

# Commemoration of the Emanuel Nine

Evening Prayer · June 17, 2020

St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Asheville NC



On June 17, 2015, Clementa C. Pinckney, Cynthia Marie Graham Hurd, Susie Jackson, Ethel Lee Lance, DePayne Middleton-Doctor, Tywanza Sanders, Daniel Lee Simmons, Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, and Myra Thompson were murdered by a self-professed white supremacist while they were gathered for Bible study and prayer at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church (often referred to as Mother Emanuel) in Charleston, South Carolina. Pastors Pinckney and Simmons were both graduates of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. A resolution to commemorate June 17 as a day of repentance for the martyrdom of the Emanuel Nine was adopted by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on August 8, 2019. Congregations of the ELCA are encouraged reaffirm their commitment to repenting of the sins of racism and white supremacy which continue to plague this church, to venerate the martyrdom of the Emanuel Nine, and to mark this day of penitence with study and prayer.

## Invocation

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## Litany of Remembrance

We join with Mother Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in remembering the slain nine—the Rev. Clementa C. Pinckney, the Rev. Daniel Lee Simmons, Cynthia Marie Graham Hurd, the Rev. Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, the Rev. Myra Singleton Quarles Thompson, Tywanza Kibwe Diop Sanders, the Rev. DePayne Middleton-Doctor, Susie Jackson, and Ethel Lee Lance—and those who survived.

**We remember.**

We remember that they lovingly welcomed the stranger into a Wednesday-night bible study—they sang, they prayed, they gathered to study the word of God. We remember. We pray for the continual presence of God's peace; may it comfort and surround the families of the nine who were slain.

**We remember.**

We pray for the African Methodist Episcopal Church, its senior bishop and episcopal leaders, the community of Charleston, and all who continue to grieve—trusting that God will continue to unite us in the work to end racism and white supremacy, so that we may be witnesses of Christian unity.

**We remember.**

We remember the legacy of the Rev. Pinckney and his fight for racial justice for his parishioners and his community. Let us not only be moved by emotion but also be moved toward action. We remember. We call the United States to remember and confront its history of racial injustice. We must not forget the crimes committed against humanity in the name of Christ: the land theft from and genocide of indigenous peoples and the enslavement of black bodies that built this nation.

**We remember.**

We call this country to remember the policies and practices that excluded Chinese immigrants and that forced the internment of Japanese Americans. We remember. We call this country to remember the exploitation of migrant farm workers from Latin and Central America and the separation of families at the U.S. southern border.

**We remember.**

We remember the faith leaders whose lives are a living witness in the struggle for freedom: Bishop Richard Allen, Absalom Jones, Sojourner Truth, Denmark Vesey, Jehu Jones, Daniel Payne, Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, Ida B. Wells, James Cone, and Katie Cannon.

**We remember.**

We remember the unarmed innocent black lives lost at the hands of law enforcement: Eric Garner, Laquan McDonald, Sandra Bland, Sean Bell, Philando Castile, Alton Sterling, Michael Brown, Freddie Gray, Tamir Rice, Walter Scott, Atatiana Jefferson, George Floyd, and many others, known and unknown.

**We remember.**

We remember the innocent, unarmed black bodies that were racially profiled, shot, and killed because whiteness stood its ground: Emmett Till, Trayvon Martin, Jordan Davis, Ahmaud Arbery, Renisha McBride, and many others, known and unknown.

**We remember.**

As we remember, Living God, may we be re-membered as your body, connected to one another and empowered for the work you call us to do in the name of Jesus and by the power of his renewing Spirit.

**Amen.**

Hymn

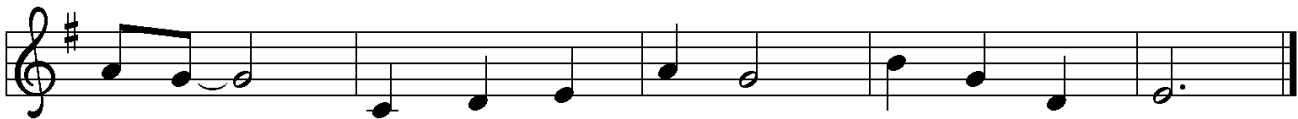
“Now It Is Evening”



1 Now it is eve-ning: lights of the cit - y bid us re - mem-ber  
 2 Now it is eve-ning: food on the ta - ble bids us re - mem-ber  
 3 Now it is eve-ning: lit - tle ones sleep-ing bid us re - mem-ber  
 4 Now it is eve-ning: here in our meet-ing may we re - mem-ber



Christ is our light. Man - y are lone - ly, who will be  
 Christ is our life. Man - y are hun - gry, who will be  
 Christ is our peace. Some are ne - glect - ed, who will be  
 Christ is our friend. Some may be strang - ers, who will be



neigh-bor? Where there is car - ing, Christ is our light.  
 neigh-bor? Where there is shar - ing, Christ is our life.  
 neigh-bor? Where there is car - ing, Christ is our peace.  
 neigh-bor? Where there's a wel - come, Christ is our friend.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: BOZEMAN, Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Text © 1974 Hope Publishing Company.

Music © 1993 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

**Thanksgiving for Light**

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you called light into being, and you set lights in the sky to govern night and day. In a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night you led your people into freedom. Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ; may your Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for you are merciful, and you love your whole creation, and with all your creatures we give you glory, through your Son Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Psalm 51: 1-12**

**Sung by all**

- <sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | loving-kindness; \*  
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.
- <sup>2</sup>Wash me through and through | from my wickedness \*  
and cleanse me | from my sin.
- <sup>3</sup>For I know | my transgressions, \*  
and my sin is ev- | er before me.
- <sup>4</sup>Against you only | have I sinned \*  
and done what is evil | in your sight.
- <sup>5</sup>And so you are justified | when you speak \*  
and upright | in your judgment.
- <sup>6</sup>Indeed, I have been wicked | from my birth, \*  
a sinner from my | mother's womb.
- <sup>7</sup>For behold, you look for truth | deep within me, \*  
and will make me understand | wisdom secretly
- <sup>8</sup>Purge me from my sin, and I | shall be pure; \*  
wash me, and I shall be | clean indeed.
- <sup>9</sup>Make me hear of | joy and gladness, \*  
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.
- <sup>10</sup>Hide your face | from my sins \*  
and blot out all | my iniquities.
- <sup>11</sup>Create in me a clean | heart, O God, \*  
and renew a right spir- | it within me.
- <sup>12</sup>Cast me not away | from your presence \*  
and take not your holy | Spirit from me.
- <sup>13</sup>Give me the joy of your saving | help again \*  
and sustain me with your bount- | iful Spirit.

**Psalm Prayer**

God of mercy, you know us better than we know ourselves, and still you love us. Wash us from all our sins, create in us clean hearts, and strengthen us by your Holy Spirit that we may proclaim your praise; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**Reading**

**Joel 2: 12-13**

“Yet even now,” declares the Lord,  
“return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
and rend your hearts and not your garments.”

Return to the Lord your God,  
for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;  
and he relents over disaster.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Silence for reflection follows the reading.*

## Confession

As the church, we confess the sin of racism and condemn racist rhetoric and the ideology of white supremacy. God, have mercy.

**God, have mercy.**

As the church, we confess, repent, and repudiate the times when this church has been silent in the face of racial injustice. God, have mercy.

**God, have mercy.**

Racism is deeply ingrained within the ELCA, a predominantly white church. It is deeply embedded within the individual congregations whose members continue to foster stereotypes and support policies that actively hurt people of color. God, have mercy.

**God, have mercy.**

As the church, we declare that the enslavement of black bodies and the removal of indigenous peoples established racism in the United States, a truth this nation and this church have yet to fully embrace. God, have mercy.

**God, have mercy.**

Rooted in slavery, racism is manifested through the history of Jim Crow policies, racial segregation, the terror of lynching, extrajudicial killings by law enforcement, and the disproportionate incarceration of people of color. God, have mercy.

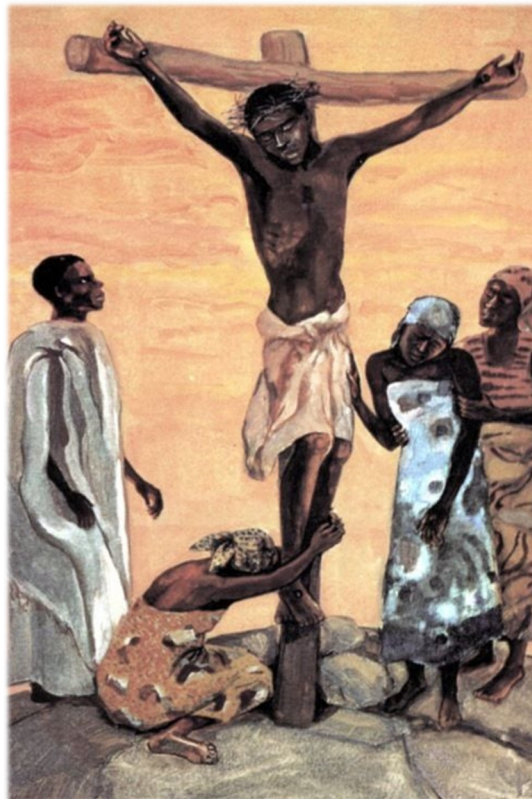
**God, have mercy.**

As the church we lament the institutional racism of discriminatory treatment within the call process; inequitable compensation of clergy of color; racial segregation; divestment from black communities and congregations; systemic policies and organizational practices; and a failure to fully include the gifts of leadership and worship styles of black people, indigenous people, and people of color. God, have mercy.

**God, have mercy.**

Confessions are empty promises without meaningful actions—actions that are grounded in prayer, education, and soul-searching repentance. The sin of racism separates us from one another. We trust that we are reconciled to God through Christ's death and resurrection, and we seek such life-giving reconciliation with one another. As we repent, let us not turn back to ideologies that promote white supremacy. We trust that God can make all things new.

**Amen.**



Magnificat Paraphrase

“My Soul Cries Out”



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .  
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a  
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
 work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the  
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.  
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
 The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the  
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry  
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

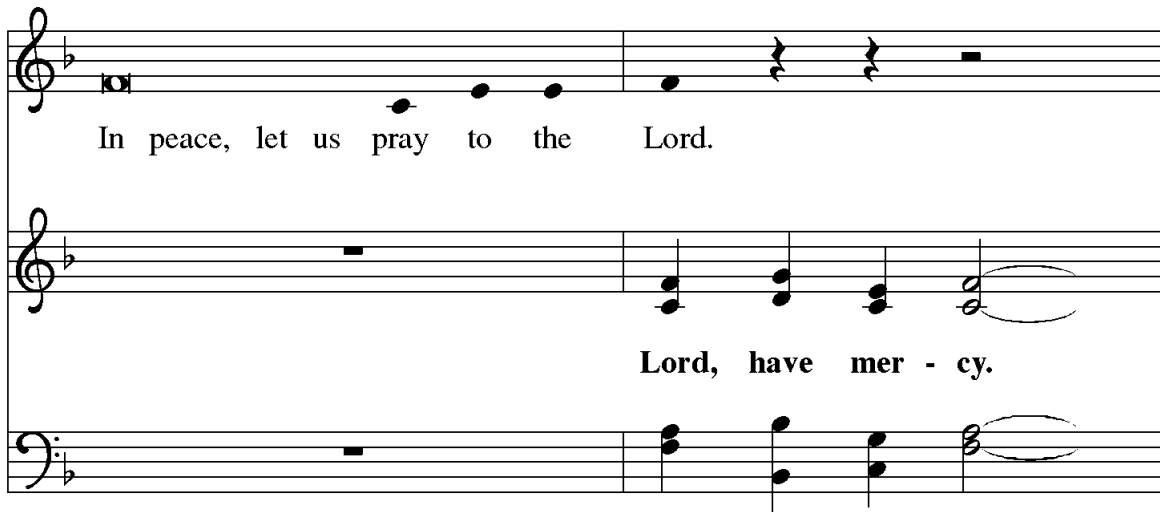


*Refrain*  
 My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

## Prayers



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us | pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us | pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us | pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the health of the creation, for abundant harvests that all may share, and for peaceful times, let us | pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For public servants, the government, and those who protects us; for those who work to bring peace, justice, healing, and protection in this and every place, let us | pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who travel, for those who are sick and suffering, and for those who are in captivity, let us | pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

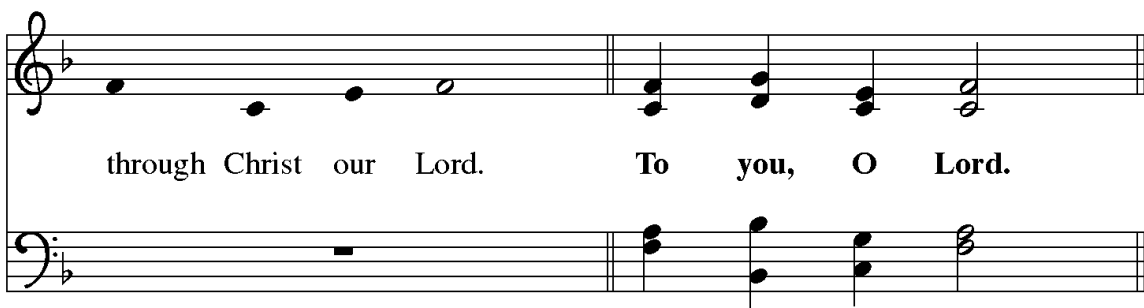
For deliverance in the time of affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us | pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all servants of the church, for this assembly, and for all people who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us | pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

*A time of silence follows.*

Giving thanks for all who have gone before us and are at rest, rejoicing in the communion of the blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints, we commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to you,



through Christ our Lord. To you, O Lord.

Mighty and loving God, we pray for our nation and the plague of racism that threatens, destroys, and kills. Root out white supremacy wherever it takes hold. Release its grip on those lured by its false promises. Bring to repentance all who continue to benefit from prejudice and hatred, both hidden and revealed. Plant in our hearts and nation a willing spirit open to truth-telling and healing. In your great mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We give you thanks, Holy God, for the faithful life and witness of Clementa, Cynthia, Daniel, DePayne, Ethel, Myra, Sharonda, Susie, and Tywanza, the Emanuel Nine. May their faith and witness to your forgiving love in Jesus Christ inspire all people to pursue paths of justice, courage, and self-giving love. In your great mercy, **receive our prayer.**

O Lord, support us all the day long of this troublous life, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in thy mercy grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last.  
**Amen.**

### Lord's Prayer



Gathered into one by the Ho-ly Spir - it, let us pray as Je-sus taught us.



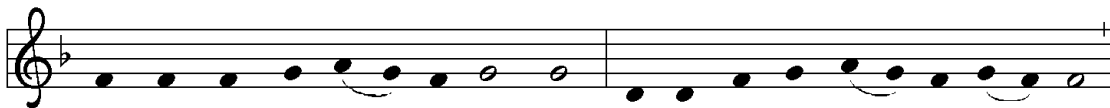
Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,



your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.



Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we



for-give those who sin a-against us. Save us from the time of tri - al



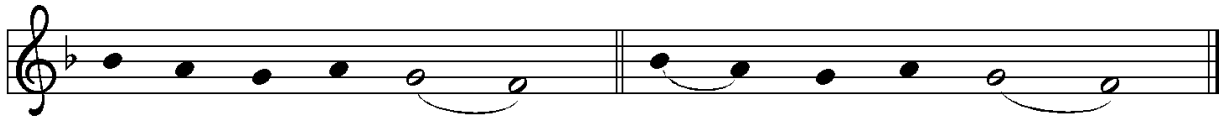
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,



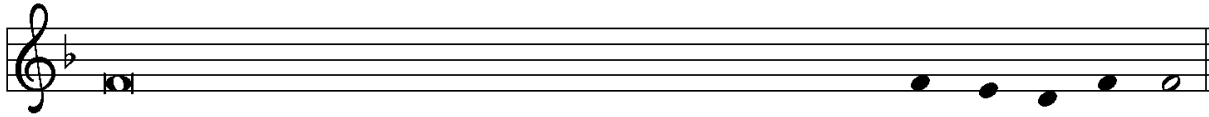
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.



## Blessing



Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.



Almighty God, the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and pre-serve us.



A - men.

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

