, mas nej ua siab ntev mog. Nej yuav nquag teev Ntuj. Nej yuav pab cov ntshiab. Nej yuav xyiv fab txais cov qhua tuaj so hauv nej tsev. Nej yuav foom lus zoo rau cov neeg hiam nej. Foom lus zoo xwb, txhob foom lus phem. Thaum nej nrog cov neeg zoo siab nyob ua ke, mas nej kuj yuav nrog lawv zoo siab luag ntxhi. Thaum nej nrog cov neeg quaj ntsuag nyob ua ke, mas nej kuj yuav nrog lawv quaj. Nej nrog sawv daws muaj ib lub siab ib lub tswv yim. Nej txhob nyiam ua neeg muab hlob. Nej yuav cia nej lub siab xib rau cov neeg me. Txhob xav tias nej paub txuj ci dua luag tej. Nej txhob pauj qhov phem uas luag tau ua rau nej. Nej yeej meem muab siab rau ua tej yam zoo nyob ntawm sawv daws xub ntiag. Nej nrog sawv daws nyob haum pheej, raws li nej ua tau. Kwv tij zoo nyiam, nej tsis txhob pauj qhov phem uas luag ua rau nej mog. Nej cia Tswv Ntuj npau taws rau lawv. Vim nyob hauv ntawv, Huab Tais Ntuj hais tias: 'Kuv yog tus yuav pauj kev chim,

thiab yog tus yuav muab txim.’ Li ntawd, ‘yog koj tus yeeb ncuab tshaib plab, mas koj yuav pub mov rau nws noj, yog nws nqhis dej, mas koj yuav muab dej rau nws haus. Yog koj ua li no, mas koj tshem ib pawg hluav ncaig kub kub saum koj tus yeeb ncuab taub hau pov tseg.’ Koj tsis txhob cia txoj kev phem yeej koj. Koj ua zoo, ces koj yeej txoj kev phem.

(English)

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” No, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The People stand.

MUSIC

THE GOSPEL

John 15:1-11 (proclaimed in Spanish)

Yo soy la vid verdadera y mi Padre es el labrador. Toda rama que no da fruto en mí, la corta. Y toda rama que da fruto, la limpia para que dé más fruto. Ustedes ya están limpios gracias a la palabra que les he anunciado, pero permanezcan en mí como yo en ustedes. Una rama no puede producir fruto por sí misma si no permanece unida a la vid; tampoco ustedes pueden producir fruto si no permanecen en mí. Yo soy la vid y ustedes las ramas. El que permanece en mí y yo en él, ése da mucho fruto, pero sin mí, no pueden hacer nada. El que no permanece en mí lo tiran y se seca;

TURN

Jesus’ constant invitation to us is to turn from sin and death and to walk in abundant life. This turning does not happen once nor does it happen fully. We must choose to turn every day, in small and large ways. And especially when we sense that we have wandered far from God.

1. At this station, you are invited to begin by visualize what turning looks like for you.

What barriers keep you from turning to God in your life?
 What parts of your life are resistant to turning?
 How might you step through that barrier in this moment?
 What does turning feel like?
 What emotions can you name, accept, and give to God to hold in this process?

2. After visualizing this, walk through the curtain (to embody a moment of turning).

3. On the other side, before you leave this station, spend a moment wondering about what might you find across the threshold of your turning.

What is around the corner that you weren’t able to see before?

BRING BACK TO YOUR TABLE:



Empty Vase

LEARN

Jesus’ invitation to follow him means that we are called to be his disciples, his students, to learn from him and to put his teaching into practice. Learning with Jesus doesn’t only happen in a classroom or in a church; rather, every experience we have is an opportunity to reflect on the teachings of Jesus and what they invite us to try on and do.

1. At this station, you are invited to sit with reading from Isaiah (on one side of the room) or the reading from the Gospel (on the other).

What parts of these scriptures jumpstart your imagination?
 What do you notice in the scenes?
 What do you find yourself wondering about?
 Where are you challenged?
 What do you feel called to try?

2. The beautiful illustrations in the Saint John’s bibles help us engage scripture beyond the text. Spend some time flipping through the stories.

What images grab you?
 How would you illustrate various scriptural and spiritual truths?
 How can you engage with God’s word, and learn from it, with creativity?

BRING BACK TO YOUR TABLE:



A small cup of red wax

WORSHIP

At the heart of God’s mission is a praying church who bears witness to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ by gathering to share the gifts of God with one another. God empowers the Church that gathers around the presence of Christ by the power of the Spirit.

1. At this station, you are invited to experience community one-on-one. Stand in the circles across from one another and answer these questions.

When it comes to living in Beloved Community...

Something I have... (what strengths, resources, or gifts do you have?)
 Something I need... (what do you need from community?)
 Something I can give... (how can you give, with and including your heart, to your community?)

2. Repeat this exercise 3 times. You will find yourself answer the questions more deeply the more times you come back to them with the same person.

BRING BACK TO YOUR TABLE:



A small cup of green wax

Voice 4 The way your Son calls us to walk – the Way of Love – begins in these waters.
His call is for each of us to take up our cross and follow;
to turn from sin to life every day,
to learn the way of Jesus,
to worship God in spirit and truth,
to pray the way our Savior taught us,
to bless all we meet with your generosity,
to go across boundaries of difference and enmity with curiosity and compassion,
to rest in the blessed assurance of your love for us.

Presider At this font, holy God, we pray:
Praise to you for the water of baptism
and for your Word that saves us in this water.
Sanctify this water, by the power of your Spirit
and breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here and into all creation.
Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears.
Wash away the sin within us, and drown the evil around us.

Satisfy our thirst with your living water, Jesus Christ, our Savior,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People **AMEN. We will walk the Way of Love with joy. AMEN.**

MUSIC

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The People are invited to the Way of Love stations around the room.

como a las ramas, que las amontonan, se echan al fuego y se queman. Mientras ustedes permanezcan en mí y mis palabras permanezcan en ustedes, pidan lo que quieran y lo conseguirán. Mi Padre es glorificado cuando ustedes producen abundantes frutos: entonces pasan a ser discípulos míos. Como el Padre me amó, así también los he amado yo: permanezcan en mi amor. Si cumplen mis mandamientos, permanecerán en mi amor, como yo he cumplido los mandamientos de mi Padre y permanezco en su amor. Les he dicho todas estas cosas para que mi alegría esté en ustedes y su alegría sea completa.

(English)

‘I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. 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.

THE SERMON

Mr. Tage Kruger

MUSIC

The liturgical procession gathers around the Baptismal font.

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

The People standing, the Presider says

Presider Friends in Christ, the Way of Love begins here, in the waters of baptism.

God has always loved us first,
caring for us like a loving parent,
and calling us to love God and our neighbor in return.
Here is where we first turned to Christ,
accepted him as our Savior,
put our whole trust in his grace and love,
and promised to follow and obey him as our Lord.
Let us turn once more to Christ and renew our baptismal vows.

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

People I do

Presider Do you believe in God the Father?

People I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

Presider Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Presider Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Presider Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People I will, with God's help.

Presider Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People I will, with God's help.

Presider Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People I will, with God's help.

Presider Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People I will, with God's help.

Presider Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People I will, with God's help.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

Adapted from: Water Memorial: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ©2016 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Voice 1 Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty,
you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring,
you are the fire of rebirth.

Voice 2 Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams.
Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow.
Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you.
You are the fountain of resurrection.

Voice 3 Praise to you for your saving waters:
Noah and the animals survive the flood,
Hagar discovers your well.
The Israelites escape through the sea, and they drink from your gushing rock.
Naaman washes his leprosy away,
and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.