



Church in Society

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

January 11, 2010 Human Trafficking Awareness Day Worship Resources

Provided by ELCA Justice for Women Program

Readings

Topical

- Genesis 37: 1-36 *Joseph Dreams of Greatness and Joseph is Sold by His Brothers*
- 1 John 4:7-21
- Galatians 5: 13-15
- Luke 10: 25-37 *The Parable of the Good Samaritan*

or

Lectionary A*

- Isaiah 2: 1-5
- Psalm 122
- Romans 13: 11-14
- Matthew 24: 36-44

*On Baptism of Our Lord Sunday, January 10, 2010, how does the reality of human trafficking inform your reading of the lectionary texts?

Hymns (All selections from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*)

- 304 *Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized*
- 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

- ELCA Social Policy Action, *Violence Against Women*, passed by the 1995 Churchwide Assembly:
<http://archive.elca.org/socialpolicyresolutions/resolution.asp?id=44&ref=hys>
 - 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?
- ELCA Social Statement, *Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All*, adopted by the 1999 Churchwide Assembly:
www.elca.org/What-We-Believe/Social-Issues/Social-Statements/Economic-Life.aspx
 - 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?
- ELCA Message, *Commercial Sexual Exploitation*, adopted in 2001 by the ELCA Church Council:
www.elca.org/What-We-Believe/Social-Issues/Messages/Commercial-Sexual-Exploitation.aspx
 - 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)
- ELCA Social Statement, *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*, adopted by the 2009 Churchwide Assembly (draft text):
www.elca.org/What-We-Believe/Social-Issues/Social-Statements/JTF-Human-Sexuality.aspx
 - How can we help young people learn about healthy relationships to create a human trafficking-free, non-exploitative culture? (p. 13-14)