



## 2016 Synod Assembly Worship Service for Lay Leaders

We invite pastors/worship planners to create a worship bulletin using their familiar Service of the Word format in local context along with Bishop Jon's sermon, suggested hymns (others if desired) and prayer of the day.

**Bulletin Insert Provided:** Embrace God's Mission + Equip God's People Funding Initiative launched at Synod Assembly.

### Service of the Word

Sunday, June 12, 2016

#### Opening Hymn

*Gather Us In #532 ELW*

#### Prayer of the Day:

God, throughout the ages you judge your people with mercy, and you inspire us to speak your truth. By your Spirit, anoint us for lives of faith and service, and bring all people into your forgiveness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

#### First Reading

Acts 1:1-11

#### Psalm 32

(responsively by whole verse)

#### Second Reading

Ephesians 4:1-16

#### Gospel

Luke 7:36-50

#### Sermon

Bishop Jon V. Anderson

#### Hymn

*Build Us Up, Lord #670 ELW*

#### Prayers of the People

See second page

#### Sending Hymn

*The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve #551 ELW*





### *Prayers of the People:*

*Gracious and Faithful God, we give thanks for the ways you create us as people and congregations. We give thanks for your resurrecting grace that brings forgiveness and new life to each of us and to our congregations. We ask you to send your Holy Spirit to breathe new life into our spiritual lives while you also deepen the vitality of each congregation in our synod. Guide our service in your mission for the world and for our community of faith. Develop the capacity of all the baptized to serve as your ministers.*

*Gracious and Faithful God, we give thanks for the ways you send your church beyond the walls of our congregation's building. We thank you and ask for your Spirit's presence and work in our households, where faith is nurtured first and sustained. We thank you for the witness of our camp staffs at Green Lake, Shetek, and Luther Crest. We rejoice in the vocation of all who serve in places of learning and particularly today we give thanks for Gustavus Adolphus College. We give thanks for our churchwide staff and all who serve in seminaries and other places where you grow people and leaders serve.*

*Bold, Gracious, and Faithful God, we ask you to agitate us and inspire us so that we might reach out beyond our comfort zone as individuals and as congregations. Guide us to become boldly curious. Open deep conversations about our life and faith. You are the One who creates and shapes faith. Use us as your witnesses. We name before you in the silence of our hearts people who come to mind who need to hear the Good News and experience the gift of a Christian community. Open our doors, our minds, our hearts, our ears, our mouths, and our hands, to help you do your work of deepening and broadening faith.*

*Gracious and Faithful God, we give thanks you redeem our suffering and bring wholeness. We remember congregations who are laboring with illness or challenges that seem overwhelming today. We remember our neighbors who are sick and struggling and ask you to bring healing to their lives and to ours. Bring healing to each of them and to all of our lives.*

*As we gather we know we are the recipients of the many gifts of our immigrant relatives. We give thanks for your protection and guidance in their journey to this land as they sank deep roots into our synod. We give thanks for those who boldly shared their faith and shared their resources to build our congregations. Dear God, use us to build up your church for those whom you will bring to follow us.*

