



Each Day

One of the following prayers or another prayer might be prayed for this church on each of the 50 days leading up to the assembly, beginning on June 29, 2009:

O God, you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us the light of the Holy Spirit. Direct the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by the light of that Spirit, that we might have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.
(Adapted from ELW Occasional Services for the Assembly, Opening of an Assembly.)

Or

Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.
(Evangelical Lutheran Worship)

Or

Almighty God, grant to your Church your Holy Spirit and the wisdom which comes down from heaven, that your Word may not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, that in steadfast faith we may serve you and in the confession of your name may abide to the end; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
(Lutheran Book of Worship)

Each Week

During the week, individually or in groups, take time to read the assigned scriptures that will form the daily lectionary at the Churchwide Assembly. Spend some time in reflection. Consider the listed questions specific to each of the weekly readings. You might also ask general questions such as the following as you reflect on all these texts:

- What is God up to in these texts, how do they show forth Christ? What do they say about God, us, and our world?
- How do these texts send us and equip our witness?
- As I hear these texts, what would I be concerned about or what person or situation might I see differently than I do now?

Conclude with the prayer listed for that week, which will also be used at the assembly, or another prayer. If you are in a group, consider singing the reflection hymn or another song together.



Week of June 28

(Reflecting on readings and prayer for Monday, August 17)

Word

Joel 2:28-32

Psalm 104

Romans 8:18-27

John 20:19-23

- Who are the people you know who in old age still dream fervent dreams? Who are the young people you know who have insightful vision? What do you think God's Spirit is pouring into the life of the world through these people?
- What are the sufferings of the present time for you? Who is present with you when you cry out in sighs too deep for words?
- What places are aching for the breath of the Holy Spirit that gives life and peace in your life, the life of your congregation, and the ELCA?

Prayer

O God, by the Holy Spirit

you gather the church from the four corners of the earth
and open the hearts of your faithful people.

Direct us by the light of that spirit

that we may have a right judgment in all things

and rejoice at all times in your peace,

through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Reflection Hymn

Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading (*ELW 401*) *will be sung by the Churchwide Assembly. You might also sing Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying (ELW 752) or Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ (ELW 674).*