

Ministry to Refugees

Liturgy Suggestions

Call to Worship (said by everyone)

*The word belongs to God
the earth and all its people.*

*How good and how lovely it is
to live together in unity.*

*Love and faith come together,
justice and peace join hands.*

*If the Lord's disciples keep silent
these stones would shout aloud.*

*Lord, open our lips
and our mouths shall proclaim your
praise.*

(World Council of Churches)

Confession

Leader: Most Merciful God,
All: *We confess that we are in bondage
to sin and cannot free ourselves. We
have sinned against you in thought, word
and deed by what we have done and
what we have left undone. We have not
loved you with our whole heart: we have
not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
For the sake of your son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us. Help us and give us
the grace of the Holy Spirit so that our
sinful life may be transformed and we
may have eternal life. Through our lord,
Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Reading Matthew 25: 31-46

"When the Son of Man comes in his
glory, and all the angels with him, then he
will sit on the throne of his glory. All the

nations will be gathered before him, and
he will separate people one from another
as a shepherd separates the sheep from
the goats, and he will put the sheep at his
right hand and the goats at the left. Then
the king will say to those at his right hand,
'Come, you that are blessed by my
Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for
you from the foundation of the world; for I
was hungry and you gave me food, I was
thirsty and you gave me something to
drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed
me, I was naked and you gave me
clothing, I was sick and you took care of
me, I was in prison and you visited me.'
Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord,
when was it that we saw you hungry and
gave you food, or thirsty and gave you
something to drink? And when was it that
we saw you a stranger and welcomed
you, or naked and gave you clothing?
And when was it that we saw you sick or
in prison and visited you?' And the king
will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as
you did it to one of the least of these who
are members of my family, you did it to
me.' Then he will say to those at his left
hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from
me into the eternal fire prepared for the
devil and his angels; for I was hungry and
you gave me no food, I was thirsty and
you gave me nothing to drink, I was a
stranger and you did not welcome me,
naked and you did not give me clothing,
sick and in prison and you did not visit
me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord,
when was it that we saw you hungry or
thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in
prison, and did not take care of you?'
Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell
you, just as you did not do it to one of the
least of these, you did not do it to me.'
And these will go away into eternal
punishment, but the righteous into eternal
life."

Intercessions

Please take a few moments to reflect on all you have heard today and the reading and reflection. Then please feel free to offer a prayer from the floor.

Prayer of Commitment

Leader: Sisters and brothers, let us stand and affirm what we have discovered of God's will in the company of each other.

That we worship one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
in whose image we are made,
to whose service we are summoned,
by whose presence we are renewed.

All: This we believe.

Leader: That it is central to the mission of Christ to participate, by word and action, in the struggles of the poor for justice, to share justly the earth's land and resources, to rejoice in the diversity of human culture, to preserve human life in all its beauty and frailty, to accompany the uprooted and welcome the stranger, and to witness – every day – to the love of God for all people of the earth.

All: This we believe.

Leader: That we are called to become the Church of the Stranger, to open ourselves to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit which may come to us through the foreigner, to take the risk of speaking out on behalf of those who are different from us, and to see that when we minister to the stranger, the uprooted, we are serving our Lord and Saviour.

All: This we believe.

Leader: That God has called the church into being to be the servant of the kingdom, to be a sign of God's new order, to celebrate in the streets and fields of every land the liturgy of heaven.

All: This we believe.

Leader: That Christ, fully aware of our differences, prays that we might be one so that the world may believe.

**All: This we believe,
and to this we are committed
for the love of God,
in the way of Christ,
by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Final Blessing (said by all)

We go now as sojourners in the land,
pilgrims passing through.
We go to accept responsibility for the land
we are passing through.
The kingdom of God is neither here nor there.

The kingdom is among us. Amen.
(World Council of Churches)

