

Litany of Thanksgiving and Renewal

On the anniversary of the congregation.

As we gather at this baptismal font in the light of this Easter Candle, reminding us of our beginnings as Christ's Church, we call on the Holy Spirit to come among us as we give thanks to God. Let us renew our commitment to God's mission.

Praise the Lord! Praise the name of the Lord!

Praise the Lord! Give thanks to God!

God has blessed us and brought us to this time.

God has blessed us and brought us to this place.

God has come to dwell in our midst.

God has stirred our hearts and made us glad.

God has been known through the Beloved Word.

God has shown us the way of life.

Praise the Lord! Praise the name of the Lord!

Praise the Lord! Give thanks to God!

For eighty-eight years, God has nurtured and fed us.

For eighty-eight years, God has shown us grace.

For eighty-eight years, God has been revealed in Word and Sacrament.

For eighty-eight years, God has empowered us with the Holy Spirit.

For eighty-eight years, God has made us witnesses in the church and in the world.

For eighty-eight years, God has placed us in community with one another.

For eighty-eight years, God has invited us to welcome all people to Christ's table.

For eighty-eight years, God has empowered us to love everyone.

Praise the Lord! Praise the name of the Lord!

Praise the Lord! Give thanks to God!

The Lord God, in great goodness, has blessed us in mission and ministry as First English Lutheran Church.

We are a remembering people, and it is good that we recall that God has chosen us, baptized us, and brought us together as the Church of Christ in this place.

We are a remembering people, and we know the saving acts of God: the Creation, the Flood, the Covenant, the Exodus, the Incarnation, the Crucifixion, the Resurrection of Christ, and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

We are a remembering people, and we are also a people of this day, brought together by God to be a beloved community: the Body of Christ, sharing, caring, working in the world, and living in the hope and joy of the Gospel.

We look back with thanksgiving.

We trust God in the present.

We look forward in hope.

Therefore, with thanksgiving for the past, trust in the present, and hope for the future, let us dedicate ourselves and our lives to the mission which God gives us as the Church of Jesus Christ in this place.

Gracious God, we give you thanks for the work you have done in this place. We give you thanks for your love and faithfulness. When we called on your name, you made your presence known to us. When we prayed, you received us. When we preached your Word

and celebrated your Sacraments, you were in our midst. You have accepted our humble sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving. You have listened to our confessions and forgiven our sins. You have sent your Holy Spirit to heal and comfort our hurts, our sorrows, our infirmities, and our losses, and to show us the beauty and celebrations of life.

Continue to empower us with your Spirit, as we proclaim your Gospel to all people.

We dedicate our lives to your service.

Help us to witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ in all that we do and say.

We dedicate our lives to your service.

Show us how to care and support those in need, being with the broken and marginalized in love and mercy.

We dedicate our lives to your service.

Show us new ways of loving and welcoming one another and those to whom you call us.

We dedicate our lives to your service.

Break down those prejudices and barriers which divide, and make us all one in the healing power of Jesus Christ.

Hear our prayer.

Renew us by the Spirit, as you challenge us to move beyond our ruts, our apathy, and our anxieties.

Hear our prayer.

Grant that we may grow in the Spirit and in the ministry that you give us,
as we carry out your mission of love and service.

Hear our prayer.

Continue to comfort, heal, and abide with the broken and afflicted, those in any need, and
all whom we name now... By the promise of your presence, bring your healing and renewal.

Hear our prayer.

Bring us at last to the fullness of your eternal joy, where, with the faithful of this church
who have gone before us, with all your saints, and with all your people, we will praise you
forever.

Hear our prayer.

Blessed God, draw our hearts to you, guide our minds, fill our imaginations, control our
wills and make us wholly yours. Use us as you will, always to your glory and the care of all
people; we pray all of this, and all those things that you know we need, in the strong name
of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and forever.

Amen! Thanks be to God!