



ASSEMBLY

REQUIRED: TITLE 42

*A resource for initiating vital conversations
surrounding global displacement*



Lutheran Immigration
and Refugee Service











Assembly Required draws from the language of a current humanitarian need to inform a community's liturgical landscape and discussions. Just as prayers and hymn choices draw from the vocabulary of Advent in December, for example, Assembly Required offers the community a liturgical resource that draws from the language of a particular humanitarian need. This treats the active needs of our neighbor as sacred texts, so that the worship and dialogues of our faith communities are never so polished that they are removed from the immediacy of human need.

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→ Take Action

-  Act
-  Donate
-  Advocate
-  Pray
-  Teach





SERMON BUILDING BLOCKS

GOSPEL FOR SUNDAY, MAY 14TH

JOHN 14: 15- 21

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

- ➔ "If you love me, you will keep my commandments" – John 14:15, from the lectionary for Sunday, May 14th
 - o On this first Sunday after the lifting of Title 42, we have an immediate low-hanging fruit opportunity to emphasize love and honoring God's commandments – which compel us to take care of our neighbor
 - o Title 42 may very well not be on the minds of many parishioners, and it may heatedly be on the mind of others. As the news of increased numbers and increased need at the southern border surely ramps up, it will be timely to orient your community toward values of love and acceptance of the most vulnerable among us.
- ➔ "I will ask the Father, and I will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever."
 - o As God has sent us an advocate, the Holy Spirit, to attest to the presence of God in all things – how might we offer our selves as advocates for those who are in the midst of trial?
 - o How can we help make God's ever-present love present for those who are fleeing hardship and seeking safety?



- “I will not leave you orphaned”
 - This is particularly poignant in the context of Title 42, as so many children were separated from their parents at the border, many of whom have yet to be reunited.
 - This passage provides the preacher an opportunity to pose the bold pastoral question: If God has promised to leave no one orphaned, what is our obligation to these children of God being separated at the border?
- Story Pieces:
 - [I Was a Stranger](#)
 - [A Family Heals](#)

LITURGICAL PIECES

PRAYERS AND OTHER LANGUAGE FOR THE ASSEMBLY

- Short Prayer
 - Ever present God, we ask for healing and peace for all those who are seeking shelter from harm. Move our leaders, and move each one of us, with a spirit of compassion and justice for all of our kin. In your name we pray, amen.
- Medium Prayer
 - Ever present God, we ask for healing and peace for all those who are seeking shelter from harm. Grant wisdom to our leaders, compassion to your people, and compel us all to pursue justice and share love with all of our neighbors. Amen.
- Long Prayer
 - Ever present God, we ask your presence to be made known among all who find themselves walking vulnerable paths today. We pray especially for those siblings who are experiencing the uncertainties of immigration, and the stresses of seeking shelter from harm. Where there is bodily injury, and mental and emotional duress, we ask for healing and peace. And where there are human-made boundaries and restrictions to this peace and the shelter we all desire, we ask for wisdom and compassion to be stirred in our leaders. Guide us all to a reality that



welcomes the weary and comforts the wounded. In the name of the Healing One, we pray, Amen.

→ Benediction:

- o May God our Father and Mother carry you in peace. May the Spirit of Justice empower you. And may Christ who walked among the most vulnerable of this earth compel you to share His love, and impart His peace to all. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

TAKE ACTION

Having reflected on the needs of our neighbors through the lens of the Good News, we are compelled to act. The LIRS ADAPT model highlights ways you and your faith community can take action depending on your interest, gifts, and context. Please consider the following opportunities and share them with others!

→ **ACT**

- o The LIRS [Fresh Change](#) program is an opportunity for your community to tangibly care for our neighbors at the Southern Border by packing clothing kits.

→ **DONATE**

- o [Support LIRS Welcome Centers](#) to serve families as they build a new life and imagine a new future.

→ **ADVOCATE**

- o Stay up to date on asylum policies and advocacy opportunities at the [LIRS Asylum Hub](#).

→ **PRAY**

- o Interested in additional faith-based resources for your community? Check out the [LIRS EMMAUS Network for Congregations](#).

→ **TEACH**

- o Learn more about the experiences and stories of our newest neighbors in [LIRS Asylum Seekers video playlist](#).