

Celebration of Ministry Retreats
Closing Service

GROW_{IN}
GRACE

PARTNERING
WITH PASTORS

April 2022
San Antonio, Texas



Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

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 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.

953 | Holy God, We Praise Your Name

1 Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Lord of
2 Hark! The glad ce - les - tial hymn an - gel
3 All a - pos - tles join the strain as your
4 You are King of glo - ry, Christ, Son of
5 Ho - ly Fa - ther, ho - ly Son, Ho - ly

all, we bow be - fore you. All on
choirs a - bove are rais - ing; cher - u -
sa - cred name they hal - low; proph - ets
God, yet born of Mar - y, for us
Spir - it, three we name you, though in

earth your scep - ter claim; all in heav'n a -
bim and ser - a - phim, in un - ceas - ing
swell the glad re - frain, and the white - robed
sin - ners sac - ri - ficed, on the cross our
es - sence on - ly one, un - di - vid - ed

bove a - dore you. In - fi - nite your vast do -
cho - rus prais - ing, fill the heav'ns with sweet ac -
mar - tyrs fol - low, and from morn to set of
sins did car - ry; first to break the bars of
God we claim you, and, a - dor - ing, bend the

main, ev - er - last - ing is your reign.
cord: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!"
sun through the Church the song goes on.
death, you have o - pened heav'n to faith.
knee while we own the mys - ter - y.

Stand

I rejoiced with those who said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the Lord."

How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord Almighty!
Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.

The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us
so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Jesus was delivered over to death for our sins
and was raised to life for our justification.

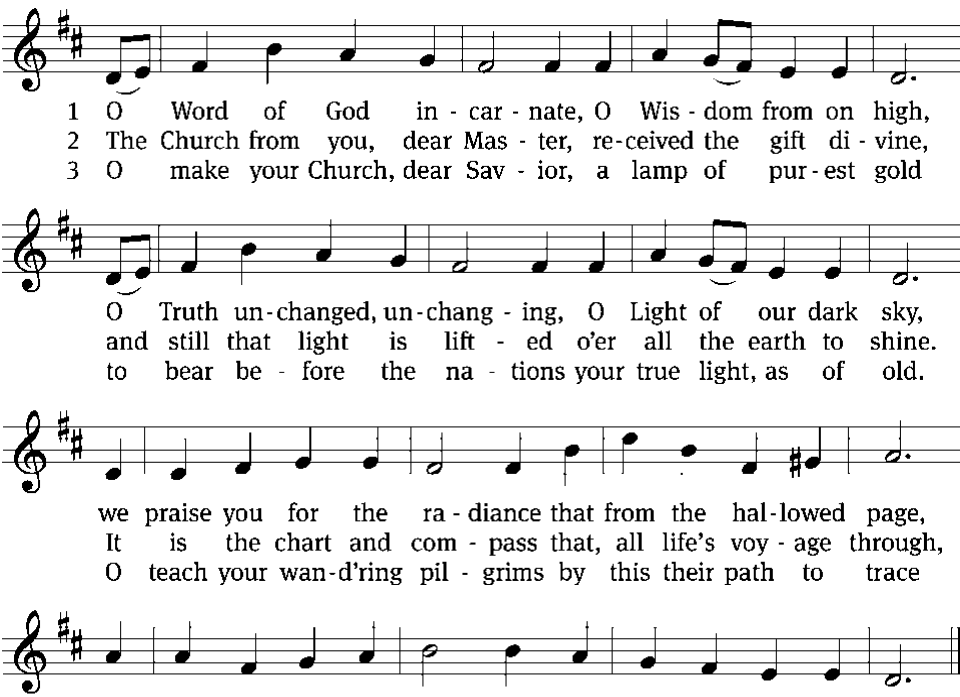
Death has been swallowed up in victory!
Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Be seated



642 | O Word of God Incarnate



1 O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
 2 The Church from you, dear Mas - ter, re - ceived the gift di - vine,
 3 O make your Church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of pur - est gold

O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky,
 and still that light is lift - ed o'er all the earth to shine.
 to bear be - fore the na - tions your true light, as of old.

we praise you for the ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page,
 It is the chart and com - pass that, all life's voy - age through,
 O teach your wan - d'ring pil - grims by this their path to trace

a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.
 mid mists and rocks and quick - sands still guides, O Christ, to you.
 till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, they see you face to face.

Sermon

Wednesday:

“You Rest in the Hand of the Living Jesus!”

Revelation 1:9–20

President Richard Gurgel

Martin Luther College

New Ulm, MN

Friday:

Luke 24:50–51

Pastor Tom Kock

Atonement Ev. Lutheran Church

Milwaukee, WI

Stand

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Affirmation of Ordination Vows

Pastors remain standing. Others may be seated.

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

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

Encouragement and Blessing

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.

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

Amen.

640 | God's Word Is Our Great Heritage

God's Word is our great heritage
and shall be ours forever;
to spread its light from age to age
shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way,
in death it is our stay.
Lord, grant, while worlds endure,
we keep its teachings pure
throughout all generations.

Service Participants

Presiding Minister

Bradley Wordell, Mequon, WI

Preacher

Richard Gurgel, New Ulm, MN
Tom Kock, Milwaukee, WI

Keyboard

Aaron Christie, Mequon, WI
Michelle Mayer, San Antonio, TX

Acknowledgments

Service of Word and Prayer from Christian Worship

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