

# Celebration of Ministry Retreats

April 24 - April 26, 2019

San Antonio, Texas

GROW<sub>IN</sub>  
GRACE

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PARTNERING  
WITH PASTORS

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Opening and Closing Services



Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

# Opening Service

HYMN

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing  
CW 141

*Stand for the final stanza.*



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing  
2 Might - y Vic - tim from the sky,  
3 Now no more can death ap - pall,  
4 Eas - ter tri - umph, Eas - ter joy!  
5 Fa - ther, who the crown shall give,



Praise to our vic - to - rious King,  
Hell's fierce pow'rs be - neath you lie.  
Now no more the grave en - thrall;  
This a - lone can sin de - stroy;  
Sav - ior, by whose death we live,



Who has washed us in the tide Flow - ing  
You have con - quered in the fight; You have  
You have o - pened par - a - dise, And your  
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free, New - born  
Spir - it, guide through all our days, Three in



from his pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!  
brought us life and light. Al - le - lu - ia!  
saints in you shall rise. Al - le - lu - ia!  
souls in you to be. Al - le - lu - ia!  
One, your name we praise. Al - le - lu - ia!

**M:** In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen.

## DIALOGUE OF PRAISE

*Songs of Praise from the New Testament*

**M:** Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people.

**C:** **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to all on whom his favor rests.**

**M:** He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.

**C:** **Our eyes have seen his salvation, which he prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to his people Israel.**

**M:** Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!

**C:** **Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.**

**M:** God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**C:** **Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!**

**M:** Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the ages. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.

**C:** **Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! To him be the glory forever!**

*All sing:*

*Introduction*

**Give us lips to sing thy glory, tongues thy mercy to proclaim,  
Throats to shout the hope that fills us, mouths to speak thy holy name.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! May the light which thou dost send  
Fill our songs with alleluias, Alleluias without end!**

**God the Father, light-creator, to thee laud and honor be.  
To thee, Light from Light begotten, praise be sung eternally.  
Holy Spirit, light-revealer, glory, glory be to thee.  
Mortals, angels, now and ever praise the holy Trinity!**

*(CW 280:5,6)*

## Service of the Word

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### PRAYER OF THE DAY

**M:** Let us pray.

O risen Lord, you came to your disciples and took away their fears with your word of peace. Come to us also by Word and sacrament, and banish our fears with the comforting assurance of your abiding presence; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** **Amen.** *(spoken)*

*Be seated.*

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 30

*Sing the refrain with the cantor.*

*Refrain*

At the works of your hands, O Lord, I  
lift up my voice in song; I sing for joy.

*Psalm tone*

\*

*Sing the verses of the psalm responsively with the cantor.*

Sing to the LORD, you saints of his;\*  
praise his holy name.

**For his anger lasts only a moment,\***  
**but his favor lasts a lifetime;**

weeping may remain for a night,\*  
but rejoicing comes in the morning.

*Refrain*

To you, O LORD, I called;\*  
to the Lord I cried for mercy.

**Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me;\***  
**O LORD, be my help.**

You turned my wailing into dancing,\*  
that my heart may sing to you and not be silent.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy Spirit,**  
**as it was in the beginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*Refrain*

Refrain Tune: Steven Warner. © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL, www.giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

SECOND LESSON

2 Peter 1:16-21

*Peter proclaims the certainty of the message about the powerful coming of Christ*

## VERSE OF THE DAY

*The verse is sung by the cantor.*

Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia.

*Stand.*

## GOSPEL OF THE DAY

**John 20:19-31**

*Jesus appears to the disciples and then to Thomas.*

*After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:*



*After the Gospel, the congregation sings:*



*Be seated.*



EASTER

## 165 O Sons and Daughters of the King



1 O sons and daugh - ters of the King,  
 2 On that first morn - ing of the week,  
 3 An an - gel bade their sor - row flee,  
 4 That night th' a - pos - tles met in fear;  
 5 When Thom - as af - ter - wards had heard



Whom heav'n - ly hosts in glo - ry sing,  
 Be - fore the day be - gan to break,  
 For thus he spoke un - to the three,  
 A - mong them came their Lord most dear  
 That Je - sus had ful - filled his word,



To - day the grave has lost its sting!  
 The Mar - ys went their Lord to seek.  
 "Your Lord will go to Gal - i - lee."  
 And said, "Peace be un - to you here."  
 He doubt - ed that is was the Lord.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

- 6 "Thomas, behold my side," said he,  
 "My hands, my feet, my body see;  
 And doubt not, but believe in me."  
 Alleluia!
- 7 No longer Thomas then denied;  
 He saw the feet, the hands, the side;  
 "You are my Lord and God," he cried.  
 Alleluia!
- 8 Blessèd are they that have not seen  
 And yet whose faith has constant been;  
 In life eternal they shall reign.  
 Alleluia!
- 9 On this most holy day of days  
 To God your hearts and voices raise  
 In laud and jubilee and praise.  
 Alleluia!

Text: attr. Jean Tisserand, d. 1494, abr.; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-66, alt.  
 Tune: GELOBT SEI GOTT (888 with Alleluias) Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570-1615, alt.

**A Loving Shepherd Is My Lord**

*Stand.*

**NICENE CREED**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**HYMN**

**He Is Arisen! Glorious Word**  
CW 162

He is arisen! Glorious Word!  
Now reconciled is God, my Lord;  
The gates of heav'n are open.  
My Jesus did triumphant die,  
And Satan's arrows broken lie,  
Destroyed hell's fiercest weapon.  
Oh, hear what cheer!  
Christ victorious, rising glorious,  
Life is giving.  
He was dead, but now is living!

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**M:** Gracious God and Lord, in love we cannot fathom or explain, you sent your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to undo the damage of Eden and restore the peace of Paradise. Fill us with awe as we consider your grace and keep our faith strong as we hold to your promises.

**C:** **Let the fire of your love burn in our hearts.**

**M:** In these past weeks, Lord, we have heard again the life-changing good news that your Son carried the sins of the world to his cross and then rose from death to guarantee and proclaim his

victory. We have known these truths since childhood, but we pray that you lead us to believe them with fresh and joyful confidence.

**C: Let the comfort of Good Friday and the victory of Easter burn in our hearts.**

**M:** O Lord, sometimes we find it difficult to express how grateful we are that you have chosen us to serve in your Church. We recognized our weaknesses long ago and more than once we wondered if we were fit for service in the kingdom. In your amazing grace, however, you equipped us and now support us as we herald and reflect your gospel in the place where we live. Lead us every day to rely on your love and give thanks for your grace.

**C: Let your promises and power burn in our hearts.**

**M:** We know very well, Lord, that we do not deserve your blessings. We carry the same infection of sin that all people bear, and we sin day and night in the thoughts we think, the words we speak, and the actions we take or fail to take. Forgive our sins for the sake of your Son's suffering, blood, and death. Comfort our grieving conscience and lift our weary spirit.

**C: Let the reality and certainty of your forgiveness burn in our hearts.**

**M:** You have forgiven our sins, Lord. This is your promise, and your promise cannot fail. Now keep Satan away from us when he comes with his lies and half-truths and threatens to end us with his conniving power. Make us strong as we remember our Baptism and give us resolve as you forgive our sins in the Sacrament of your body and blood.

**C: Let the comfort of your Word and sacraments burn in our hearts.**

**M:** We thank you, Lord, for all the people who have encouraged and supported us over the years. The list is long, and we must hold many of them in our hearts. We thank you especially for that special Christian who stands beside us and shares our deepest fears and greatest joys. Protect our family in these troubled times and guide us as we walk together toward our eternal home.

**C: Let the wonder of these unique gifts burn in our hearts.**

**M:** Lord, we pray for the people we serve, the men, women, and children you have given us to shepherd and guide. Protect them from the devils and demons that surround them, instill in them a longing love for your message, and empower them to share the good news with their families and neighbors.

**C: Let the miracles we see in the lives of your saints burn in our hearts.**

**M:** Lead us, Lord, to be always content with the little blessings you give and yet always eager to achieve grand triumphs for your kingdom. Give us a heart for each soul but give us a vision for all people. Lead us to look for young Christians who love your Son and move us to encourage them toward ministry.

**C: Let the countless opportunities that stand before us burn in our hearts.**

**M:** Thank you, Lord, for making us the people we are and leading us to the people we serve. Hold us all in your gracious hand, fire us all to proclaim your everlasting gospel, and guide us all to the Paradise of eternal life.

**C: Let the fire of your love burn in our hearts. Amen.**



## Service of the Sacrament

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### PREFACE

**M:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**M:** Lift up your hearts.

**C:** **We lift them up to the Lord.**

**M:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C:** **It is good and right so to do.**

**M:** It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, and we praise you this day for the great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us and by whose testimony you have fixed our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

*Sanctus*

**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,  
God of might: heav'n and earth are full of your glo -  
ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless -

ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san -  
na in the high - est. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**M:** Blessed are you, O God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. By his victory over the grave, our Savior declared death's reign ended, the door to heaven open, and the payment for sin complete.

We celebrate with joy the glorious resurrection of your Son.  
We marvel at the depth of your love.  
We stand in awe of your power.  
We are humbled by the compassion you have shown our fallen race.

Lead us to rejoice in the pardon offered and sealed in this Sacrament and to live a life worthy of your name. The Lord Jesus lives! Alleluia.

**C:** Amen.

## LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**M:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my  $\text{\texttimes}$  body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

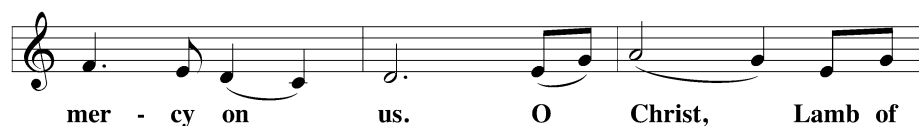
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my  $\text{\texttimes}$  blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

**M:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C:** Amen.

## LAMB OF GOD

*Agnus Dei*



*Be seated.*

## DISTRIBUTION

Holy Communion is distributed in groups of 10-12 on each side of the altar as directed by the ushers. The ushers will invite communicants table by table to approach the altar from the middle of the room and return to their tables by the side of the room. Communicants receiving the common cup may assist the

minister with the chalice. Those receiving the individual cup will find a receptacle placed farther to the left or right.



1 Christ has a - ris - en, al - le - lu - ia.  
 2 For three long days the grave did its worst  
 3 The an - gel said to them, "Do not fear.  
 4 "Go spread the news: he's not in the grave.  
 5 Christ has a - ris - en; he sets us free.



Re - joice and praise him, al - le - lu - ia.  
 Un - til its strength by God was dis - persed.  
 You look for Je - sus who is not here.  
 He has a - ris - en this world to save.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, to him prais - es be.



For our Re - deem - er burst from the tomb,  
 He who gives life did death un - der - go.  
 See for your - selves the tomb is all bare.  
 Je - sus' re - deem - ing la - bors are done.  
 Je - sus is liv - ing! Let us all sing;



E - ven from death, dis - pel - ling its gloom.  
 And in its con - quest his might did show.  
 On - ly the grave cloths are ly - ing there."  
 E - ven the bat - tle with sin is won."  
 He reigns tri - um - phant, heav - en - ly King.

*Refrain*



Let us sing praise to him with end - less joy.



Death's fear - ful sting he has come to de - stroy.



Our sin for - giv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!



Je - sus is liv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!



1 He's ris - en, he's ris - en, Christ Je - sus, the Lord;  
 2 The foe was tri - um - phant when on Cal - va - ry  
 3 But short was their tri - umph; the Sav - ior a - rose,  
 4 Oh, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;  
 5 Then sing your ho - san - nas and raise your glad voice;



He o - pened death's pris - on, the in - car - nate Word.  
 The Lord of cre - a - tion was nailed to the tree.  
 And death, hell, and Sa - tan he van - quished, his foes.  
 Christ rose, and now o - pen is fair E - den's door.  
 Pro - claim the blest tid - ings that all may re - joice.



Break forth, hosts of heav - en, in ju - bi - lant song  
 In Sa - tan's do - main did the hosts shout and jeer,  
 The con - quer - ing Lord lifts his ban - ner on high;  
 For all our trans - gres - sions his blood does a - tone;  
 Laud, hon - or, and praise to the Lamb that was slain,

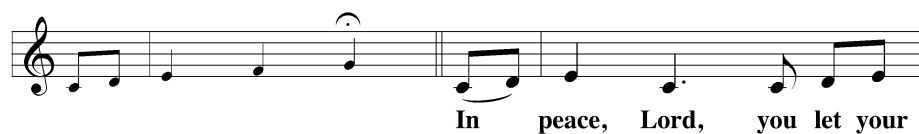


And earth, sea, and moun - tain the prais - es pro - long.  
 For Je - sus was slain, whom the e - vil ones fear.  
 He lives, yes, he lives, and will nev - er - more die.  
 Re - deemed and for - giv - en, we now are his own.  
 Who now sits in glo - ry and ev - er shall reign.

*Following the Distribution, stand at the invitation of the minister.*

## SONG OF SIMEON

*Nunc Dimittis*



## PRAYER

**M:** We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your people until that day when you will receive us as your heavenly guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

## BLESSING

**M:** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C:** Amen.



1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,  
 2 Our hearts be pure from e - vil That we may see a - right  
 3 Now let the heav'ns be joy - ful; Let earth her song be - gin.



The Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, The Pass - o - ver of God.  
 The Lord in rays e - ter - nal Of res - ur - rec - tion light  
 Let all the world keep tri - umph And all that is there - in.



From death to life e - ter - nal, From this world to the sky,  
 And, lis - t'ning to his ac - cents, May hear, so calm and plain,  
 Let all things, seen and un - seen, Their notes of glad - ness blend;



Our Christ has brought us o - ver With hymns of vic - to - ry.  
 His own "All hail!" and, hear - ing, May raise the vic - tor strain.  
 For Christ the Lord has ris - en; Our joy shall have no end.

*Be seated.*

### Service Participants

**Presiding Minister**

Richard Gurgel  
*Mequon, WI*

**Preacher**

Charles Degner  
*Colgate, WI*

**Assisting Ministers**

Forrest Bivens, Abe Degner,  
 Darron Lindemann, and Mark Paustian

**Ushers**

Mark Gabb and Joe Johnson

**Keyboard**

Michelle Mayer  
*San Antonio, TX*

**Cantor**

Mark Zarling  
*New Ulm, MN*

### Acknowledgements

We thank Our Savior, San Antonio, and Holy Word, Austin, for the use of their communion ware and altar cross.

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# Closing Service: Affirmation of Ordination Vows

*We end our retreat where it began, gathered around the means of grace of our risen Lord for our strengthening and to proclaim the glory of his saving name. The heartbeat of this closing service is the truth that God does use frail yet forgiven jars of clay like Peter, like John, and like you and me, to serve him in his kingdom as royal priests and public ministers. In the face of any and all opposition, internal and external, day by day in his grace he restores us and re-commissions us as his representatives to a dying world. We will remember that in a special way as we imitate Jesus and Peter by the Sea of Galilee and close with an affirmation of ordination vows. In the affirmation, we reach back and yet at the same time look ahead, renewed in confidence in him who sends us out to make an eternal difference in this world.*

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*Silence for meditation.*

## HYMN

## Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled

CWS 759

*The cantor sings the refrain. All repeat the refrain and sing it again as indicated.*

Do not let your hearts be trou-bled, have faith in God and faith in  
me. I will go forth to pre-pare a place for you, then I'll come  
back to take you with me, that where I am, you may al - so be.

*The cantor sings the verses.*

In God's house there are many places for you alone to dwell in safety.  
You know the way to where I'll lead you, if you are lost, I will show the way.

*Refrain*

I am the way, the truth and the life, only through me can you know what I know.  
If you knew me, you would know the Father, if you see me, you see your God.

*Refrain*

The words I speak are not only of myself, it is your God who lives within me.  
If you believe that your God and I are one, I will provide when you call my name.

*Refrain*

*Silence for meditation.*

*Stand.*

## DIALOGUE

**M:** Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. *Romans 1:7*

**C:** **Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance.** *Jude 2*

**M:** "Peace, peace, to those far and near," says the LORD. "Peace to this house." *Isaiah 57:19; Luke 10:5*

**C:** **Peace to all of you who are in Christ.** *1 Peter 5:14*

**M:** The LORD gives strength to his people;

**C:** **the LORD blesses his people with peace.** *Psalms 29:11*

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**M:** Confident of his peace, let us confess our sins.

**C:** **Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
in our thoughts,  
in our words,  
in our deeds,  
and in all that we have not done.  
Forgive us in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Deliver and restore us,  
that we may live in peace.**

**M:** By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in him we are forgiven. We have his peace now and as we return to our homes, where we shall serve him in newness of life.

**C:** **Amen.**

**M:** Let us pray.

Almighty God, look with favor on those whom you have called to minister to your people. Fill them with love for your doctrine and clothe them with holiness of life that they may joyfully serve to the glory of your name and for the benefit of your Church; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C:** **Amen.**

*Be seated.*

## READING

**Isaiah 6:1-8**

*God's atoning grace empowers Isaiah's willing service*

## HYMN

**Lord of the Living Harvest**

*CW 559 alt.*

*This hymn is often used on Call Day at WLS.*

Lord of the living harvest  
That whitens o'er the plain,  
Where angels soon shall gather  
Their sheaves of golden grain,  
Accept our hands for labor,  
Our hearts which trust and love,  
Be with us all and hasten  
Your kingdom from above.

As workers in your vineyard,  
Lord, make us strong and true,  
Content to bear the burden  
Of weary days for you.  
To ask no other wages,  
When you will call us home,  
Than to have shared the labor  
That makes your kingdom come.

Be with us, God the Father,  
Be with us, God the Son,  
And God the Holy Spirit,  
Most blessed Three in one.  
Make us your faithful servants  
You rightly to adore,

And fill us with your blessing  
Both now and evermore.

SERMON

Revelation 1:9-20

*You Rest in the Hand of the Living Jesus!*



1 Dear Lord, to your true ser - vants give The grace to  
 2 They glad - ly go at your com - mand To spread your  
 3 When all their la - bor seems in vain, Re - vive their  
 you a - lone to live. Set free from sin to  
 Word o'er sea and land. Be with them, Lord, and  
 sink - ing hopes a - gain; And when suc - cess crowns  
 serve you, Lord, They go to share your  
 make them strong To heal sin's ills, to  
 what they do, Oh, keep them hum - ble,  
 liv - ing Word, The gos - pel mes - sage to pro -  
 right the wrong. Your rule is o - ver wind and  
 Lord, and true Un - til be - fore your judg - ment  
 claim That all may know your sav - ing name.  
 wave, And might - y is your arm to save.  
 seat They lay their tro - phies at your feet.

*Pastors stand.*

## AFFIRMATION OF ORDINATION VOWS

**M:** Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ said to his Church: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Holy Scripture assures us that our risen and ascended Lord will always provide the Church with the gifts necessary to carry out this commission. The apostle Paul writes to the Ephesians, "He who had ascended higher than all the heavens in order to fill the whole universe gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the Body of Christ might be built up."

## EXHORTATION

**M:** Dear brothers in Christ, your congregations have called you to serve in the office of the holy ministry. It is good that you should hear again what God in his holy Word impresses on his pastors concerning this sacred office.

St. Paul states that a pastor “must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.”

He urges Timothy to “set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.” He further advises him: “Devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching, and to teaching. Watch your life and your doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.”

In the final chapter of his second letter to Timothy, the apostle gives additional words of encouragement: “Preach the Word. Correct, rebuke and encourage, with great patience and careful instruction. Keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist.”

As a minister of the gospel, you are Christ’s ambassador, commissioned by him to preach the Word and administer the Sacraments. Our ascended Lord has given you as a gift to his Body, the Church, and he has appointed you to love and serve it. You are called to offer prayers and intercessions for his people; to feed, to instruct, to watch over, and to guide the sheep and the lambs of God’s flock, remembering that Christ has bought each of them with his own blood. You are also called to protect the flock from savage wolves who, as the Scriptures say, will try to scatter it.

For such a ministry you will gladly seek the strength which Christ alone can provide by devoting yourself to meditation and study of the Scriptures. Only by being nourished in the truths of the faith will you be able to carry out the duties of this office and set an example in godliness and Christian living.

The ability to carry out this calling is not in us, but comes alone from God, as St. Paul reminds the Corinthian Christians: “Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God.”

## **PROMISES BY THE PASTORS**

**M:** In keeping with the word and will of the Lord, you have been ordained into the ministry and installed as pastors in your various churches and callings. I ask you, in the presence of God and each other to affirm the promises you have made: Are you fully determined to carry out this work according to the grace which God will give?

**I am.**

**M:** Do you believe that the canonical books of the Old and New Testament are the inspired Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice?

**I do.**

**M:** Do you accept the three Ecumenical Creeds—the Apostles’, the Nicene, and the Athanasian—as faithful testimonies to the truth of the Holy Scriptures, and do you reject all the errors which they condemn?

**I do.**

**M:** Do you believe that the Unaltered Augsburg Confession is a true exposition of the Word of God and a correct presentation of the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church; and that the other confessions in the Book of Concord are also in agreement with this one scriptural faith: the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Small and Large Catechisms of Martin Luther, the Smalcald Articles, and the Formula of Concord?

**I do.**

**M:** Do you solemnly promise that all your teaching and your administration of the Sacraments will conform to the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions?

**I do.**

**M:** Will you give faithful witness to Christ in the world that God's love may be known in all that you do and say?

**I will, and I ask God to help me.**

**M:** Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

*All stand.*

## **PRAYER**

**M:** O Lord God, heavenly Father, you are the one who sends out pastors to serve your holy Church; yet they will be unable to do this unless you give them power from on high. Fill your servants with your Holy Spirit. Lead and guide them with your strong right hand that they may faithfully carry out the ministry entrusted to them, and so bring glory to your name and blessings to your people; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C:** **Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**C:** **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.**

## **ENCOURAGEMENT AND BLESSING**

**M:** Brothers, you have been ordained as ministers of the Church and installed in your various callings. Our gracious Lord promises to pour out on you his Holy Spirit for the work committed to you that you may faithfully proclaim the gospel in Word and Sacraments. Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

**M:** The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** **Amen.**



Rise! To arms! With prayer employ you,  
O Christians, lest the foe destroy you,  
For Satan has designed your fall.  
Wield God's Word, a weapon glorious;  
Against each foe you'll be victorious;  
Our God will set you o'er them all.  
Fear not the prince of hell –  
Here is Immanuel! Sing hosanna!  
The strong ones yield to Christ, our shield,  
And we as conqu'rors hold the field.

Jesus, all your children cherish,  
And keep them that they never perish  
Whom you have purchased with your blood.  
Let new life to us be given  
That we may look to you in heaven  
Whenever fearful is our mood.  
Your Spirit on us pour  
That we may love you more,  
Hearts o'erflowing; and then shall we,  
From sin set free, sing praise through all eternity.

### Service Participants

**Presiding Minister and Preacher**

Richard Gurgel  
*Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary*

**Keyboard**

Michelle Mayer  
*San Antonio, TX*

### Acknowledgements

Elements of this service are modified from: *Christian Worship Supplement* (Responses, from Midday Meditation) and *Christian Worship Occasional Services* (Confession and Absolution, from Prayer at the Close of Day; Ordination and Installation of a Pastor).

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11831 North Seminary Drive • Mequon, Wisconsin 53092 • [www.wls.wels.net](http://www.wls.wels.net)