

**NORTHEASTERN MINNESOTA SYNOD  
STAFF WORSHIP SERVICE  
Winter 2021**



**“LOVE UNITES US”**

**PRELUDE**

“Love Divine”

Tune: BEECHER, John Zundel (1870)

“You Are Mine”

Tune: David Haas (1991)

Zion Lutheran Church - International Falls  
Mr. Joe Belanger, Pianist

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Synod Staff - Pr. Rollie Bockbrader

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who creates, saves, and send us with love that lives forever.

**Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we give thanks for the Great Exchange, the mercy and forgiveness that wrap our true selves in sacred belonging and purpose.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

For a word at the dawn of creation, which spoke water and life into being.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

For the great flood that revealed nature’s power and God’s commitment to life after death.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

For the river that carried Moses safely, building a bridge between mothers and nations.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

For the rock split open in the desert, spilling water for those thirsting for freedom.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

For the One who turned water to wine and met a woman at the well with living water.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

For the gift of holy baptism, which declares there are no more godforsaken places, and nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus. For Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

God of life, we rejoice with the waters that cover creation; our songs of praise echo their dancing tides and streams. Pour out your Holy Spirit on this community and all of creation. Cleanse our fears. Drown our divisions. Give us mercy and grace to drink so that our whole lives are signs of death defeated and thirst quenched thanks to the risen Jesus, the Son of God.

**Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN

“God of Love, We’ve Known Division”

Zion Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids  
Terry Tinquist, Vicki Mauer, Lisa Johnson,  
Liz Branum, Paula Ross, Krista Sjostand,  
Peggy White; Stuart Boehr, pianist and  
Patty Dorn, director

God of love, we’ve known division and we’ve seen its awful cost.  
We have struggled as a nation, and there’s much that we have lost.  
We have been a house divided - and, divided, we can’t stand.  
May our nation be united; give us peace throughout this land.

Turn us, Lord, from what divides us - fear that drives us far apart,  
greed that leads to great injustice, racist ways that break your heart.  
May we seek what brings together - hearts that bear each other’s pain,  
care and mercy toward our neighbors, love that welcomes strangers in.

May we all, in conversation, speak the truth and listen well.  
May we hear, across this nation, stories others have to tell.  
May we learn from other cultures and be blessed by their worldview;  
May we serve with one another - loving others, loving you.

You have challenged us to goodness; you have shown a kinder way.  
It’s your love that now inspires us as we seek a better day.  
May we end our harsh division; may we stop the hate and fear.  
Make us one, Lord, as a nation; may we be united here.

Tune: The Sacred Harp, 1844; attributed to Benjamin Franklin White

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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Synod Staff - Pr. Rollie Bockbrader

**O God, where hearts are fearful and constricted, grant courage and hope. Where anxiety is infectious and widening, grant peace and reassurance. Where impossibilities close every door and window, grant imagination and resistance. Where distrust twists our thinking, grant healing and illumination. Where spirits are daunted and weakened, grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams. All these things we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

ELW page # 76

## PSALM 133

Synod Staff - Kathy Wimer

## EPISTLE LESSON - 1 John 4:7-21

Synod Staff - Catherine Anderson

Word of God. Word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel according to St. John

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## GOSPEL - John 17:1-11

Synod Staff - Bp. Amy Odgren

The Gospel of our Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

Synod Staff - Bp. Amy Odgren

**HYMN OF THE DAY**  
"A New Commandment"

Zion Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids  
Patty Dorn, soloist & pianist

**A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another as I have loved you,  
that you love one another as I have loved you.**

**By this shall people know you are my disciples, if you have love one for another.**

**By this shall people know you are my disciples: if you have love one for another.**

**A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another as I have loved you,  
that you love one another as I have loved you.**

WOV # 664

**CREED**

Synod Staff - Catherine Anderson

**I am...created by an ever present, loving God  
deeply rooted in Christ Jesus  
equipped to be resilient amidst change  
grounded in community  
nourished by the living God  
free to struggle, grow and expand  
compelled to reach out in response  
renewed in hope each day. Amen.**

Synod Journey

Deeply Rooted in a Boundless God Beyond Measure

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION - ELW pg. # 304**  
**LORD'S PRAYER**

Synod Staff - Deacon Brenda Tibbetts

**OFFERING/OFFERTORY**

"Love Bade Me Welcome"

Trinity Lutheran Church – Hovland

Erika Ternes, soloist

William Beckstrand, pianist

LOVE bade me welcome; yet my soul drew back,  
Guilty of dust and sin.  
But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack  
From my first entrance in,  
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning  
If I lack'd anything.

'A guest,' I answer'd, 'worthy to be here:'  
Love said, 'You shall be he.'  
'I, the unkind, ungrateful? Ah, my dear,  
I cannot look on Thee.'  
Love took my hand and smiling did reply,  
'Who made the eyes but I?'

'Truth, Lord; but I have marr'd them: let my shame  
Go where it doth deserve.'  
'And know you no,' says Love, 'Who bore the blame?'  
'My dear, then I will serve.'  
'You must sit down,' says Love, 'and taste my meat.'  
So I did sit and eat.

Text: George Herbert, 1593-1633

Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958

Whether your congregation is not meeting in-person at this time due to pandemic concerns or whether your congregation is providing a hybrid worship, the work and ministry of your congregation continues in your context. Thank you for your prayer and financial support. May God bless you all!

## **BLESSING & DISMISSAL**

Synod Staff - Bp. Amy Odgren

Go out into the world in peace.  
Love the Lord your God  
with all your heart,  
with all your soul,  
with all your mind;  
and love your neighbor as yourself.

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. **Amen.**  
The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace believing,  
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**  
The God of all grace and love + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **SENDING HYMN**

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds” ELW 656

Trinity Lutheran Church, Hovland  
Martine Redshaw, violinist  
William Beckstrand, pianist

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;  
the unity of heart and mind is like to that above.  
Before our Father’s throne we pour our ardent prayers;  
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.  
We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear,  
and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.  
From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;  
and perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740-1817, alt.  
Music: Johann G. Nageli, 1773-1838, adapt.  
Arrangement: William Beckstrand

## **POSTLUDE**

“Blessed Assurance”

Tune: ASSURANCE (Knapp, 1873)

Text: Fanny Farmer

“Just a Little Talk with Jesus”

Tune: Just a Little Talk with Jesus

Text: Cleavant Derricks (1837)

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