

A Liturgy for World Mission Sunday

Published January 10, 2001

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The 1997 General Convention of The Episcopal Church designated the last Sunday after Epiphany as World Mission Sunday. This liturgy can also be used at other times. Feel free to adapt this to meet the needs of your church.

Opening Hymn: Jesus Shall Reign, Hymnal #544

The Holy Eucharist: Rite One or Rite Two
The Word of God BCP p. 323 or 355

Gloria (Anglican Church of Kenya, BCP, 1989)

Leader: Glory to the Father

People: Glory to the Son

Leader: Glory to the Spirit

People: Forever Three in One

Leader: Be glorified at home

People: Be glorified in church

Leader: Be glorified in earth

People: Be glorified in heaven

Leader: Glory to the Father

People: Glory to the Son

Leader: Glory to the Spirit

People: Forever Three in One

Leader: Hallelujah

People: Amen.

Collect: BCP p. 206 or 257

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you, bring the nations into your fold, pour out your Spirit upon all flesh, and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson: Exodus 34:29-35

Psalm: Psalm 99 BCP p. 728

Epistle: I Corinthians 12:27-13:13

Sequence Hymn: Lord, You Give the Great Commission, Hymnal #528, vl-2,5

Gospel: Luke 9:28-36

Sermon

The Nicene Creed BCP p. 326-7 or 358

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Prayers of the People: A Litany for the Mission of the Church

Father, Creator, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

Have mercy on us.

O Son, Redeemer, through whom the world is reconciled to the Father,

Have mercy on us.

O Holy Spirit, Sanctifier, whose glory fills the world and searches the deep things of God,

Have mercy on us.

O Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God,

Have mercy on us.

From blind hearts and petty spirits, that refuse to see the need of all humankind for your love,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From pride, self-sufficiency, and the unwillingness to admit our need of your compassion,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From discouragement in the face of pain and disappointment, and from lack of persistence and thoroughness,

Good Lord, deliver us.

By your incarnation and lowly birth in the stable,

Good Lord, be born anew in us.

By your abundant feeding of the multitudes,

Good Lord, nourish us.

By your suffering and death, which broke down the dividing walls between God and humanity and among humanity,

Good Lord, reconcile us.

By your glorious resurrection and ascension,

Good Lord, renew us.

By your commission to the Apostles,

Good Lord, send us forth.

By the coming of the Holy Spirit, who unites all things in heaven and earth,

Good Lord, make us one.

Strengthen and encourage all who do your work in lonely and dangerous places.

Hear us, Good Lord.

Open the hearts and hands of many for the support of your Church in every place.

Hear us, Good Lord.

Touch our ears, that we may hear from every mouth the wonderful works of God.

Hear us, Good Lord.

Touch our lips, that we may tell in every tongue the wonderful works of God.

Hear us, Good Lord.

Touch our hands, that we may do the truth which you have taught us.

Hear us, Good Lord.

Touch our feet, that we may go for you into all parts of the world.

Hear us, Good Lord.

We especially hold up to you our companion Diocese of Mexico and its Bishop, Sergio Carranza.

Hear us, Good Lord.

We ask your blessing upon our missionaries from this Diocese and church, especially _____ (name any individuals/groups doing world mission whom your church supports in some way).

Hear us, Good Lord.

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Other Prayers

Closing Collect: For the Mission of the Church, BCP p. 838

Confession of Sin, Absolution, and Peace BCP p. 331 or 360

Commissioning of Lay Missionaries

Sponsor: On behalf of the people of this church, I present to you these persons who have responded to a call to become lay missionaries. They have been called to join with others in ministering to the physical, mental and spiritual needs of _____.

Celebrant: Are these persons you are presenting prepared by a commitment to Christ as Lord, by regular attendance at worship, and by knowledge of their duties, to exercise their ministry to the honor of God and to the benefit of those to whom they have been called to minister?

Sponsor: I believe they are.

Celebrant to the congregation: We have all been called and have promised in our baptismal covenant to proclaim the Good News by word and example and to serve others in the Name of Christ.

to the candidates: You have been specially called to be a lay missionary on behalf of this congregation and the Church to do a specific work. Will you, as long as you are engaged in this work, perform it with love, humility and diligence?

Candidates: We will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you in this work proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

Candidates: We will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you seek to serve Christ in all persons, especially those to whom you have been called to minister and your fellow lay missionaries?

Candidates: We will, with God's help.

Celebrant: After he had risen from the dead, Jesus said to his followers "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Will you go and make disciples, teaching them to obey the Lord's commandments?

Candidates: We will, with God's help.

Celebrant: to the Congregation: Will you who witness this commissioning do all in your power to support your brothers and sisters in this work, remembering to pray for them daily?

Congregation: We will.

Celebrant: Let us pray. (silence)

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace. So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name.

In the Name of God and of this congregation, I commission you as special lay missionaries to _____.

Offertory Hymn: O Zion Haste, Hymnal #539

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The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer II or BCP p. 340 or 367

Lord's Prayer, The Breaking of the Bread

Litany of the Lamb (Church of South India Book of Common Worship)

Leader: Worthy is the Lamb that has been slain to receive the power, and riches, and wisdom, and might, and honor, and glory, and blessing.

People: Unto the Lamb be glory!

Leader: Unto him that sits on the throne, and unto the Lamb, be the blessing, and the honor, and the glory, and the dominion, for ever and ever.

People: Unto the Lamb be glory!

Leader: Worthy are you, for you were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood people of every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation.

People: Unto the Lamb be glory! Salvation unto our God who sits on the throne, and unto the Lamb. Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

Communion of the People

Communion Music

Father We Thank Thee Who Hast Planted, Hymnal #303

My God, Thy Table Now Is Spread, Hymnal #321

After all have received:

Leader: Are there any who have not yet been invited into the community of Christ?

People: There are billions of people across many frontiers and boundaries who have not received the welcoming hand of Christ. These people live in our own communities and beyond to the farthest corners of the earth.

Leader: Who will go share the Good News that Christ welcomes all people into His Church?

People: We will go, with God's help. By our prayers, our offerings, our lives, we will go!

Post Communion Prayer BCP p. 339 or 365

Closing Hymn: Lift High the Cross, Hymnal #473

Notes for the use of A LITURGY FOR WORLD MISSION

1. This Liturgy is approved by Bishop Payne and the Diocesan Commission on Liturgy of the Diocese of Texas for use at any or all services on Feb. 25, 2001. The entire service may be used as presented, or portions of it may be used as appropriate for your church's worship needs.

2. The readings give are those designated for the Last Sunday after Epiphany. Among these readings, the I Corinthians reading - Paul's wonderful exposition on the interdependence of the members of the Body of Christ and the primacy of love - as well as Luke's account of the Transfiguration could be employed in a mission theme sermon. Suggested substitute readings which are more explicitly mission oriented are: Isaiah 43:8-13, Psalm 67, Acts 3:12-26, Matthew 28:16-20.

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3. As one suggestion from the given readings, the preacher could develop a sermon theme of "Listen to Him," taken from the words spoken from the cloud. What is Jesus saying to us about World Mission?

From Scripture: the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19, Mark 16:15, Luke 24:47)

Through the people of the world calling out in physical and spiritual hunger and thirst (Matt. 25:31-46)

Through others who have gone and now bring us witness of God's work within our hearts through the urging of the Holy Spirit.

4. Another sermon option is to have a guest preacher who can share his or her mission experience as it relates to the Scriptures and the people present. The primary focus of the celebration of World Mission Sunday in the Diocese of Texas is to encourage "ordinary" lay people to recognize their call to World Mission and to consider participating in some type of World Mission trip or project. In keeping with this focus, you are encouraged to invite lay people who have participated in a World Mission trip or project to share either in worship service or in an educational setting about their experience and how it has changed them.

5. The final prayer of the Prayers of the People calls for special recognition and prayers for any individuals or groups in your congregation who are involved in World Mission and/or missionaries or mission projects which your congregation supports. A sample Commissioning service for Lay Missionaries is also included in this Liturgy. It would be appropriate to use this service or another like it to commission groups or individuals making plans for a future mission trip. This commissioning may be done after the passing of the Peace or at any time in the service when announcements or special presentations are made.

6. Hymns in the service are all from the Hymnal 1982. Other hymns that are appropriate for World Mission Sunday are #182 and #'s 529-544.

7. The youth of our diocese have also learned many mission-oriented songs at Happening and other events. You may contact Taft McWhorter at the Diocesan Center (713) 520-6444 for this music. Some examples are: The Harvest Song, There's a Stirring, I Will Rise Up, Kyrie Eleison, Lord Prepare Me, Micah 6:8, You are the Reason

8. Other possible music selections and sources:

Songs of Celebration:

H-298 Christ the Worker

H-302 Jesus is Our

H-308 Saints of God Arise

H-309 God Has Spoken

Cry, Hosanna:

61 Praise God for the Body

70 The Servant Song

86 Everybody Song

87 Jesus Shall Reign

90 You are My Witnesses

94 Your Love is Changing the World

97 Kyrie Eleison