# REMEMBRANCE OF THE EMANUEL NINE AND COMMEMORATION OF JUNETEENTH



June 19, 2021 6:00 p.m.

South Carolina Synod, ELCA Inclusiveness Network

St. David Lutheran Church 132 St. David's Church Rd. West Columbia, SC 29170

The red and blue flag on the right is the Juneteenth flag, a symbolic representation of the end of slavery in the United States developed by activist Ben Haith and others in 1997.

Today's service begins with a Commemoration of the Emanuel Nine, martyrs killed while at Bible Study on June 17, 2015. Their killer hoped to start a race war, but instead the Spirit has moved with the church through grief into renewed paths of reconciliation. We also celebrate Juneteenth today, a day of freedom for God's people who were enslaved and an opportunity for us to walk together as people freed in Christ.

#### PRELUDE

#### Welcome and Announcements

HYMN

#### **Rev. Greg Brown**

**ELW 633** 

# We've Come This Far by Faith



Verses sung by the leader:

Don't be discouraged when trouble's in your life, He'll bear your burdens and move all misery and strife. That's why we've (refrain)

Just the other day I heard someone say He didn't believe in God's word; But I can truly say that God had made a way And He's never failed me yet. That's why we've (refrain)

Text: Albert A. Goodson, 1933–2003 Music: THIS FAR BY FAITH, Albert A. Goodson Text and music © 1965, ren. 1993 Manna Music, Inc., 35255 Brooten Road, Pacific City OR 97135 (ASCAP). All rights reserved.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

#### **Rev. Jorge Leone**

Holy and righteous God, you created us in your image. Grant us grace to contend fearlessly against evil and to make no peace with oppression. Help us, like those of generations before us who resisted the evil of slavery and human bondage in any form and any manner of oppression. Help us to use our freedoms to bring justice among people and nations everywhere, to the glory of your Holy name through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 



# **READING:** Psalm 116 with the Remembrance of The Emanuel Nine Rev. Carl Taylor

<sup>1</sup>I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my supplications.  ${}^{2}\mathbf{Be}$ 

cause he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

<sup>3</sup>The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.

<sup>4</sup>**Then I called on the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I pray, save my life!"** <sup>5</sup>Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful.

<sup>6</sup>The LORD protects the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me.

<sup>7</sup>Return, O my soul, to your rest, for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.
<sup>8</sup>For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from

stumbling.

<sup>9</sup>I walk before the LORD in the land of the living.

<sup>10</sup>I kept my faith, even when I said, "I am greatly afflicted";

<sup>11</sup>I said in my consternation, "Everyone is a liar."

<sup>12</sup>What shall I return to the LORD for all his bounty to me?

<sup>13</sup>I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD,

<sup>14</sup>I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people.

<sup>15</sup>Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his faithful ones.

Cynthia Hurd	Tywanza Sanders
Susie Jackson	<b>Rev. Daniel L. Simmons</b>
Ethel Lance	Sharonda Coleman-Singleton
<b>Rev. Depayne Middleton-Doctor</b>	Myra Thompson
Rev. Clementa Pinckney	- –

<sup>15</sup>Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his faithful ones.

# <sup>16</sup>O LORD, I am your servant;

I am your servant, the child of your serving girl. You have loosed my bonds. <sup>17</sup>I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the LORD.

<sup>18</sup>I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people,

<sup>19</sup>in the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst, O Jerusalem.

Praise the LORD!

# CONFESSING RACISM: A LAMENT FOR THE CHURCH

# **Rev. Emily Edenfield and Rev. Rick Carter**

As church, we confess the sin of racism and condemn racist rhetoric and the ideology of white supremacy. God, have mercy.

# God, have mercy.

As church, we confess, repent, and repudiate the times when this church has been silent in the face of racial injustice. God, have mercy. **God, have mercy.** 

Racism is deeply ingrained within the ELCA, a predominantly white church. It is deeply embedded within the individual congregations whose members continue to foster stereotypes and support polices that actively hurt people of color. God, have mercy. **God, have mercy.** 

As church, we declare that the enslavement of black bodies and the removal of indigenous peoples established racism in the United States, a truth this nation and this church have yet to fully embrace. God, have mercy.

# God, have mercy.

Rooted in slavery, racism is manifested through the history of Jim Crow policies, racial segregation, the terror of lynching, extrajudicial killings by law enforcement, and the disproportionate incarceration of people of color. God, have mercy.

# God, have mercy.

As church we lament the institutional racism of discriminatory treatment within the call process; inequitable compensation of clergy of color; racial segregation; divestment from black communities and congregations; systemic policies and organizational practices; and a failure to fully include the gifts of leadership and worship styles of black people, indigenous people, and people of color. God, have mercy. **God, have mercy.** 

Confessions are empty promises without meaningful actions—actions that are grounded in prayer, education, and soul-searching repentance. The sin of racism separates us from one another. We trust that we are reconciled to God through Christ's death and resurrection and we seek such life-giving reconciliation with one another. As we repent, let us not turn back to ideologies that promote white supremacy, but trust that God can make all things new. **Amen.** 

#### VIDEO President Barack Obama leads Amazing Grace at the funeral of Rev. Clementa Pinckney

The congregation is invited to join in singing Amazing Grace beginning with the second verse.

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound the sound. Α maz ing grace, how sweet that 1 'Twas grace that taught heart fear, and 2 my to Through man dan toils. Ι 3 gers, and snares y 4 The Lord has prom ised good to me: his Ι saved а wretch like me! once was lost. but did grace my fears re lieved: how pre cious that \_ have al read 'tis brought --У come: grace has me word my hope se cures; he will my shield and found; blind, now was but now Ι see. am pear the hour Ι first be lieved! grace ap \_ will safe thus far, and grace lead me home. long life dures. por tion be en as as

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807 Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835

HYMN OF PREPARATION Listen, God is Calling (v. 1) READING REFLECTION ELW 513 Genesis 4:8-12 Rev. Carey A. Grady

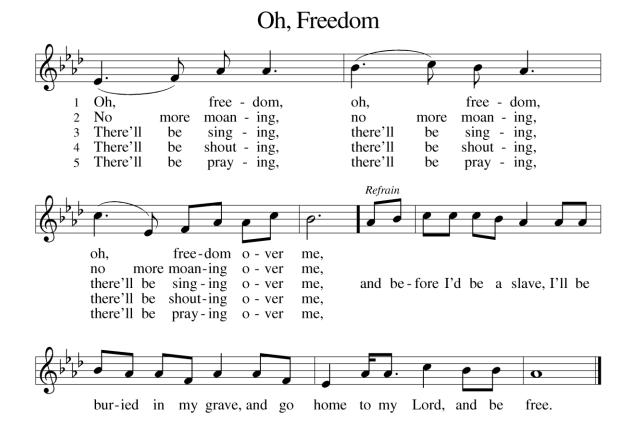


Text: Tanzanian traditional; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922 Music: NENO LAKE MUNGU, Tanzanian tune Text © 1968 Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

# HYMN OF PREPARATION Listen, God is Calling (v. 2) READING REFLECTION

ELW 513 2 Corinthians 5:14-21 Bishop Ginny Aebischer



Text: African American spiritual Music: FREEDOM OVER ME, African American spiritual

# A RESPONSIVE READING FOR JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION Rev. Jackie Utley

When God created man and woman, the freedom of persons was already established. We are made in the image of God, African Americans as well as all others. From one blood has God created all the races and nations of the earth

Galatians declares that in Christ, regarding freedom and equality, there is no longer Jew or Greek, slave or free, male and female (see Galatians 3:28).

Likewise, during the founding of the United States of America, the writers of our Constitution proclaimed human rights for all.

However, these rights were not granted to most African Americans. The Emancipation Proclamation freed African slaves in the United States on New Year's Day in 1863. But actual freedom for the last slaves did not come until a June day two and a half years later. This Juneteenth milestone reminds us of the triumph of the human spirit. In the 1950's and 60's, we experienced one of the proudest times in our history, the modern civil rights movement.

The promise of freedom, the vote, and equality affirmed in the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments became more achievable for African Americans. We are thankful for Rosa Parks, Medgar Evers, James Farmer, Fannie Lou Hamer, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Nothing could quench their thirst for freedom. It was their time and they would not be denied.

The events associated with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Montgomery Bus Boycott, the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, and the Congress of Racial Equality have changed our lives.

During this time, Brown v. The Board of Education, the NAACP, the March on Washington, the work of the National Urban League, the Black Church, and other religious communities united people against racial injustice.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 translated into law most of the goals of the Civil Rights Movement, protecting all citizens from racial segregation and discrimination. Let us remain ever vigilant in our commitment to proactive citizenship.

May God help us to exercise more seriously our right to vote and our pursuit of equality. God strengthen us in the ongoing struggle for freedom, civil rights, and justice.

Adapted from the African American Heritage Hymnal by Pastor Jackie Utley.

#### SPECIAL MUSIC

#### "God is a God" Dr. Rosetta Dingle

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

#### **Rev. Leroy Cannon**

United with the great cloud of witnesses throughout the ages, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

God, our truth, through the ages you have spoken through prophets. Stir up in your church a passion for your word revealed in Jesus, that following the witness of the Emanuel Nine, your church studies the scriptures, shows hospitality, prays without ceasing, and embodies prophetic justice in community. Embolden church leaders and all the baptized to remember the lives of the Nine, repent of racism and white supremacy, and renew our commitment to your word revealed most fully in Jesus, our way, truth, and life. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.** 

Mighty and loving God, we pray for our nation and the plague of racism that threatens, destroys, and kills. Root out white supremacy wherever it takes hold. Release its grip on those lured by its false promises. Bring to repentance all who continue to benefit from prejudice and hatred, both hidden and revealed. Plant in our hearts and nation a willing spirit open to truth-telling and healing. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

We give you thanks, Holy God, for the faithful life and witness of Clementa, Cynthia, Daniel, DePayne, Ethel, Myra, Sharonda, Susie, and Tywanza, the Emanuel Nine. May their faith and witness to your forgiving love in Jesus Christ inspire all people to pursue paths of justice, courage, and self-giving love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son. Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred that infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in the bonds of love; and through our struggle and confusion, work to accomplish your purposes on earth; so that, in your good time, every people and nation may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.** 

Out of the darkness we cry to you, O God. Enable us to find in Christ the faith to trust your care even in the midst of pain. Assure us that we do not walk alone through the valley of the shadow, but that your light is leading us into life. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.** 

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. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

O God, call us into a deeper relationship to be your church for the sake of the world. Help us to see with new eyes the injustices within church and society. Call us to have a loving heart that respects and uplifts the humanity and dignity of every person; open our ears to listen to and learn from the experiences of African-Americans and all people. Open our mouths to speak up and about injustices. Join us with others to work for racial equity and inclusion for all people. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

In the company of your saints we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your eternal mercy and love; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.** 

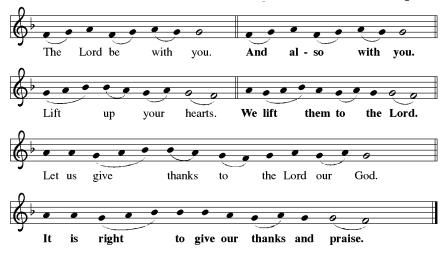
# PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always! And also with you!

The congregation may greet one another with a wave, a smile, a handshake, or other sign of God's peace.

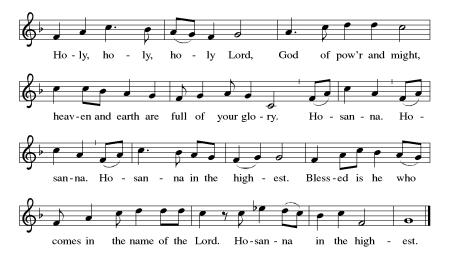


**GREAT THANKSGIVING** 



#### **PROPER PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



# **EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, You have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness, you did not abandon us, But guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; Our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant To preach good news to the afflicted, To break bread with the outcast and despised, And to random those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

In the night in which he was betrayed, Our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; Broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, And gave it for all to drink, saying: this cup Is the new covenant in my blood, Shed for you and for all people For the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.** 

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, We await the day when Jesus shall return To free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen! Amen! Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, To fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup With courage and wisdom To pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen! Amen!

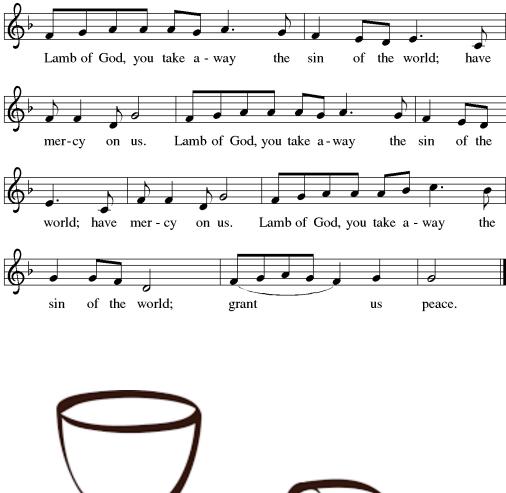
Join our prayers and praise With your prophets and martyrs of every age, That, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, We might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, In the unity of the Holy Spirit, All glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.** 

#### LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.; And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Come to the table, for all is now ready! Thanks be to God!

#### **COMMUNION HYMNS**





# Let Us Break Bread Together



Text: African American spiritual Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

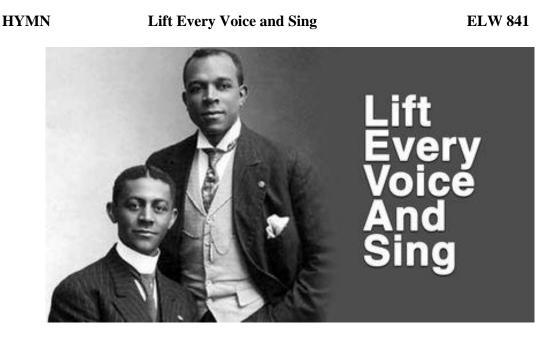
# POST COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace! **Amen.** 

Let us pray.

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation, you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Christ Jesus, our Lord.

#### Amen.



James Weldon Johnson and John Rosamond Johnson, the brothers who wrote the words and music for "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

# Lift Every Voice and Sing





#### **BLESSING AND DISMISSAL**

#### **Rev. Jackie Utley**

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 in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** 

The God of all grace, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.** 

Go in peace! Share the good news! **Thanks be to God.** 

#### POSTLUDE

Liturgy copyright by Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.

We give thanks to God and to these leaders in worship: Bishop Virginia "Ginny" Aebischer, South Carolina Synod of the ELCA Rev. Carey A. Grady, Pastor of Reid Chapel AME Church Dr. Rosetta Dingle, Associate Professor of Music Education, SC State University Rev. Jackie Utley, Chair of the South Carolina Synod Inclusiveness Network Rev. Carl Taylor, Associate Pastor, Living Springs Lutheran Church Rev. Jorge Leone, Pastor, Cristo Rey Lutheran Church Rev. Leroy Cannon, Pastor, Christ Mission Lutheran Church Rev. Greg Brown, Pastor, St. David Lutheran Church Rev. Rick Carter, Assistant to the Bishop, South Carolina Synod Rev. Emily Edenfield, Assistant to the Bishop, South Carolina Synod Members of the Inclusiveness Network of the South Carolina Synod

Thank you to St. David Lutheran Church for hosting worship today on behalf of the South Carolina Synod.