



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

DAY OF SERVICE WORSHIP RESOURCES

SENDING RITE

At the font, God brings us from death to life
and calls us to share that abundant life with the world.
We are freed in Christ to serve!

Through the word, God accompanies us through our life journeys
and calls us to walk with others on their journeys.
We are freed in Christ to serve!

At the table, God feeds us with Christ's own body
and forms us to be the body of Christ for others.
We are freed in Christ to serve!

In the world, God goes ahead of us to places in need
and calls us to join the work.
We are freed in Christ to serve!

*The leader may invite the assembly to turn to one another,
making the sign of the cross on each other's hands, saying:*

May your hands be a vessel for God's work.

The leader may conclude:

Go forth today and every day to love and serve God,
to love and serve your neighbor,
and to be God's hands in the world.
Go forth today and every day surrounded and supported
by the love of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We lift our hands to you, praying for the needs of the church, the world, and all of God's creation. Your breath fills us with life and forms us to be the body of Christ. Strengthen us to breathe deeply the courage and wisdom of your spirit as we step forth to serve our neighbor. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Your hands formed the world.
Use our hands in tandem with all creation
to serve the beasts and birds, the reptiles and sea creatures,
the water and rocks, the air and soil. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Your lips proclaim blessing on us and our work.
Guide our lips to speak words of blessing in our community
and to proclaim you as Lord in our work with others.
Shape our actions to reflect what we say. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Your mind is ever-focused on the lives of all your creatures.
Help us to set our minds on divine things:
the needs of our neighbor, the liberation of the oppressed,
the lifting up of the weak, and the healing of the nations. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Your ears hear the cries of all who are in need.
Attune our ears to their voices: those experiencing mental distress,
those in need of physical healing, those without food or water, those without shelter,
and those experiencing abuse and violence [especially...]. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Your living raises the dead.
Pattern our lives of faith after those whose hands have served you
and who now rest from their labors. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Gather into your hands these prayers and all you see that we need, through Jesus Christ, our Messiah and Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (CONTINUED)

*A single petition to include in prayers of intercession
or to use at the beginning of your service project:*

Holy One, as we serve others today,
give us courage to see you in our neighbor;
give us strength to sustain us in our work;
and give us more opportunities to continue your work in our community.
As we give our hands in service for your work,
help us to trust in your mercy for those who are still in need.
Amen.

OR

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Hymn suggestions:

- 744 Lord, Be Glorified*
- 538 The Lord Now Sends Us Forth (Enviado soy de Dios)
- 497 Strengthen for Service, Lord
- 814 Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am*
- 677 This Little Light of Mine*
- 692 We Are an Offering
- 690 We Raise Our Hands to You, O Lord
- 798 Will You Come and Follow Me (The Summons)

**This hymn might easily be led without printed materials if you are gathered for worship at a service site.*