

Companion Synod Sunday

Sunday, June 1-7 (First Sunday), annually

Hatua Kwa Hatua/Step by Step/Paso a Paso

A Service Celebrating Companion Synod & Congregation Relationships

One, holy, catholic & apostolic... the marks of the church. We know the eye, foot & ear need one another in the body of Christ with which we gather each Lord's Day. This service celebrates the relationships that bind the universal church as well – relationships that are flourishing between ELCA synods & companion churches and synods. To celebrate your own Companion Synod relationship, include hymns from your Companion Synod and stories from people who have visited the companion church.

Use for...

- * Celebrating your Companion Synod relationship
- * Welcoming a visitor from your Companion Synod
- * Lifting up your Companion Synods in your congregation
- * Devotions for youth & adult forums and congregation committees

Suggestions for Gathering

Opening Hymn: LBW 359 "In Christ There Is No East Or West"

Hymn of Praise: WOV 717 "Come, All You People"

Prayer of the Day

Spirit of energy & change, in whose power Jesus was anointed to be the hope of the nations; be poured out also upon us without reserve or distinction, that we may have confidence and strength to plant your justice on the earth, through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Source: In Spirit and Truth, page 20

“...That they may all be One.” -- John 17:21a

Suggestions for the Word (or make connections to lectionary texts)

First Reading: Hebrews 12:1-2

Psalm: Isaiah 55:1-13

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-26

Gospel Acclamation: WOV 612/ELW 172 "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah"

Gospel: Luke 10:1-9

Sermon or Reflection - Ask your Director of Global Mission for stories of visits to your Companion Synod and use them to prepare your sermon or reflection.

Hymn of the Day: LBW 369/ELW 654 "The Church's One Foundation"

Affirmation of Faith

We are not alone; we live in God's world.

We believe in God who has created and is creating;
who has come in Jesus, to reconcile and make new.

We trust God who calls us to be the church;
to love and serve others; to see justice and resist evil;
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God

Source: Jesus Christ, the Life of the World

The Prayers

LBW (168) The Variety of Races and Cultures p. 42

O Lord Jesus, stretch forth thy wounded hands in blessing over thy people, to heal and to restore, and to draw them to thyself and to one another in love. O God, thou art one; make us one.

Source: Jesus Christ, Life of the World

Suggestions for the Meal

Eucharistic Acclamation: WOV 681 "Come, O Holy Spirit, Come"

Communion Hymn: WOV 710 "One Bread, One Body"

Benediction:

As the earth keeps turning, hurtling through space, and night falls and day breaks from land to land, let us remember people - waking, sleeping, being born and dying - one world, one humanity. Let us go from here in peace. Amen.

“...That they may all be One.” -- John 17:21a