



**– A Service of Commissioning –
WELS Home and World Missions**

**Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary
The Seminary Auditorium**

11:00 a.m.

June 14, 2025

Order of Service

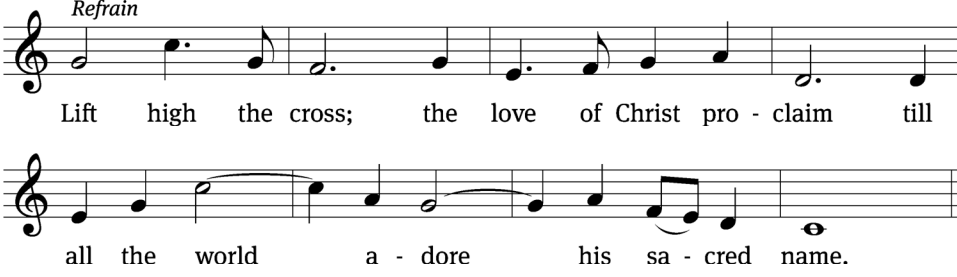
OPENING HYMN

Lift High the Cross

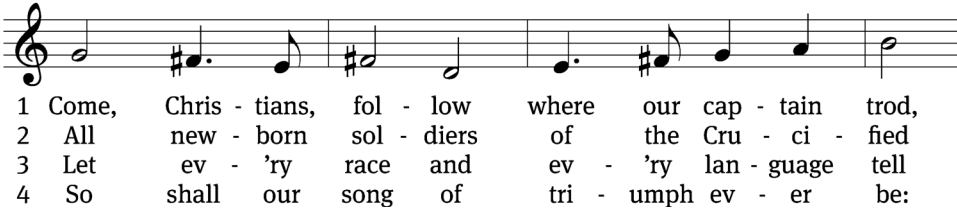
Christian Worship 900

Stand and face the cross when the hymn is introduced. The cross will be processed to the chancel, where the saving work of Christ crucified is our central focus. Turn toward the cross as it passes by.

Refrain

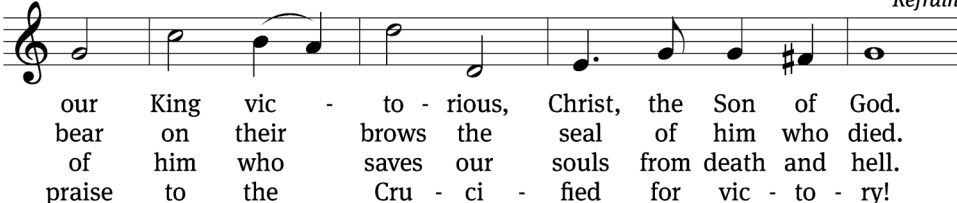


Lift high the cross; the love of Christ pro-claim till
all the world a-dore his sa-cred name.



1 Come, Chris-tians, fol-low where our cap-tain trod,
2 All new-born sol-diers of the Cru-ci-fied
3 Let ev-'ry race and ev-'ry lan-guage tell
4 So shall our song of tri-umph ev-er be:

Refrain



our King vic-to-rious, Christ, the Son of God.
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
of him who saves our souls from death and hell.
praise to the Cru-ci-fied for vic-to-ry!

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

**We have done those things that we should not have done,
and we have not done those things that we should have done.**

Have mercy on us, Lord!

**Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,
according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

Silence for meditation and reflection

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY *Kyrie*

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Glory Be to God *Gloria in excelsis*

All Glory Be to God on High

Christian Worship 935



1 All glo - ry be to God on high and thanks for all his
2 We praise and laud and wor - ship you; we give you thanks for -
3 O Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son, be - got - ten of the
4 O Ho - ly Spir - it, our de - light and source of con - so -



fa - vor; no harm can touch or ter - ri - fy a child of
ev - er, O Fa - ther, for your rule is true and just and
Fa - ther, your sav - ing death has made us one with God and
la - tion, pro - tect us from the dev - il's might thro' Je - sus,



God for - ev - er. God shows his good and gra - cious will and
chang - es nev - er. With bound-less pow'r, your might - y reign ful -
with each oth - er. O Lamb of God, to you on high in
our sal - va - tion, who by his death up - on a tree has



grants his peace, the world to fill; all strife at last has end - ed.
fills what-ev - er you or-dain; Lord, grant us ev - 'ry bless - ing!
our dis-tress we sin - ners cry: have mer - cy on us, a - men!
res - cued us from mis - er - y: to this we hold for - ev - er.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Merciful Father, your kindness caused the light of the gospel to shine among us. Use us now as instruments of your love to reach out with the message of salvation to all people. Bless those who labor in the mission fields of our nation and around the world. Grant success to their witness that many may be freed from sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Be seated

FIRST READING

Jonah 3:1–10

¹Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: ²“Go to the great city of Nineveh and to it the message I give you.”

³Jonah obeyed the word of the Lord and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very important city—a visit required three days. ⁴On the first day, Jonah started into the city. He proclaimed: “Forty more

days and Nineveh will be overturned.” ⁵ The Ninevites believed God. They declared a fast, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

⁶ When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. ⁷ Then he issued a proclamation in Nineveh:

“By the decree of the king and his nobles:

Do not let any man or beast, herd or flock, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. ⁸ But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. ⁹ Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish.”

¹⁰ When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction he had threatened.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

O God, Show Us Your Mercy

Christian Worship Psalter 67E



1 O God, show us your mer-cy and bless us with your grace;
2 For you will judge the peo-ples in truth and right-eous-ness,
and cause to shine up-on us the bright-ness of your face,
your rule of per-fect jus-tice all na-tions will con-fess.
that so your way most ho-ly on earth may soon be known,
Let all the peo-ples praise you, let all the na-tions sing;
and un-to ev-'ry peo-ple your sav-ing grace be shown.
then earth in rich a-bun-dance to us its fruit shall bring.
Let all the peo-ples praise you, let all the na-tions sing;
The Lord our God will bless us, his rich-est bless-ing send,
in ev-'ry land let prais-es and songs of glad-ness ring.
and all cre-a-tion praise him to earth's re-mot-est end.

SECOND READING

Romans 10:8–15

⁸But what does it say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: ⁹If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. ¹¹As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, ¹³for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

¹⁴ How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵ And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

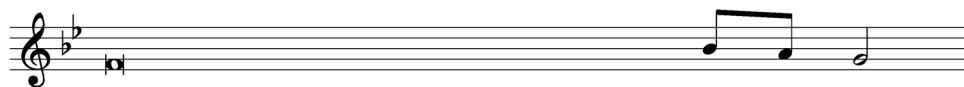
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Refrain



Tone



How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news,

Refrain



who bring salvation, who say to Zion, “Your God reigns!”

GOSPEL

Matthew 9:35–38

³⁵ Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸ Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ.

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying

Christian Worship 745



1 Hark, the voice of Je - sus cry - ing, "Who will go and work to - day?
2 If you can - not speak like an - gels, if you can - not preach like Paul,
3 If you can - not be a watch - man, stand - ing high on Zi - on's wall,
4 Let none hear you i - dly say - ing, "There is noth - ing I can do,"



Fields are ripe and har - vests wait - ing; who will bear the sheaves a - way?"
you can tell the love of Je - sus, you can say he died for all.
point - ing out the path to heav - en, of - f'ring life and peace to all,
while the mul - ti - tudes are dy - ing, and the Mas - ter calls for you.



Loud and long the Mas - ter call - eth; rich re - ward he of - fers thee.
If you can - not rouse the wick - ed with the judg - ment's dread a - larms,
with your prayers and with your of - f'ring you can do what God de - mands;
Take the task he gives you glad - ly, let his work your plea - sure be;



Who will an - swer, glad - ly say - ing, "Here am I, send me, send me?"
you can lead the lit - tle chil - dren to the Sav - ior's wait - ing arms.
you can be like faith - ful Aar - on, hold - ing up the proph - et's hands.
an - swer quick - ly when he call - eth, "Here am I, send me, send me!"

SERMON

Malachi 1:11

Pastor Larry Schlomer

Proclaim Unstoppable Greatness

"My name will be great among the nations, from where the sun rises to where it sets.
In every place incense and pure offerings will be brought to me, because my name will
be great among the nations," says the LORD Almighty.

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.**

Be seated

OFFERING

Taste of Mission's thank offering will be evenly divided to support Home and World Missions.

RITE OF COMMISSIONING

World Missionaries

Mr. James Brandt

Asia-Oceania Team Leader
Chiang Mai, Thailand

Home Missionaries

Rev. Jacob Bitter

Pan de Vida
Garden Grove, Calif.

Rev. Jacob Borgwardt

Crossroads
Chicago, Ill.

Rev. Ethan Schultz

Lamb of God
Williston, N.D.

Rev. Phillip Valdez

Abiding Savior
Killeen, Texas

Stand to sing

Dear Lord, to Your True Servants Give

Christian Worship 896



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

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Eternal God and Father, we give you thanks for the blessings we share as members of your holy Church, for your gracious Word and sacraments, for opportunities to worship and to grow in faith and knowledge, for occasions to serve and be served, for fellowship with believers in our congregation and in our synod.

Help us to rejoice in these blessings, dear Lord, and to use them faithfully.

Jesus Christ, Lord of the Church, you give grace to your people by calling us to be your witnesses in the world. Open our eyes to see the great and noble mission that lies before us. In the hurting eyes of the

lonely, in the pained eyes of the sick, and in the searching eyes of the lost, help us to see your face, O Jesus, and to serve others as we would serve you.

Awaken us to the opportunities you give to proclaim your message of love.

Holy Spirit, giver of life, through Word and sacrament bestow on us the wisdom and power we need to witness clearly and to act boldly. Help us to speak the truth in love, to give the reason for the hope we have, and to conduct ourselves with gentleness and respect.

Set our hearts on fire as we work and witness for Christ.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray for a family member, an acquaintance, a neighbor, or a friend who does not believe in you, or whose faith is weak or troubled.

Silent prayer

Bless the Church with men and women who are willing to proclaim your Word in places where we cannot go. Keep them and their loved ones in your care, and let nothing hinder their work. By the power of the gospel, restore their spirits each day, so that they do not lose heart as they serve us and others.

Move us to support them with our sincere prayers and generous offerings.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Wherever your Word is proclaimed, O Lord, grant it success. Let your kingdom come to us and others, so that we and many more might join the assembly of saints and angels to sing your praise forever.

Savior of all, hear our prayer and help us in our mission. 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.

BLESSING

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.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Lord of the Living Harvest

Christian Worship (1993) 559

- 1 Lord of the living harvest That ripens o'er the plain,
Where angels soon will gather Their sheaves of golden grain,
Accept our hands to labor, Our hearts to trust and love,
And be with us to hasten Your kingdom from above.
- 2 As lab'ers in your vineyard, Lord, give us work to do,
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.
- 3 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.

Be seated

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Presiding Minister

Pastor Mark Schroeder
WELS President

Preacher

Rev. Larry Schlomer
Administrator, WELS World Missions

Assisting Ministers

Professor Earle Treptow
President, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

Pastor Mark Gabb
Administrator, WELS Home Missions

Organist

David Porth
Pilgrim, Menomonee Falls

Instrumentalists

Brian Genrich, *trumpet*
Jonathan Gumm, *trumpet*
Joshua Bannick, *trombone*
Benjamin Hillmer, *trombone*
Jordan Massiah, *tympani*

Biographies – Newly Commissioned Missionaries

Mr. James Brandt - Asia-Oceania Team Leader

Mr. James Brandt accepted the call to serve the Asia Oceania Team as the team leader in January 2025. In this role, Brandt will guide Asia Oceania Team efforts by leading vision, strategy, and operational planning; coordinating team functions and the efforts of field liaisons; supporting missionaries and their continued development; coordinating mission advancement with the Mission Advancement and Promotions team; and strengthening relationships with national partners and WELS organizations in both the U.S. and Asia Oceania.

Following his graduation from Dr. Martin Luther College in 1985, Brandt served as a teacher in Fond du Lac, Wis. (1985-1989), principal of Lutheran schools in California and Illinois (1989-2002), administrator for the WELS Commission on Lutheran Schools (2002-2009), vice president at Wisconsin Lutheran College (2009-2018), and academic dean at Wisconsin Lutheran High School (2018-2025). He served World Missions as a member of the administrative committee for India missions from 1998-2004. He received his Master of Science in Educational Leadership from the University of Wisconsin–Oshkosh in 1995.

Jim and his wife, Kathy, will move to Chiang Mai, Thailand, in August 2025. They have three adult children: Samuel, Zachary, and Jacob (Katie); and one grandchild, Hazel.

Rev. Jacob Borgwardt – Crossroads, Chicago, Ill.

Jacob Borgwardt, son of Pastor James and Heidi Borgwardt, was born on September 21, 1998, and baptized into God's family on September 27, 1998, at Risen Savior Lutheran Church in Savannah, Georgia. In 2011, his family moved to Fond du Lac, Wis., where he was confirmed in the faith at Redeemer Lutheran Church on May 19, 2013. He graduated from Winnebago Lutheran Academy in 2017, Martin Luther College in 2021 (B.A.), and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in 2025 (M.Div.). Jacob and his wife Liz, née O'Connor, were married on August 13, 2021. Jacob and Liz spent their vicar year in Mount Horeb, Wis., serving at Good News Lutheran Church.

On May 22, 2025, Jacob was assigned to Crossroads Christian Church, a home mission church situated on the north side of Chicago, Ill. Jacob and Liz are excited to serve alongside the members of Crossroads and share the gospel with their neighbors in Chicago.

Rev. Jacob Bitter – Pan de Vida, Garden Grove, Calif.

Jacob Bitter, son of Pastor David and Stacy Bitter, was born on August 28, 1998, in Helena, Mont. From there, his family moved to Fargo, N.D., in 2004, and then to Milwaukee, Wis., in 2013. He graduated from Luther Preparatory School in 2017, Martin Luther College in 2021 (B.A.), and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in 2025 (M.Div.).

During his time at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Jacob worked as an international dormitory supervisor at Wisconsin Lutheran High School for two years. He also served as a summer assistant for several WELS congregations in Florida, Alabama, and Louisiana. He spent his vicar year in Medellin, Colombia, at Santísima Trinidad under the guidance of Pastor Henry Herrera. This past year he served as a senior assistant at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Johnson Creek, Wis.

He and his wife, Sofia Spiegelberg, were married on July 3, 2021, in Lake Mills, Wis. Jacob and Sofia will be moving to Garden Grove, Calif., where Jacob will serve as a pastor at Iglesia Pan de Vida. He and his wife enjoy spending time outside, at the beach, and exploring new cultures and communities together.

Rev. Ethan Schultz – Lamb of God, Williston, N.D.

Ethan Schultz, son of Pastor Michael and Karen Schultz, was born in Flagstaff, Ariz., in August 1995. His family moved to Lawrenceville, Ga., when he was in kindergarten. He attended Luther Preparatory School in Watertown, Wis., for high school where he met his wife, Kylah, née Schroeder. He and Kylah were married after graduating from Martin Luther College in 2018. For one year, they served in Southeast Asia through Friends of China.

Ethan and Kylah are blessed with two sons—Ezra (3) and Judah (1)—and are expecting a daughter. Ezra was born in Aiken, S.C., during Ethan’s vicar year, while Judah was born in Watertown, Wis., during his time serving as a tutor at Luther Preparatory School.

Ethan looks forward to serving as a home missionary at Lamb of God in Williston, N.D., a new mission start with approximately 30 souls that was approved in the spring of 2024.

Rev. Phillip Valdez – Abiding Savior, Killeen, Texas

Phillip Valdez was born on March 3, 1993, in Chula Vista, Calif., and baptized into the family of God on July 31, 1993, at San Felipe de Jesus Catholic Church in Socorro, Texas. He began attending Risen Savior in Chula Vista, Calif., with his mother in 2002 and was confirmed there in 2007. He graduated from Eastlake High School in 2011, Martin Luther College in 2015 (B.A.), and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in 2025 (M.Div.). During his vicar year, Phillip served at Atonement Lutheran Church in Milwaukee, Wis.

On May 22, 2025, Phillip was assigned to serve as a home missionary at Abiding Savior Lutheran Church in Killeen, Texas, a mission congregation serving about 72 souls. Phillip enjoys reading, watching movies, playing video games, and following the sport of boxing. Phillip looks forward to growing in the Word alongside his congregation and reaching the lost souls of Killeen, embracing both the opportunities and challenges of serving a military town as he shares the gospel throughout the community.

PERMISSIONS

Opening Hymn Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956, alt. Tune: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947 Text and tune: © 1974 Hope Publishing Co.

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