

Refugees Welcome



EVANGELISCHE KIRCHE
AN DER RUHR
KIRCHENKREIS AN DER RUHR

*„We all are citizens with the saints and
members of the household of God.”*

„Wir alle sind Mitbürger der Heiligen und Gottes Hausgenossen.”

AN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE SERVICE OF WORSHIP
SATURDAY, 24 OCTOBER, 2015, 6:00 P.M.
SAARNER DORFKIRCHE, MÜLHEIM-SAARN

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Notes: Everyone is cordially invited to remain after the service of worship for light refreshments and fellowship

An asterisk (*) indicates that everyone may rise in body and/or in spirit as they are moved and able.

Everyone is invited to join in reading or singing all the parts of the service printed in ***bold print***.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US THIS EVENING!
WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE.

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.”(Ephesians 2:19-20)

Gathering Music

Greetings and Announcements

Leader 1 (L1):

In the name of the triune God:
the Creator,
the Christ, and
the Holy Spirit.
Amen

- Who understands English?
- Who needs translation?
- Introduction of pastors / musicians

Leader 2 (L2) in German:

Welcome
Invitation to refreshments after service

L1: Invitation to refreshments
Bibles available in English and German

*The Call to Worship (Adapted from 1 Peter 2:9-10):

L1: Once you were not a people,

But now we are God's people!

L2: Once you had not received mercy,

But now we have received mercy!

*L1: You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,
God's own people,*

***In order that we may proclaim the mighty acts of God,
who called us out of darkness into God's marvelous light!***

*Hymn: Now Thank We All Our God

***1. Now thank we all our God,
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom this world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.***

***2. O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us still in grace,
and guide us when perplexed;
and free us from all ills,
in this world and the next.***

***3. All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given;
the Son, and him who reigns
with them in highest heaven;
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.***

WE ARE RECONCILED WITH GOD AND ONE ANOTHER.

The Prayer of Confession:

Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck.

L1:

We remember today the people who have had to leave their homelands because they can no longer lead a decent life there. Many of them hoped to find refuge and a new home in Europe. They made use of everything they had and risked their health and their lives. Too many have died. This tragedy and this scandal have many aspects. There are the stories of the victims and their families. It is not just a question of a few individuals, however, but of unimaginably huge numbers of people. Their deaths were not inevitable, but in many cases were the result of deliberate action or the failure to render assistance. And finally, it's about what these deaths mean to us, and how we avoid becoming mere spectators.

I sink in deep mire, where there is no foothold; I have come into deep waters, and the flood sweeps over me.

L2:

Thousands of people have died at the borders of Europe. Their deaths have been documented in press reports, and in reports from governmental and nongovernment agencies. What is not known is the number of deaths that have not been recorded or counted, the number of people who have disappeared without their names being known. They all sought a life in security and dignity, a life without fear and hunger. The doors of Europe remain closed to them forever.

God of love and justice, we live in the hope of peace in our lives and peace in our world.

We long for the day when your love will live in our homes, and when nations will live together in peace.

But we confess that we are often anxious; we do not trust each other, and violence still lives in us.

We are not willing to take the risks and make the hard choices that love requires.

Look upon us with kindness and grace.

Show us how to walk in your paths, through the mercy of our Savior. Amen.

~Silence for reflection and personal confession~

L2: The Assurance of Pardon (taken from Romans 8:31)

If God is for us, who can be against us?

He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,¹¹ neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

L1: * The Sharing of the Peace of Christ

Music „You are my Hiding Place”

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD FOR US.

L1: A Prayer for Illumination (Unison):

Eternal God, in the reading of the scripture, may your word be heard; in the meditations of our hearts, may your word be known; and in the faithfulness of our lives, may your word be shown. Amen.

L2: The Old Testament Lesson: Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7, 10-14

Living in exile and trying to cope in a new and foreign country is an experience shared by the people of Israel. This

reading is from the prophet Jeremiah, chapter 29, verses 1, 4-7 and 10-14:

1 This is the text of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders among the exiles and to the priests, the prophets and all the other people Nebuchadnezzar had carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

4 This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon:

5 "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce.

6 Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease.

7 Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."

10 This is what the Lord says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place.

11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

12 Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.

13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

14 I will be found by you," declares the Lord, "and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you," declares the Lord, "and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile."

The Responsive Psalm (Psalm 146:2, 5-10):

L1: I will praise God as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

L2: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,

Whose hope is in the Sovereign their God.

L1: Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;

Who keeps faith forever;

L2: Who executes justice for the oppressed;

Who gives food to the hungry.

L1: God sets the prisoners free;

God opens the eyes of those who cannot see.

L2: God lifts up those who are bowed down;

God loves those who are righteous.

L1: God watches over the strangers,

And upholds the orphan and the widow.

L2: The sovereign will reign forever,

Your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise be to God!

L1: The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 5:38-48

Jesus' teaching in the Sermon of the Mount gives us a new perspective on how God wants us to live:

38 "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.'⁷

39 But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also.

40 And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well.

41 If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles.

42 Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

43 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'

44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

45 that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that?

47 And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?

48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Hymn: Seek ye first the kingdom of God

***1. Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness;
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!***

***2 Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
Seek, and you shall find.
Knock, and it shall be opened unto you.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!***

***3 Man shall not live by bread alone,
But by every word
That proceeds out from the mouth of God.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!***

The Sermon: "We have become citizens of God's kingdom"

Music: Day by Day

WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS.

L1+2: * The Prayers of Petition and Intercession

***God,
you were once a refugee
as the small child from the manger***

*fleeing to Egypt.
We pray for all those
who are fleeing persecution,
adversity and hopelessness.*

*God,
you led your people through the desert
for forty years.
We pray for all those
who have been abandoned to the desert
who disappear
in the no man's land between the borders.*

*God,
you called our fathers and mothers
to seek a new beginning in a new, promised land.
We pray for all those
who have the courage
to seek a new beginning in a new land
where they hope to make their future.*

*God,
you rule over the raging of the sea;
you still the waves
when they rise up.
We pray for all those
drifting helplessly on the seas
and drowning in the waves.*

*God,
You divided the sea
to let your people pass through
and made the waters as solid as a wall.
We pray for all those*

***for whom the sea is a wall
because we do not let them pass through.***

***God,
You have enjoined us to see refugees as our neighbors.
We pray for us all
That we might take responsibility for them.***

* The Prayer of Our Savior

L1: We will all pray 'The Lord's Prayer' in our own native language.

L2: [in German]

* Hymn: Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

***1. Holy God, we praise Thy Name;
Lord of all, we bow before Thee!
All on earth Thy scepter claim,
All in Heaven above adore Thee;
Infinite Thy vast domain,
Everlasting is Thy reign.***

***2. Hark! the loud celestial hymn
Angel choirs above are raising,
Cherubim and seraphim,
In unceasing chorus praising;
Fill the heavens with sweet accord:
Holy, holy, holy, Lord.***

***3. Lo! the apostolic train
Join the sacred Name to hallow;
Prophets swell the loud refrain,
And the white robed martyrs follow;
And from morn to set of sun,
Through the Church the song goes on.***

***4. Holy Father, Holy Son,
Holy Spirit, Three we name Thee;
While in essence only One,
Undivided God we claim Thee;
And adoring bend the knee,
While we own the mystery.***

* The Benediction

L1: May the Lord of the harvest bless us with goodness.
May Christ the loving Teacher equip us with vision and
compassion.
May the Holy Spirit empower us to proclaim the
kingdom of God.

L2: The LORD bless you, and keep you:
The LORD make his face shine upon you, and be gracious
unto you:
The LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you
peace.

* The Postlude