

Into your hands, O hovering Spirit, we place ourselves: take us and fashion us after your image; let your comfort strengthen, your grace renew, and your fire cleanse us, soul and body, in life and in death, in this world of shadows and in your changeless word of light eternal, now and forever. Amen.



L: Go in PEACE and SERVE the LORD!

C: OKAY! WE WILL!



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Blessing of Hands Service

Gathering

L: God, source of all goodness draw your church together. We are called by the Holy Spirit to serve and love one another. As children of God, we have been marked by the sign of the cross of Christ forever, we are claimed, gathered and sent for the sake of the world. Lord, we ask for your blessings upon our hands. Hands that will be about your work. Hands which will spread love and compassion in your world.

Amen

Song "Lord of Justice"

Words and Music by Larry Olson ©1989 Dakota Road Music

Litany

L: As we live in community with God and one another

C: May our hands be instruments of peace and love

L: For those who are in need of warmth and food

C: May our hands prepare quilts and a banquet

L: When a stranger is in our midst

C: **May our hands extend a welcome.**

L: For the teaching and instruction of all people

C: **May our hands be in the Word of God.**

L: When injustice is in the world and in our communities

C: **May our hands write letters and peacefully join others.**

L: In times of sorrow, sickness and great suffering

C: **May our hands be embrace the broken and offer prayers**

L: For those who are in need of physical structures

C: **May our hands build homes, schools, and wells.**

L: God, may we be reminded what ever the need, large or small, you are at work in our hands. May we serve generously, lovingly, and faithfully.

C: Amen

Blessing of Hands

The palms of hands will be marked by the sign of the cross with anointed oil.

Songs during Blessing of the Hands:

“Build Up”

Words and music by Larry Olson and Hans Peterson ©1995 Dakota Road Music

“Everybody’s Got Something to Offer”

Words and music by Larry Olson ©1998 Dakota Road Music

“Journey of Praise”

Words and Music by Larry Olson, David Lee Brown, and Karol Baer ©1998 Dakota Road Music

Affirmation of Service

L: Sisters and Brother in Christ, God is at work. God is working through us, in us, and by our hands. Will you look to Jesus, who frees us from a service of sin and death, as our example in freely serving others with our hands in love, compassion and humility?

C: We will, and we ask God to help us.

Prayer of Commitment ELW p. 86

Into your hands, almighty God, we place ourselves: our minds to know you, our hearts to love you, our wills to serve you, for we are yours. Into your hands, incarnate Savior, we place ourselves: receive us and draw us after you, that we may follow your steps; abide in us and enliven us by the power of your indwelling.