January 11 — Human Trafficking Awareness Day Worship Resources

Topical Reading
- Genesis 37: 1-36 (Joseph Dreams of Greatness and Joseph is Sold by His Brothers)
- 1 John 4:7-21
- Galatians 5: 13-15

or

Lectionary selections

Hymns (All selections from Evangelical Lutheran Worship)
- 304 Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized
- 306 Come, Beloved of the Maker
- 307 Light Shone in Darkness
- 710 Let Streams of Living Justice
- 712 Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service
- 720 We Are Called
- 726 Light Dawns on a Weary World

Prayers
- Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ dignified our labor by sharing our toil. Guide us with your justice in the workplace, so that we may never value things above people, or surrender honor to love of gain or lust for power. Prosper all efforts to put an end to work that brings no joy, and teach us how to govern the ways of business to the harm of none and for the sake of the common good; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (ELW p. 78)

- Look with mercy, gracious God, upon people everywhere who live with injustice, terror, disease, and death as their constant companions. Rouse us from our complacency and help us to eliminate cruelty wherever it is found. Strengthen those who seek equality for all. Grant that everyone may enjoy a fair portion of the abundance of their earth; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (ELW p. 79)

- Holy One, you do not distance yourself from the pain of your people, but in Jesus you bear that pain with all who suffer at others’ hands. With your cleansing love bring healing and strength to those who are victims of human trafficking; and by your
justice, lift them up, that in body, mind, and spirit, they may again rejoice. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen. (Adapted from ELW p. 84)

- God of liberation, you see works of violence and weep. Relieve the suffering of all who are experiencing/have survived abuse or violence in human trafficking. Grant them peace of mind and a renewed faith in your protection and care. Protect us all from the violence of others; help us to bring offenders to justice; keep us safe from weapons of hate; and restore us to tranquility and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

(Adapted from Evangelical Lutheran Worship Pastoral Care, page 383)

**ELCA documents for study and guidance**

  - 70-80 percent of people victimized by human trafficking are women. How do you think human trafficking fits into the broader category of violence against women?

  - How are sufficiency and sustainability viewed through a lens of human trafficking? (p. 11-17).
  - How does a Lutheran understanding of vocation help condemn human trafficking? (p. 7-11).
  - How could economically healthy communities contribute to the end of human trafficking?

  - How are commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) and human trafficking connected? How do they differ?
  - How does the objectification and commodification of people present in CSE and human trafficking harm our relationships with one another? (p. 4-6)

  - How can we help young people learn about healthy relationships to create a human trafficking-free, non-exploitative culture? (p. 13-14)

**Other Resources**

- Cherish All Children: [http://www.cherishallchildren.org/home](http://www.cherishallchildren.org/home)