

Where divisions exist, let us build bridges among people.

Lord, we ask that you help us tear down all that divides us.

Where walls are built, let us work to bring them down.

Lord, send us forth to seek your justice and truth.

Lord, make us instruments of your peace on earth.

Lord, just as your disciples gathered together in your presence, so too are we drawn together in you this night.

Let us join in prayer as Jesus taught us.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Candles are extinguished, or a candlelight procession proceeds around the block or church building, worshipers singing "Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil" (ELW 721).

Back where worship was begun, the peace is shared:

Just as we share God's truth and light with the world, let us share God's peace in this place. You are invited to share God's peace with one another.

HYMN: "God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind" (ELW 400)

SENDING:

Go in peace, share the light of Christ with the world.

Thanks be to God!



Liturgy by Jessica Nipp Hacker and Kristen Opalinski
Art by Kristen Opalinski

BREAKING DOWN WALLS

A Liturgy of Songs, Stories and Prayers for Peace



Lord, tear down all that divides us!

PRAYER VIGIL



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

A PRAYER VIGIL COMMEMORATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL

HYMN: "All Are Welcome" (ELW 641)

GREETING AND INTRODUCTION

OPENING VERSES (from Galatians 3:28):

There is no longer Jew or Greek,
there is no longer slave or free,
there is no longer male and female,
for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

HYMN: "Canticle of the Turning" (ELW 723)

SCRIPTURE AND STORIES

SCRIPTURE: Galatians 3:23-29

STORY: "In the Shadow of the Berlin Wall"

PRAYER

SUNG RESPONSE: "Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil" (ELW 721)

HYMN: "Bind Us Together" (WOV 748)

SCRIPTURE: Litany (based on Ephesians 2:11-22)

Remember that once you were aliens
and without Christ;
strangers to the covenants of promise,
with no hope and without God in the world.
But now in Christ Jesus,
we who once were far off have been brought near
by the blood of Christ.
For he is our peace;
in his flesh he has made both groups into one.
He has broken down the dividing wall,
erased the hostility between us.
He has reconciled both groups to God
in one body, through the cross.
He came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off
and peace to those who were near.

So, then you are no longer strangers and aliens,
but we are citizens with the saints and members of the
household of God,
built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets,
with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.

STORY: "2,000 Years of Harvest"

PRAYER

SUNG RESPONSE: "Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil" (ELW 721)

HYMN: "Oh, Praise the Gracious Power" (ELW 651)

SCRIPTURE: Luke 4:1-21

STORY: "Friendship Park"

PRAYER

SUNG RESPONSE: "Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil" (ELW 721)

HYMN: "When the Poor Ones" / "Cuando el Pobre" (ELW 725)

CANDLELIGHT PROCESSION

CANDLE LITANY:

Lord, your truth shines as light for our journey toward unity.
In you, oh Lord, we find both refuge and strength.
Lord, let this light remind us of your truth, that we might serve as
witnesses to your inclusive love in the world.

Light candles during the following song.

"Spirit of Gentleness" (ELW 396)

Once everyone's candle is lit, the following is read:

With one hand to hold the candle,
and the other to tend the flame,
we have no hands left for violence.
We are one people! We are God's people!
Lord, we ask that you continue to light the way.
Where darkness enters, let us shine your light.
Lord, we ask that you guide us as peacemakers.

