**INTRODUCTION**

Thank you for planning a Sunday to hold a Mission Festival to highlight the opportunity in Vietnam. What follows are some suggestions for a Sunday morning event and worship planning help. At the end you will find a section of prayers and litanies that can be used in worship that day.

We are suggesting that this Sunday be held during Epiphany. The Epiphany texts from the lectionary that provide prophesies and examples of how God revealed Christ’s glory to the world always serve well as a basis for a focus on Mission Outreach. If you choose to hold your Vietnam Sunday during Lent, the same could be said as the readings and hymns focus on what Christ did to save the world.

The suggested Sermon text is Colossians 1:3-8. There is a written sermon available.

Hymns for the day can be chosen from the Evangelism (556 – 566) or Missions (567 – 579) hymns in Christian Worship. Any hymn from the Epiphany (79 – 94) will also fit well. These Epiphany hymns make a strong mission emphasis: 81, 84, 87, 88, 90, 93 and 94. If you would like a hymn that matches the theme of Grace and Christ for the world consider 370, 353, 347, 343, 378, 391, 399.

Included here you have some special litanies and prayers that can be used. Feel free to cut and paste what you need to fit any of the services from Christian Worship.

If you have a Sunday Morning Bible Study slot available, please consider using the special “Grace—Hmong outreach in Vietnam” power point presentation found [here](https://missions.welsrc.net/download-missions/grace-hmong-outreach-in-vietnam-resources/). Each slide includes comprehensive notes for you to use when sharing this opportunity with your congregation.

You can also find pictures of the people and work in Vietnam for your use on the [WELS Missions Flickr album](https://www.flickr.com/photos/welsmissionsphotos/albums/72157658720195632).

Additional promotional materials for your “Grace—Hmong outreach in Vietnam” Mission Festival can be found on the [WELS Resource Center](https://missions.welsrc.net/download-missions/grace-hmong-outreach-in-vietnam-resources/).

God bless your efforts!

**INVOCATION AND WORSHIP DIALOG**

**INVOCATION**

*Pastor: Because the Lord cleansed us sinners and Call to Worship in Baptism, we are able to gather before holy God. And so we repeat the words spoken at our baptism: In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.*

**Congregation: Amen. Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved. (Acts 4:12)**

*P: God the Father said to His Son, “Ask of Me, and I will make the nations Your inheritance, the ends of the earth Your possession.”* (Psalm 2:8)

**C: May all the peoples of the earth know Your name and fear You, as do Your own people. (1 Kings 8:43)**

*P: Give thanks to the Lord, call on His name; make known among the nations what He has done, and proclaim that His name is exalted.*

**C: Sing to the Lord, for He has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world. (Isaiah 12:4-5)**

**Hymn** *(#573 or another mission hymn)*

**WORSHIP DIALOG** . . . including confession and forgiveness

*P: The Redeemer loves all people and wants them to believe in Him as their Savior from sin**. He said: “I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to My voice, and there shall be one flock and one Shepherd.* (John 10:16) *As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you.”* (John 20:21)

**C: We know what to tell people: “This is what is written: the Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.” We are witnesses of these things. (Luke 24:46-48)**

*P: Jesus said: “Whoever acknowledges Me before others, I will also acknowledge before My Father in heaven.* (Matthew 10:32)

**C: “If anyone is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when He comes in His Father’s glory with the holy angels.” (Mark 8:38)**

*P: O Lord Jesus, there have been many times we have not spoken about You when we had the opportunity. We “had other things to do,” or we didn't think we had the time. By remaining silent, we did not give You the glory You deserve, and we may have harmed souls for whom You died.*

C: **We were afraid, or we were ashamed of You, or we didn’t want to risk losing things we valued more than You. Now we realize what we did, and we are ashamed of how we treated You and ‘our neighbors.’ We repent. We ask You to forgive us and to change our hearts.**

*P: Jesus said, “I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”* (Luke 15:10)

C: **I know that You, Lord, are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love. (Jonah 4:2) I believe it is through the grace of my Lord Jesus that I am saved. (Acts 15:11)**

*P: Make us like Paul who was eager to proclaim the gospel.*

C: **I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith. (Romans 1:15-17)**

*P: This righteousness is yours through Jesus’ work as your Savior. Proclaim this Good News to everyone* (Mark 16:15). *Do to others as you would have them do to you* (Luke 6:31)*, especially if you were the one who had not yet been brought to faith in Jesus. Our Lord promised: “Whoever listens to you listens to me”* (Luke 10:16). *Burst into songs of joy together, for the Lord has comforted His people.* (Isaiah 52:9)

C: **We cannot help speaking and singing about what we have seen and heard (Acts 4:20):**

**SING: (Tune from CW 577)**

Rise, O Light of Gentile nations,

Jesus, bright and Morning Star.

Let Your Word, the gladsome tidings,

ring out loudly near and far,

bringing freedom to the captives,

peace and comfort to the slave,

that the sinful, freed from bondage,

may proclaim Your pow’r to save.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*P: Almighty God, You gave Your one-and-only Son to be the Light of the world. Grant that Your people, illumined by Your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ’s glory so that He may be known, worshiped, and believed to the ends of the earth;*

**C: through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

# LITANY OPTION 2

# The Opening Litany (Isaiah 60:1-6)

*P: Arise, shine for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.*

**C: See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples,**

*P: But the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you.*

**C: Nations will come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn.**

*P: Lift up your eyes and look about you:*

**C: Your sons come from afar and your daughters are carried on the arm.**

*P: Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah.*

C: And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the Lord.

**THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** (Psalm 51:1-4, 1 Peter 2:9-10)

*P: Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sins.*

**C: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.**

*P: You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

*P: We join our voices in praising our forgiving God.*

**SING: (CW 64)**

#### Let us all with gladsome voice praise the God of heaven,

#### Who, to bid our hearts, rejoice, his own Son has given.

#### To this vale of tears he comes, here to serve in sadness,

#### That with him in heaven’s fair homes we may reign in gladness.

#### We are rich, for he was poor; is not this a wonder?

#### Therefore praise God evermore here on earth and yonder.

# LITANY OPTION 3

# DIALOGUE

*P: The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands*.

**C: Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.**

*P: Darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the people, for every inclination of the thoughts of the heart is only evil all the time.*

**C: And the soul that sins shall die.**

*P: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.*

**C: On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.**

*P: The Lord has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations.*

C: He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

*P: Now in Christ Jesus we who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. He came and preached peace to us who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.*

**C: For we are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of us who were baptized into Christ have clothed ourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for we are all one in Christ Jesus.**

*P: He was slain, and with his blood he purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.*

**C: He made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and we will reign on the earth.**

*P: I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*

C: In Christ we are built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

*P: You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ﻿Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

**C: We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.**

**SING: (CW 370)**

#### Let ev’ry kindred, ev’ry tribe

#### On this terrestrial ball

To him all majesty ascribe

And crown him Lord of all.

To him all majesty ascribe

And crown him Lord of all.

Oh, that with yonder sacred throng

We at his feet may fall!

# We’ll join the everlasting song

And crown him Lord of all.

We’ll join the everlasting song

And crown him Lord of all.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

M: Lord of the church, you have prepared a heavenly banquet for all who dwell on earth—every nation, tribe, language, and people. Renew in us the one, true, and only faith through your eternal gospel and so cause your Holy Spirit to light our hearts on fire to reach the lost of every nation. Look with favor on your people, your pastors, and your missionaries that they may ever more faithfully proclaim your Word through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**SPECIAL PRAYER FOR WELS WORK IN VIETNAM**

*Consider adding this to the prayer for the Mission of the Church on page 129 in Christian Worship.*

Dear Lord Jesus, we marvel at your grace. You were willing to come to earth as our brother to live and die in our place. This grace led you to win us as your brothers and sisters and set us up to live with you forever. There is nothing in us that deserves this. It is all by your grace. Today we ask you to use us to extend your grace to others. In Vietnam there are millions hungering and thirsting for the truth that we already know. You have promised that your Gospel is growing and bearing fruit throughout the whole world. We ask you to make us a part of that promise for Vietnam. Bless the WELS as we make plans to support the Hmong Fellowship Church in Vietnam. Bless the people in Vietnam with a deeper understanding of your love. Help us all, by the power of your Word and the clarity of your grace, to lead many more to your eternal family. In your name we pray. Amen.