International Day of Persons With Disability, December 3

Service of the Word

# Opening Responses

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

**You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.**

Where can I go from your Spirit?

**Even the darkness is as light to you.**

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
**Your works are wonderful! I know that very well.** (Selected verses of *Psalm 139*)

# Hymn or song

# Confession and Absolution

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of each other.

**We confess to you, almighty God,  
before the whole company of heaven,  
and to each other,  
that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed   
by our own fault.  
Have mercy on us, for Jesus’ sake,  
forgive us all our sins,  
and bring us to eternal life. Amen.**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given his only Son to die for us, and for his sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in his name he has given the right to become children of God, and has given them his Holy Spirit. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all.

**Amen.**

# Apostles’ Creed

As God’s people through our baptism into Christ, let us confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,   
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,   
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,   
born of the Virgin Mary,   
suffered under Pontius Pilate,   
was crucified, dead, and buried.   
He descended into hell.   
The third day he rose again from the dead.   
He ascended into heaven,   
and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty,   
from thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,   
the holy catholic\* church,   
the communion of saints,   
the forgiveness of sins,   
the resurrection of the body,   
and the life everlasting. Amen**

\**or:* Christian; *'catholic' here means 'universal'*

Psalm 139:1-18

Use a piece of visual liturgy to share this Psalm, or read it as the Old Testament reading for the day.

**A beautiful reading of Psalm 139** by people with disability is available <https://vimeo.com/86925527> made by the Reflectors Ministry of Faith Church, Indiana. Permission has been given for churches of the LCANZ to stream, play and use this video in worship, including services that are recorded and streamed live.

Recommended **visual liturgy pieces by The Work of the People** (available for use with a low-cost subscription):

<https://www.theworkofthepeople.com/always-near> <https://www.theworkofthepeople.com/wonderfully-made>

# Prayer of the Day (Collect)

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray that we see the image of God in all other people and love them as Jesus teaches. *[silence]*

Creator God,   
we thank you for giving yourself to the world

in love through your Son Jesus.   
Lead us by your great love   
to look at others with your eyes –

wonderfully and fearfully made in the image of God,

loved and cherished.

Teach us to be inclusive, expansive banquet hosts,

welcoming the forgotten and overlooked.

Teach us not to look for reciprocal relationships

where we will be repaid for our kindness,

but rather to embody sacrificial, generous, servant-hearted friendship.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord,   
who lives and reigns   
with you and the Holy Spirit,   
one God, now and forever.   
**Amen.**

# Readings

**Epistle Reading** 1 Corinthians 12: 1-26 Spiritual Gifts; One Body, Many Parts

**Gospel** Luke 14: 7-24 Jesus at a Pharisee’s House and The Parable of the Great Banquet

You might like to use the [Auslan translation](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FLlLLJyzVVY) of this reading in your service, by CBM Australia.

# Hymn or song

# Sermon

*After the sermon, or in place of it, you may like to interview someone who lives with a disability, or works in a care role in your church, community or a Lutheran Service or aged care facility. Ask them about how their faith sustains their life and work, or their motivation for compassionate care and inclusion.*

*You could show a video clip of the work done by* [*Lutheran Care SA/NT*](https://www.lccare.org.au/)*,* [*Lutheran Services QLD*](https://www.lutheranservices.org.au/disability/about/)*,* [*Lutheran Disability Services*](https://www.ldssa.org.au/) *or* [*Anuha*](https://www.anuha.com.au/) *to promote the work done by these arms of the LCANZ. Alternately, use a multimedia clip recommended in the Christian Care Sunday IDPWD resource.*

*If you have a member sharing about their life and work, or a visiting service provider, it would be appropriate to pray for them and/or bless them after their presentation.*

# Offering

*Let us pray:*

Thank you, Lord, for calling us   
one and all,

regardless of ability or accomplishment,

and giving us so many gifts,   
both physical and spiritual.

You knit us together in our mother’s womb

And ordained all the days set before us.

You make us in your image and call us ‘very good’.  
Help us to go out and serve you,

as one body in Christ,   
by showing your compassion and love to others.   
**Amen.**

# Hymn or song

# Prayer of the Church

Creator God,  
you call us to love and serve you  
with body, mind, and spirit  
through loving your creation  
and our fellow people.  
Open our hearts in compassion,

move us toward inclusivity and justice,  
and receive these petitions

for those broken and burdened,  
those seeking healing,  
and those in need within the church and the world.

Prayers of the Church, concluding with:  
Hear our prayers  
that we may love you with our whole being  
and willingly share the concerns of our neighbours.

**Amen.**

# Lord’s Prayer

Finally, let us pray for all those things which our Lord would have us ask, saying:

**Our Father in heaven,   
 hallowed be your name,  
 your kingdom come,  
 your will be done,   
 on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
 as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
 but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
 now and forever. Amen.**

# Hymn or song

# Blessing

Where can we go from your Spirit, Lord?

**You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.**

Go in peace and love, with the love of Christ,  
 **Amen.   
We go in the name of Christ, carrying love to the world.**