

**LOVE IGNITES US!**  
**NEMN SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2021**

Sunday Worship

May 2, 2021



**NORTHEASTERN MINNESOTA SYNOD**

1105 E. Superior Street, Upper Suite

Duluth, Minnesota 55802

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[nemnsynod.org](http://nemnsynod.org)

*Take a moment to be centered in the presence of God.  
Take a few deep breaths in and out.  
Let us prepare our hearts to worship God.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP:** Ringing of steeple bells from across the Synod.

**INVOCATION SONG: *O God of Fire, O Word of Flame***

*O God of Fire, O Word of Flame, that calls each creature's precious name,  
As once you came, come now, inspire, That we become on earth your fire.*

*Pour out your Spirit on all flesh; Ignite in us enlightened speech,  
That, thus enkindled by your spark, We speak the language of each heart.*

*Remove from us all dross and fear, And with your burning love draw near,  
That as your first-fruits we emerge, Refined, transfigured from your forge.*

*Enfold us in your warm embrace, That we become your dwelling place,  
And as your holy mortal home, A welcome hearth to all become.*

*So change us, charge us, that we move, As sanctuaries of your love,  
And in these latter days inspire, That we become on earth your fire.*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**One:** As we come to God in prayer,  
let us open ourselves to the presence of the Holy Spirit,  
to bring to our souls the freshness of mercy and grace.

*Silence for reflection*

Let us pray together:

**All: Holy Breath, Wind, Flame and Spirit:  
Ignite our hearts with your fire.  
Burn off all that is dry and lifeless,  
And grow us anew.**

**Forgive us...**

**For those times we stifle your Spirit, O God;  
For those times we ignore your whispers and shouts,  
For those times when we turn away from your wonders and miracles:  
Forgive us.**

**Let your spirit dance within our spirits,  
Uprooting us when we have been unmoved  
and refresh all that is stale in our lives.  
Breathe into us your peace,  
that we would be a breath of peace to all we meet.  
Hear us, Holy Spirit. Amen.**

One: People of God, the Spirit always moves among us,  
empowering us to know mercy and grace,  
forgiveness and service.  
In this Spirit, through Christ, we proclaim the Good news.

**All: We are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.**

Adapted from the liturgies of Beth Merrill Neel

### **GREETING**

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

**All: And also with you.**

### **HYMN: ELW #669 - *Rise Up, O Saints of God***

through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

One: O God, you have prepared joys beyond understanding for all people. Ignite our hearts  
with your unconditional love, that we may receive and share your promises, which go  
beyond our deepest desires and wildest imaginations. Urge us on to live for the one who  
died for us, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the  
Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

### **SCRIPTURE READING: 2 Corinthians 5:14-15**

<sup>14</sup>For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore  
all have died. <sup>15</sup>And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer  
for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

One: Word of God, word of life.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### **SCRIPTURE READING: 2 Timothy 1:6-7**

<sup>6</sup>For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; <sup>7</sup>for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

One: Word of God, word of life.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW #642 - *Ubi caritas et amor***

**GOSPEL READING: *John 15:9-17***

One: The holy gospel according to John, the fifteenth chapter.

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>9</sup>As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup>This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

One: The gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON: Bishop Amy Odgren**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW #659 - *Will You Let Me Be Your Servant***

#### **AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM**

**PROFESSION OF FAITH** (*Adapted from Speak it Plain by Meta Herrick Carlson*)

One: Together with our siblings in Christ,  
we wish to profess our faith in God and reject sin.  
We make these bold statements  
not because we are absolutely certain about these things,  
but because we are always becoming faithful to them  
and learning to wrestle with these claims

about our relationship with God.  
We join our voices to remember  
that we are all in this together.

We are invited to stand in defiance of the forces of sin and evil,  
trusting that the same Spirit who had the power  
to raise Jesus Christ from the dead is alive in you.

People of God:

Do you reject the devil and all the forces that defy God,  
the powers of this world that rebel against God,  
and the ways of sin that pull us away from God?

**All: We do!**

One: Do you believe in God the Father?

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

One: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**All: 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.**

One: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**All: 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.**

#### **AFFIRMATION**

One: You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the  
covenant God made with you in holy baptism:  
to live among God's faithful people,

to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,  
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,  
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,  
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

**All: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

One: People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another  
in your life in Christ?

**All: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

One: Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new  
birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift  
of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and  
might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence both  
now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

**HYMN: ELW #445 – *Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters***

#### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*After each petition of the prayers:*

One: God of life and light,

**All: Ignite us with your love.**

#### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**All: 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.**

**SENDING HYMN: ELW #400 – *God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind***

**BLESSING/DISMISSAL Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton**

**POSTLUDE: ELW #677 – *This Little Light of Mine***

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“O God of Fire, O Word of Flame”

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien

Music: Plainsong mode IV, arr. Lutheran Book of Worship

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Text © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House, admin. Music Services, Brentwood, TN

Music: The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. Selected Hymns, 1985

Arr. © 1985 Augsburg Fortress

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“God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind”

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“This Little Light of Mine”

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**WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

*Preacher:* Bishop Amy Odgren, NEMN Synod

*Liturgists:* Pastor Patty Bjorklund - First, Brainerd  
Pastor Amy Janssen - Gethsemane, Virginia  
Saul Thompson (LYO) - Grace, Mora  
Pastor Dean Oelfke - Calvary, Mora  
Pastor Christina Kadelbach - Faith United, Iron  
Pastor Paul Erdal - Trinity, Brainerd  
Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton - ELCA, Chicago

*Musicians:* O God of Fire, O Word of Flame - Our Savior's, Hibbing  
Roy & Nadine Berg  
Rise Up, O Saints of God - First, Duluth  
Dave LaMaster, Mary Dontje, Barb LaMaster,  
David Haavik, Michael Fuchs, Karen Sande  
Ubi Caritas Et Amor - First, Little Falls  
Camilla Larson, Emma Larson, Becky Nelson  
Will You Let Me Be Your Servant - First, Little Falls  
Emma Ahlin, Beth Ahlin, Becky Nelson  
Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters - Bethesda, Malmo  
Jim Christensen, Darlene Christensen, Pastor James Muske,  
Sheila Penoyer, Sherry Whipple  
God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind - St. Andrews, Grand Rapids  
Mixed Choir, under the direction of Eileen Grosland;  
Jan Bilden, Sander Grotjohn, Cassie Thuen, Dave Grosland,  
Max Grosland  
This Little Light of Mine - First, Aitkin  
Maddie Buisman, Hannah Jones, Alaina Hagestuen,  
Craig Visnovec, Lucas Moen, Layton Carlson,  
Peyton Perrine, Aaron Perrine, Pat Perrine,  
Jennifer Johnson

*Steeple Bells:* Trinity, Hovland  
Zion, Cloquet  
Immanuel, Brunswick  
Camp Vermilion, Camp Hiawatha