2026 Women of the ELCA Thankoffering Service

Thursday, October 15, 2026

Rooted in the belief that all people are created in the image of God, who welcomes each of us with extravagant love, Concordia Campus Ministry longs to embody that same loving welcome.
As a Reconciling in Christ ministry of the ELCA, we share God's vision of dignity, wholeness, and equity, affirming people of all gender identities and expressions, sexual orientations, faith backgrounds, abilities, races, and cultures.
Guided by Christ, we commit to accompanying marginalized communities, engaging in the ongoing work of anti-racism, and standing together against fear and shame in the shared work of justice.

call to worship

Come, let us gather in the presence of God,
who calls, equips, and sends God's people into the world.

We give thanks for all who have borne witness to God's love through acts of faith, courage, and service.

confession & forgiveness

Trusting in God's mercy and love,
let us confess our sin before God and one another.

silence for reflection

Merciful God,

we confess that we have not always seen your image reflected in one another. You call us to honor the gifts of all your people, yet we have failed to honor the wisdom, leadership, and contributions of women. You call us to seek justice, yet we have ignored the realities of inequality and oppression. You call us to care for those who struggle, yet we have too often chosen comfort over compassion. Forgive our lack of attention, and free us for joyful service; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear the good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven,
and renewed to serve and share God's love in the world.

Thanks be to God.

opening song

Suggestions:

"God, We Gather As Your People"
All Creation Sings (ACS) **#1038**

"Way Maker" CCLI Song # 7115744 © 2016 Integrity Music

"Many and Great, O God *Wakantanka taku nitawa*"
Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) **#837**

"Let the Whole Creation Cry"
Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) **#876**

greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

kyrie & canticle of praise optional

opening prayer

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray: Lord Jesus, we come together today grateful for your presence and for the many gifts you've placed in our lives.
You've created each of us with purpose, strength, and abilities that reflect your goodness.
We know that, along with these blessings, women across the world face injustice. We ask you to meet them—and us—with your comfort and your peace.
May we be your hands and feet as we work to empower women of every nation.
Fill this gathering with your joy. Help us slow down enough to feel your nearness and appreciate the women who surround and support us in faith.
Guide us as we continue to serve you and shine your light in the world. Amen.

scripture readings

Judges 4:4-10 (The text here is from the NRSVUE)
At that time Deborah, a prophet, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel.

She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, "The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you, 'Position yourself at Mount Tabor, taking ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops, and I will give him into your hand.' " Barak said to her, "If you will go with me, I will go, but if you will not go with me, I will not go." And she said, "I will surely go with you; nevertheless, the road on which you are going will not lead to your glory, for the LORD will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman."
Then Deborah got up and went with Barak to Kedesh. Barak summoned Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh, and ten thousand warriors went up behind him, and Deborah went up with him.

Psalm 146 (The whole psalm can be used—what is used here is an abridged version created for this service.)

Praise the Lord, O my soul!
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.
Happy are they whose hope is in the Lord their God;
who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;
who gives justice to those who are oppressed,
and food to those who hunger.
The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.
The Lord cares for the stranger; the Lord sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.
The Lord shall reign forever, throughout all generations.

Response: Word of life. Word of liberation.
Thanks be to God.

gospel acclamation

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

holy gospel

John 20:11-18 (The text here is from the NRSVUE)

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around, and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and you Father, to my God and your God.' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and she told them that he had said these things to her.

The Gospel of our Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

reflection time

Option A: POETIC READING & TIME FOR REFLECTION
Example: "Seen" by Jan Richardson
From *Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons*
© 2015 Wanton Gospeller Press

Option B: SERMON

song

Suggestions:
"For All the Faithful Women"
Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) **#419**

"By Our Love" CCLI Song # 5489329 © 2009 sixsteps Music; Sweater Weather Music; worshiptogether.com songs

"O God, Who Gives Us Life"
All Creation Sings (ACS) **#1086**

apostles' creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

prayers of god's people

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new,
we pray for the church and the world.

For the healing of our common home, that we may continue to care for our Earth and respond with courage to the environmental crisis. That we may be faithful stewards of the God's creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For all women whom we walk alongside. For our mothers, who grew us and abundantly labored for us. For our sisters, of both blood and/or spirit, who uplift us when we're low and ground us when we feel adrift. May they know their worth and holy place in the world. May they be securely and warmly held in love. May they maintain the strength to both oppose injustice and to allow themselves to be cared for in vulnerability. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For those who suffer in body, mind and spirit, that they may find healing, dignity and a community that walks with them in hope and compassion. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For people we have lost. May they live on in the spaces between us. May we find comfort in their absence by the affirmation of their place with you. Hold them snug in your wisdom and mercy. Help us surrender to the natural rise and fall that is life and death so we might unite in the assurance of our mortal humanity and grow closer to you, one another, and those whom have passed. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these prayers, spoken and unspoken; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

offering received

offering prayer

Let us pray. Generous God, we thank you for those who have cared for us and for the gifts we are free to share with others.

Bless these offerings, that through them the needs of the world may be met. Amen.

great thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God, your invitation to come and feast in your presence is but a taste of the love you extend to us every day. By your very nature, you are always seeking us out – searching for ways to connect us and connect with us.

By your grace, we come to recognize the holiness that dwells in the world around us, in our neighbors, in our own internal depths.

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. Remembering, therefore, Christ's execution, Christ's resurrection, Christ's ascension, we declare the mystery of faith**: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Gracious and Loving God, pour out your grace on us in this bread and wine. We praise you, all-holy God, today, tomorrow, and forever. Amen.
Amen.

lord's prayer

Lord, unite us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

OPTION A:

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.

OPTION B:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

OPTION C:

Invite congregants to pray in the language of their heart.

distribution song(s)

Suggestions:

"Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth"
Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) **#735**

"Great Are You Lord"
CCLI Song # 6460220
© 2012 Open Hands Music; So Essential Tunes;
Integrity's Praise! Music; Little Way Creative

"Come to Be Our Hope, O Jesus"
"Tú, Jesús, nuestra Esperanza"
"Vem, Jesus, nossa esperança"
All Creation Sings (ACS) **#904**

Musical offering(s) from women ensembles

prayer after communion

God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal
that restores our souls, reconciles us to you,
and strengthens us for the journey.
May we become Christ's body in the world,
bearing witness to your love for all creation. Amen.

blessing

May the Lord of abundance bless your going in
and your coming out.
May heaven's doors open wide
and shower you with abundant favor.
May you radiate Christ's unconditional love,
live justly, and walk humbly.
May God give you the laughter of Sarah, the song of Miriam,
the courage of Deborah, and the voice of Mary Magdalene.
And may the blessing of God our Creator,
Jesus Christ our Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit our Sanctifier
bless you now and remain with you always.
Amen.

sending song

Suggestions:

"Canticle of the Turning"
Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) **#723**

"This Is Amazing Grace"
CCLI Song #6333821
© 2012 Phil Wickham Music; Seems Like Music; Sing My Songs;
Songs for Karyn Publishing; Bethel Music Publishing; WC Music Corp.

"The Lord Now Sends Us Forth *Enviado soy de Dios*"
Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) **#538**

"Go to the World"
All Creation Sings (ACS) **#991**

dismissal

Go in peace. Work for justice.
Thanks be to God.

Content written by Concordia College students & alumni

Opening Prayer - Maggie Brown, '27

Prayers of God's People - Marina Martins, '26 & Maisy Root, '29

Blessing - Glory Godwin, '24

PERMISSIONS

Evangelical Lutheran Worship and Sundays and Seasons, © Augsburg Fortress.
Material reprinted under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License SAS013378,
One License A-707304, and CCLI License 20023848.
Service streamed under CCLI Streaming License 21972187