

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

ECIC 2016 GOTHENBURG

TUESDAY – MAY 31, 2016

An asterisk (*) indicates that everyone may rise in body and/or in spirit as they are moved and able.

Everyone is invited to join in reading or singing all the parts of the service printed in **bold print**.

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE.

Gathering Music

Greetings and Announcements

Leader (L):

In the name of the triune God:
the Creator,
the Christ, and
the Holy Spirit.
Amen

*The Call to Worship (Adapted from 1 Peter 2:9-10):

L: Once you were not a people,

But now we are God's people!

L: Once you had not received mercy,

But now we have received mercy!

*L: You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,
God's own people,*

***In order that we may proclaim the mighty acts of God,
who called us out of darkness into God's marvelous light!***

*Hymn: Now Thank We All Our God

***1. Now thank we all our God,
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom this world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.***

***2. O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us still in grace,
and guide us when perplexed;
and free us from all ills,
in this world and the next.***

***3. All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given;
the Son, and him who reigns
with them in highest heaven;
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.***

WE ARE RECONCILED WITH GOD AND ONE ANOTHER.

The Prayer of Confession:

Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck.

L:

We are gathered here in God's name. We have come from various European countries to Gothenburg for the ECIC Conference. We could travel freely, we have accommodation, we have a place to return to after the Conference. Today we remember the people who have had to leave their homelands. Many of them hoped to find refuge and a new home in Europe. They made use of everything they had and risked their health and their lives. Too many have died. Their deaths were not inevitable, but in many cases were the result of deliberate action or the failure to render assistance. And finally, it's about what these deaths mean to us, and how we avoid becoming mere spectators.

I sink in deep mire, where there is no foothold; I have come into deep waters, and the flood sweeps over me.

L:

Thousands of people have died at the borders of Europe. Their deaths have been documented in press reports, and in reports from governmental and nongovernment agencies. What is not known is the number of deaths that have not been recorded or counted, the number of people who have disappeared without their names being known. They all sought a life in security and dignity, a life without fear and hunger.

God of love and justice, we live in the hope of peace in our lives and peace in our world.

We long for the day when your love will live in our homes, and when nations will live together in peace.

But we confess that we are often anxious; we do not trust each other, and violence still lives in us.

We are not willing to take the risks and make the hard choices that love requires.

Look upon us with kindness and grace.

Show us how to walk in your paths, through the mercy of our Savior. Amen.

L: The Assurance of Pardon (taken from Romans 8:31ff)

If God is for us, who can be against us?

He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,

neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

L: * The Sharing of the Peace of Christ

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US.

The Responsive Psalm (Psalm 146:2, 5-10):

L: I will praise God as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

L: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,

Whose hope is in the Sovereign their God.

L: Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;

Who keeps faith forever;

L: Who executes justice for the oppressed;

Who gives food to the hungry.

L: God sets the prisoners free;

God opens the eyes of those who cannot see.

L: God lifts up those who are bowed down;

God loves those who are righteous.

L: God watches over the strangers,

And upholds the orphan and the widow.

L: The sovereign will reign forever,

Your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise be to God!

L: A Prayer for Illumination (Unison):

Eternal God, in the reading of the scripture, may your word be heard; in the meditations of our hearts, may your word be known; and in the faithfulness of our lives, may your word be shown. Amen.

L: The Gospel Lesson: Luke 24 Jesus Appears to His Disciples

36 As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!"

37 But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit.

38 And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?"

39 See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."

40 And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.

41 And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?"

42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish,

43 and he took it and ate before them.

44 Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."

45 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,

46 and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead,

47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

48 *You are witnesses of these things.*

49 And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

Hymn: Seek ye first the kingdom of God

***1. Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness;
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!***

***2 Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
Seek, and you shall find.
Knock, and it shall be opened unto you.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!***

***3 Man shall not live by bread alone,
But by every word
That proceeds out from the mouth of God.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!***

The Sermon

Music

WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS.

L: * The Prayers of Petition and Intercession

* The Prayer of Our Savior

Everyone will all pray ‘The Lord’s Prayer’ in their own native language.

* Hymn: Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

***1. Holy God, we praise Thy Name;
Lord of all, we bow before Thee!
All on earth Thy scepter claim,
All in Heaven above adore Thee;
Infinite Thy vast domain,
Everlasting is Thy reign.***

***2. Hark! the loud celestial hymn
Angel choirs above are raising,
Cherubim and seraphim,
In unceasing chorus praising;
Fill the heavens with sweet accord:
Holy, holy, holy, Lord.***

***3. Lo! the apostolic train
Join the sacred Name to hallow;
Prophets swell the loud refrain,
And the white robed martyrs follow;
And from morn to set of sun,
Through the Church the song goes on.***

***4. Holy Father, Holy Son,
Holy Spirit, Three we name Thee;
While in essence only One,
Undivided God we claim Thee;
And adoring bend the knee,
While we own the mystery.***

* The Benediction

L: May the Lord of the harvest bless us with goodness.
May Christ the loving Teacher equip us with vision and
compassion.
May the Holy Spirit empower us to proclaim the
kingdom of God.

The LORD bless you, and keep you:
The LORD make his face shine upon you, and be gracious
unto you:
The LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you
peace.

* The Postlude