



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

A Communion
of Churches

International Women's Day, 08 March 2021

Women in Leadership: Thanksgiving

This Order of Service is prepared by LWF in collaboration with the ACT Alliance and World Council of Churches. This can be used by all the member churches throughout the week.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we pray this week with the people and churches of Ireland, and the United Kingdom.

In a time of physical distancing, may this Order of Service unite our hearts and minds as we prayerfully seek to give thanks for women in leadership and their impact on decision making.

Call to worship

One: Come let us worship the Lord,

Many: Praise God in the sanctuary, with psaltery and harp

One: With lyre and open hearts,

Many: With dance and with timbrel, in fullness of praise

One: Let everyone who has breath praise the Lord,

Many: Praise the Lord.

Theme song: Faith of our Mothers (verses 1 - 4)

*Faith of our mothers, living still,
In cradle song and bedtime prayer;
In nursery lore and fireside love,
Thy presence still pervades the air:
Faith of our mothers, living faith!
We will be true to thee to death.*

*Faith of our mothers, loving faith,
Fount of our childhood's trust and grace,
Oh, may thy consecration prove
Source of a finer, nobler race:
Faith of our mothers, living faith,
We will be true to thee till death.*

*Faith of our mothers, guiding faith,
For youthful longing, youthful doubt,
How blurred our vision, blind our way,
Thy providential care without:
Faith of our mothers, guiding faith,
We will be true to thee till death.*

*Faith of our mothers, Christian faith,
Is truth beyond our stumbling creeds,
Still serve the home and save the Church,
And breathe thy spirit through our deeds:
Faith of our mothers, Christian faith!
We will be true to thee till death.*

(Arthur Bardwell Patten, African American Heritage Hymnal 410, 20th Century, Tune: St Catharine: Henri Frederick Hemy, 1818-1888)

Praise for Deliverance from Trouble - A Psalm of David (Psalms 34: 1-7)

One: I will bless the Lord at all times;
God's praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast in the Lord;

Many: O let the humble hear and be glad.

One: O magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt God's name together.
I sought the Lord, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.

Many: O let the humble hear and be glad.

One: Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.
This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord,
and was saved from every trouble.

Many: O let the humble hear and be glad.

One: The angel of the Lord encamps
around those who fear him, and delivers them.

Many: O let the humble hear and be glad.

One: Glory to God, Source of all being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be forever.

Many: Amen.

Scripture

The Old Testament reading is from 1 Samuel 2: 1-3.

Hannah prayed and said,

*“My heart exults in the Lord; my strength is exalted in my God.
My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in my victory.*

*“There is no Holy One like the Lord, no one besides you;
there is no Rock like our God.
Talk no more so very proudly,
let not arrogance come from your mouth;
for the Lord is a God of knowledge,
and by him actions are weighed.*

One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word

Many: **Thanks be to God**

Time for Reflection

Song:

♪ *Lumiere de Dieu*

Communauté de Grandchamp, Switzerland



Litany of Penitence

for the denial of women's authority

Men: Let us confess our sins:
We have denied the authority of women
and limited their gifts;
We have locked away women's power,
And chose to hide their pain.
But nothing is veiled that will not be revealed;

Many: **And nothing is hidden that will not be made known.**

Women: We have undermined the authority of women
and limited our gifts;
We have locked away women's power,

and chose to hide their pain.
But nothing is veiled that will not be revealed;

Many: And nothing is hidden that will not be made known.

Man: We have feared those who are not like us;
We have refused to know our weakness.
We have locked away part of ourselves.
But nothing is veiled that will not be revealed;

Many: And nothing is hidden that will not be made known.

Woman: We have feared those who are like us;
We have refused to know our strength.
We have locked away part of ourselves.
But nothing is veiled that will not be revealed;

Many: And nothing is hidden that will not be made known.

Man: We have resisted the wisdom of God
and refused to seek her face;

Woman: We have turned aside from her image
and hidden our knowledge of her.
But have no fear;
For nothing is veiled that will not be revealed;

Many: And nothing is hidden that will not be made known.

(By Janet Morely, in Ecumenical Decade 1988-1998, Churches in Solidarity with Women, 1998 WCC Publications for the World Council of Churches, pp.15).

Words of Promise

One: God promises,
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.

Because you are precious in my sight,
and honoured, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life. (Isaiah: 43: 2, 4)

Lord's Prayer (In our different languages)

Blessing

May the God of Eve teach you to dance.

May the God of Hagar bring you comfort in the desert.

May the God of Miriam bring companions to you when you struggle.

May the God of Deborah teach you courage for your battles.

May the Christ who knew Mary and Martha show you the way of balance.

May the Christ who healed the bent-over woman heal your pain.

May the Christ of Mary Magdala send you out to proclaim your story.

In the name of Christ who is the memory and hope of the future.

Niluka Perera, Sri Lanka



Lord, dismiss us with your blessing

John Fawcett (1786)

W.L. Viner

1. Lord, dis - miss us with your bles - sing, fill our hearts with joy and peace.
2. Thanks we give, and ad - o - ra - tion, for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound.
5 3. Sa - viour, when your love shall call us from our strug - gling pil - grim way,
Let us each your love pos - ses - sing tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace.
May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound.
9 let no fear of death ap - pal us, glad your sum - mons to o - bey.
O re - fresh us, o re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
Ev - er faith - ful, ev - er faith - ful to the truth may we be bound.
May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with you in end - less day.

Music: William Litton Viner (1790-1867). Words: attributed to John Fawcett (1740-1817). Public domain.

Sharing Signs of God's Peace

One: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Song: Suggested songs for Prayer and Thanksgiving

- **For every one Born, there is a place at the table**, by Shirley Erena Murray © 1998 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream IL 60188. Music@ Brain Mann, administered by the General board of Global ministries, GBG Music.
- **Be thou my vision** – Ireland
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TascswZPj8U>
- **My soul shouts out with a joyful shout (Canticle of the turning)** – Ireland
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RN1_iZU-OWE
<https://www.graceiseverywhere.net/2015/05/11/canticle-of-the-turning/>
- **Be still for the presence of the Lord** – U.K.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vep_Ty4Zx1o
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y5S_-zhHfDA
- **Come my way, my truth, my life** – U.K. (traditional)
<https://seafile.ecucenter.org/f/46779122f75446658a93/?dl=1>
- **Inspired by love and anger** – U.K. (Iona)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BeqVSecPsc>
- **Take, o take me as I am** – U.K. (Iona)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bv4f-8L1uk0>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fRpDeqmkYz8>
- **“There is a time to keep silence”** by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette@2020.
<https://vimeo.com/428897516>