



“Live Love(d)” Back Home A Congregational Worship Resource

Worshipping together with brothers and sisters in Christ was one of the great highlights of the 2013 LCMS National Youth Gathering. There were two particularly memorable worship services that took place in San Antonio, and we’d like to share some of the elements of those services with you as your youth and adults return home.

The first service took place on Sunday, June 30 (the day before the opening of the 2013 LCMS National Youth Gathering) at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. Several hundred pastors, teachers, DCE’s, deaconess, musicians, and Lutheran lay people met together for what is known as the “Worker’s Worship.” This celebration of Divine Service was designed for all the planners and volunteers who spent 2 ½ years preparing for 25,000 youth, adults, and volunteers to experience “Live Love(d).” It was written by Rev. Dr. Terry Dittmer, the Director of Youth Ministry for the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

The second service took place on Thursday morning, July 4 in the Alamodome. It was truly one of the high points of the Gathering. Together as one group 25,000 youth, adults, and volunteers sang, confessed, listened, communed, and received the Lord’s benediction. This service focused on the resurrection of Jesus, who is Love incarnate. It incorporated elements of the historic Easter vigil service and emphasized our unity with Jesus in His resurrection that God gives us in Baptism.

In this resource, we would like to provide parts of these worship services, as well as a link to many of the songs we sang during the Mass Events in the Alamodome. You’ll notice an obvious emphasis on love, especially the love that God has shown us through the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus. That was the foundation for everything that took place in San Antonio, and it remains the foundation of our lives as beloved children of God!

H y m n s / S o n g s

Brothers and Sisters in Christ (words and music by Terry K. Dittmer)

Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia (LSB 466)

Crown Him with Many Crowns (LSB 525, especially verses 1, 3, and 5)How Wide the Love of Christ (LSB 535)

In Christ Alone (Getty)

My Song Is Love Unknown (LSB 430)

The verses of this hymn were sung by soloists, the choir, and the entire congregation throughout the Worship service in the Alamodome.

O Church Arise (Getty)

What Wondrous Love Is This (LSB 543)

When I Behold Jesus Christ (LSB 542)

(More songs sung by the Gathering band can be accessed at www.lcmsgathering.com/music.)

S c r i p t u r e R e a d i n g s / A r r a n g e m e n t s

Easter Vigil Readings

Genesis 1:1-2:2

Genesis 22:1-18

Exodus 14

Psalmody: A paraphrased arrangement of Psalm 136, v. 1-8, 23-26

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.
ALL: His love endures forever.
Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, He is God of gods!
ALL: His love endures forever.
Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, He is Lord of lords!
ALL: His love endures forever.
Leader: To Him who alone does wonders great!
WOMEN: *His love endures forever.*
Leader: To God, who heavens and waters made!
MEN: *His love endures forever.*
Leader: The sun and the moon and the stars displayed.
RIGHT SIDE: *His love endures forever.*
Leader: He is God who remembers our low estate.
LEFT SIDE: *His love endures forever.*
Leader: He is God and foes cannot escape.
MEN: *His love endures forever.*
Leader: He provides for all creatures, small and great.
WOMEN: *His love endures forever.*
Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.
ALL: His love endures forever.
Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, FOR HE IS GOOD!
ALL: HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER!

1 Corinthians 13:4-13

This reading of 1 Corinthians 13 may be read in a readers theatre format. Multigenerational speakers may be designated as follows: Reader 1 – Teen aged boy; Reader 2 – Middle aged woman; Reader 3 – Middle aged man; Reader 4 – Older adult woman; Reader 5 – Older adult man; Reader 6 - 9-11-year-old girl.

Leader: My friends, tell me about love.
Reader 1: Love is patient
Reader 2: And kind;
Reader 3: Love does not envy
Reader 4: Or boast;
Reader 5: It is not arrogant
Reader 6: Or rude.
Reader 1: It does not insist on its own way;
Reader 2: It is not irritable
Reader 3: Or resentful;
Reader 4: It does not rejoice at wrongdoing,
Reader 5: But rejoices with the truth.
Reader 6: Love bears all things,
Reader 1: Believes all things,
Reader 2: Hopes all things,
Reader 3: Endures all things.
Reader 4: Love never ends.
Reader 5: As for prophecies, they will pass away;
Reader 6: As for tongues, they will cease;
Reader 1: As for knowledge, it will pass away.
Reader 2: For we know in part
Reader 3: And we prophesy in part,
Reader 4: But when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.
Reader 5: When I was a child,

Reader 6: I spoke like a child,
Reader 1: I thought like a child,
Reader 2: I reasoned like a child.
Reader 3: When I became a man, I gave up childish ways.
Reader 4: For now we see in a mirror dimly,
Reader 5: But then face to face.
Reader 6: Now I know in part;
Reader 1: Then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.
Leader: So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three;
ALL: But, the greatest of these is love.

Romans 6:3-11 Baptismal Remembrance

Leader: Today the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ recalls His death and burial, rejoicing with great joy in the Gospel of His glorious and mighty resurrection from the dead.

Reader 1: The apostle Paul says: "Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.

Reader 2: For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be rendered powerless, that we should no longer be slaves to sin – because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus."

1 John 4:7-12

This passage includes the theme verse for the entire National Youth Gathering, 1 John 4:9.

Reader: ⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

ALL: ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him.

Reader: ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and His love is perfected in us.

John 15:12-17

¹² "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are My friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He may give it to you. ¹⁷ These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

Prayers/ Litanies

Prayer for Participants of the National Youth Gathering *(from the Worker's Worship)*

Leader: Let us pray . . . Abide with us, Lord, for it is toward evening and the day is far spent.

Reader 1: Abide with us and with Your whole church.

Reader 2: Abide with us at the end of the day,

Reader 3: At the end of our life,

Reader 4: At the end of the world.

Leader: Lord, in Your mercy;

ALL: Hear our prayer.

Reader 1: Abide with us with Your grace and goodness,

Reader 2: In Your Holy Word and Sacrament,

Reader 3: With Your strength and blessing.

Reader 4: Abide with us in hope and promise

Leader: Lord, in Your mercy,

ALL: Hear our prayer.

Reader 1: Abide with those in need of healing.

Reader 2: Abide with those who mourn.

Reader 3: Abide with the homeless, the hungry, with the widowed and orphaned.

Reader 4: Abide with us to do Your bidding as Your people to help meet needs.

Leader: Lord, in Your mercy,

ALL: Hear our prayer.

Reader 1: Abide with those who have arrived in the city and anticipate a great Gathering

Reader 2: Abide with those who still travel and bring them to us safely.

Reader 3: Abide with those back home, families, friends, congregations and communities.

Reader 4: Abide with those who lead this great event that Your Gospel be clearly presented and Your love be generously shared.

Reader 1: Abide, dear God, in this city, protect and bless all who dwell here, both citizen and visitor.

Reader 2: Abide with planners, volunteers, preachers, teachers, musicians, servants and participants, that this Gathering be pleasing to You, O Lord, and to Your glory.

Leader: Lord, in Your mercy;

ALL: Hear our prayer.

Reader 1: Finally, abide with us through the night and grant us peaceful rest.

Reader 2: Abide with us and all the faithful, now and forever.

Leader: Lord, in Your mercy.

ALL: Amen.

Renunciation of the Devil and the Confession of Faith (*Vigil of Easter Altar Book*)

P: Do you renounce the devil?

C: **Yes, I do renounce him.**

P: Do you renounce all his works?

C: **Yes, I renounce them.**

P: Do you renounce all his ways?

C: **Yes, I renounce them.**

P: Do you believe in the God, the Father Almighty?

C: **Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son?

C: **Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

P: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

C: **Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

P: The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life +everlasting.

(Vigil of Easter Altar Book)

Post-Communion Collect

P: Let us pray. O God, for our redemption You gave Your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross and by His glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy. Grant that all our sin may be drowned through daily repentance and that day by day we may arise to live before You in righteousness and purity forever; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**