

A Service of Commissioning –WELS Home and World Missions

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary The Seminary Auditorium

11:00 a.m. June 15, 2024

Order of Service

OPENING HYMN

O Christians, Haste

Christian Worship 901 (1–3)

Stand to sing stanza three



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.

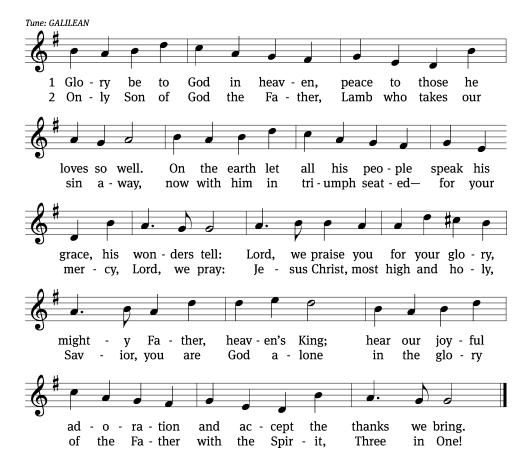
Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Glory Be to God

Glory Be to God in Heaven

The Service: Setting Seven (British Tunes)



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 Isaiah 56:1–8 (NIV)

¹This is what the Lord says: "Maintain justice

and do what is right,

for my salvation is close at hand

and my righteousness will soon be revealed.

²Blessed is the one who does this—

the person who holds it fast,

who keeps the Sabbath without desecrating it,

and keeps their hands from doing any evil."

³Let no foreigner who is bound to the Lord say,

"The Lord will surely exclude me from his people."

And let no eunuch complain,

"I am only a dry tree."

⁴ For this is what the Lord says:

"To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths,

who choose what pleases me

and hold fast to my covenant—

5 to them I will give within my temple and its walls

a memorial and a name

better than sons and daughters;

I will give them an everlasting name

that will endure forever.

⁶ And foreigners who bind themselves to the Lord

to minister to him,

to love the name of the Lord,

and to be his servants,

all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it

and who hold fast to my covenant—

7 these I will bring to my holy mountain

and give them joy in my house of prayer.

Their burnt offerings and sacrifices

will be accepted on my altar;

for my house will be called

a house of prayer for all nations."

⁸The Sovereign Lord declares—

he who gathers the exiles of Israel:

"I will gather still others to them

besides those already gathered."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Christian Worship Psalter 96D



SECOND READING Acts 1:1–11 (NIV)

¹ In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ² until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³ After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

⁶ So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

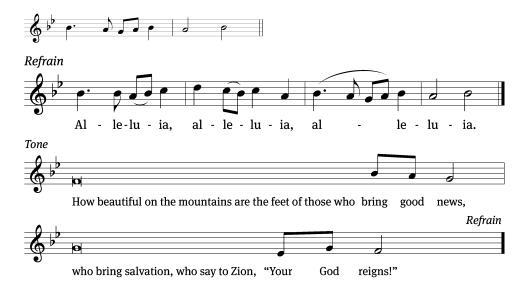
- ⁷ He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
- ⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.
- ¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL Matthew 28:16–20 (NIV)

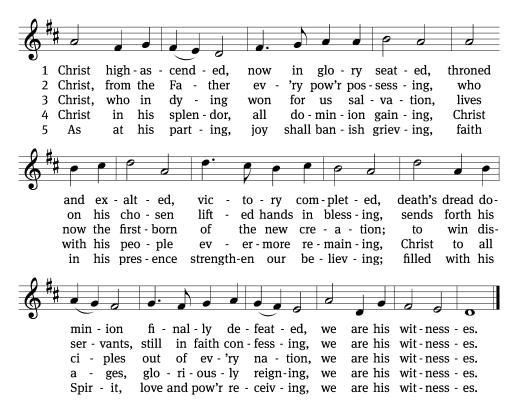
¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Christian Worship 747



SERMON Matthew 28:16–20

Pastor Mark Gabb

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

Rev. Nathan Wagenknecht Native Christians Network Missionary

Farmington, New Mexico

Rev. Peter Janke Missionary to Australia

Brisbane, Queensland

Mr. Jake Vilhauer One Africa Team

Lusaka, Zambia

Mr. Matthias Borgwardt Peridot-Our Savior's Lutheran School

San Carlos Apache Reservation, Arizona

Home Missionaries

Rev. Ben Bitter Peace

Trinity, Florida

Rev. Clayton Fury New Mission Start

Conway, Arkansas

Rev. Tristan Pankow

Living Shepherd Lutheran Church Laramie, Wyoming

Rev. Eli Steinbrenner

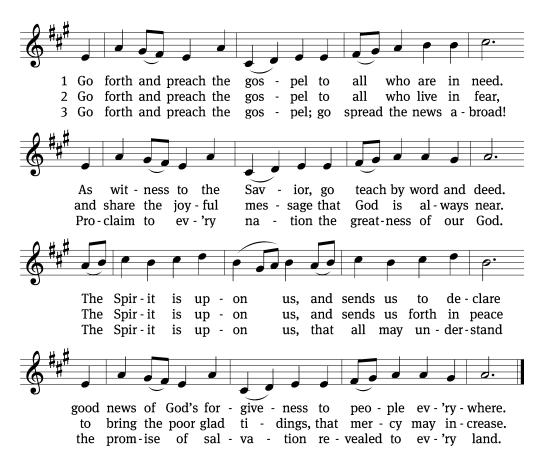
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church *Plymouth, Wisconsin*

Rev. Jacob Ungemach

New Mission Start Cincinnati (Oakley), Ohio

Go Forth and Preach the Gospel

Christian Worship 908



Stand

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

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-fring 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'rings 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!"

Be seated

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Presiding Minister
Pastor Mark Schroeder

WELS President

Preacher Pastor Mark Gabb

Administrator, WELS Home Missions

Assisting Ministers Professor Earle Treptow

President, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

Rev. Larry Schlomer Administrator, WELS World Missions

Organist David Porth

Pilgrim, Menomonee Falls

Instrumentalist Josiah Winkel, *trumpet*

+ + +

Biographies – Newly commissioned missionaries

Rev. Nathan Wagenknecht - Missionary; Native Christians Network

Missionary Nathan Wagenknecht accepted the call to serve as Outreach Counselor on the Native Christians mission team in 2024. He will coordinate outreach to the Native American tribes in the Four Corners area of Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and Colorado, working closely with Native members who want to reach out to other Natives with the pure gospel message. He will also lead the expansion of digital outreach and ministry training efforts for the Native Christians Network.

Prior to joining the Native Christians team, Wagenknecht served as a missionary in Latin America from 2000 to 2015, with Multi-Language Productions from 2015 to 2018, and as an associate pastor for English and Spanish ministries at Faith in Anchorage, AK, from 2018 to 2024.

Wagenknecht met his wife Julie in the Dominican Republic when she was serving as a Kingdom Workers volunteer. They were married in 2009 and have been blessed with two children: Mateo and Natalia. The Wagenknechts look forward to making Farmington, N.M., their home and serving the Lord on the Native Christians team.

Rev. Peter Janke - Missionary; Australia

Rev. Peter Janke has served on the Asia One Team since graduating from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in 2016. His original work included online course development and teaching online classes in conjunction with Asia Lutheran Seminary to equip and train church leaders and pastors throughout Asia.

Janke, along with Asia One Team Missionary Matt Doebler, will be relocating to Brisbane, Queensland, Australia in summer 2024 to reach out to the native Australian population with the gospel in conjunction with two of WELS' partner churches and expand outreach to a large Chinese population that has immigrated to the area. Additionally, Janke will continue to serve as the Asia One Team liaison with church partners in Indonesia and Japan.

Peter is married to Alanna, and they have two sons, Marvin and Jonas.

Mr. Jake Vilhauer - Missionary; One Africa Team

Jake Vilhauer, son of Shann and Frieda Vilhauer, was born October 31, 2001, in Thornton, Colo., and baptized at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Westminster, Colo., that same year. He was confirmed in the Christian faith at Shepherd of the Valley in 2016. He graduated from Rocky Mountain Lutheran High School in 2020 and Martin Luther College in 2024, after majoring in secondary social studies with a minor in coaching.

Jake married Madelynne (née Hockenbery) on June 1, 2024. He and Madylynne will be moving to Lusaka, Zambia, later this year where Jake will serve on the One Africa Team teaching and conducting outreach.

Mr. Matthias Borgwardt – Teacher; Peridot-Our Savior's Lutheran School, San Carlos Apache Reservation, Ariz.

Matthias Borgwardt, son of Daniel and Natalie Borgwardt, was born May 1, 2000, and baptized at Immanuel Lutheran Church in La Crescent, Minn., on May 7, 2000. He was confirmed in the Christian faith on April 27, 2014, at St. John Lutheran Church in New Ulm, Minn. He graduated from Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School in 2018 and Martin Luther College in 2024 (B.S. Education). In 2022, Matthias accepted an emergency call to teach sixth through eighth grade for the 2022-23 school year at Emanuel First Lutheran School in Lansing, Mich. Matthias will teach sixth grade at Peridot-Our Savior's Lutheran School on the San Carlos Apache Reservation in Arizona.

Rev. Ben Bitter - Peace, Trinity, Florida

Ben Bitter, son of Pastor David and Stacy Bitter, was born on March 7, 1997, in Helena, Mont. From there, his family moved to Fargo, N.D. in 2004 and Milwaukee, Wis., in 2013. Ben attended public schools before graduating from Wisconsin Lutheran High School in 2015. He studied civil engineering at North Dakota State University for one year before transferring to Martin Luther College in 2016 to pursue training for pastoral ministry.

After graduating from Martin Luther College in 2019, he spent one year in Linares, Chile, assisting a mission congregation and teaching English classes. While at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, he served as a bilingual assistant at St. Peter in Milwaukee, Wis. He spent his vicar year at Sure Foundation Lutheran Church in New York City.

He and his wife Emmalie, née Olsen, were married on June 3, 2022, in Richfield, Wis. Ben and Emmalie will be moving to Trinity, Fla., where Ben will serve as a home missionary at Peace Lutheran Church.

Rev. Clayton Fury – New Mission Start, Conway, Arkansas

Clayton Fury, son of Mark Fury and Jill Honeck, was born on January 4, 1998, and brought into God's family through Holy Baptism on February 8, 1998. He was confirmed at Christ the Lord Lutheran Church in Houston, Tex., in 2012. He graduated from Luther Preparatory School in 2016, Martin Luther College in 2020 (B.A.), and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in 2024 (M.Div.).

While at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Clayton worked as a chaplain at Kingdom Prep Lutheran High School, at Lighthouse Youth Center, and served as the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary student recruiter. During his vicar year, he served at Christ Lutheran Church in Denver, Colo.

Clayton and his wife Lauren, née Stuebs, were married on May 21, 2022. They were blessed with a daughter, Evangeline, in February 2024. Clayton was assigned to serve as pastor at a new mission start in Conway, Ark. Conway is one of the fastest growing cities in Arkansas with currently around 70,000 inhabitants. This new mission has an active core group of 15 souls. Clayton and Lauren are excited to join this group of believers in reaching the lost souls of Conway with the gospel.

Rev. Tristan Pankow - Living Shepherd, Laramie, Wyoming

Tristan Pankow, son of Pastor Joel and Rebekah Pankow, was born on July 19, 1997, in Topeka, Kans. Tristan was baptized on August 3, 1997, at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Norton, Kans., marking the beginning of his lifelong journey in faith. He moved with his family from Topeka to Bay City, Mich., in 2012 and graduated from Michigan Lutheran Seminary in 2016. He graduated from Martin Luther College in 2020 (B.A.), and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in 2024 (M.Div.). During his vicar year, Tristan served at Good News Lutheran Church in Mount Horeb, Wis.

On May 23, Tristan was assigned to serve as a home missionary at Living Shepherd Lutheran Church in Laramie, Wyo., a mission congregation serving about 80 souls. An avid outdoorsman, Tristan enjoys fishing, hiking, backpacking, and college sports—interests that make Laramie a fun fit for him. Tristan looks forward to connecting with and growing his congregation, embracing the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead as he shares the gospel in the Laramie community.

Rev. Eli Steinbrenner – Good Shepherd, Plymouth, Wisconsin

Eli Steinbrenner, son of Pastor Aaron and Shelly Steinbrenner, was born on February 21, 1998, and baptized into God's family on March 8, 1998. He attended Peace Lutheran Church and School in Hartford, Wis., where he was confirmed. He graduated from Luther Preparatory School in 2016 and then from Martin Luther College in 2020. He served his vicar year at Beautiful Savior in Green Bay, Wis., before returning to graduate from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in 2024.

He and his wife Rachel, née Schewe, were married on November 25, 2020. Eli and Rachel will be moving to Plymouth, Wis., where Eli was assigned to serve as a home missionary at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Good Shepherd was approved as a home mission enhancement in spring 2024.

Rev. Jacob Ungemach - New Mission Start, Cincinnati (Oakley), Ohio

Jacob Ungemach, son of Joel and Carrie Ungemach, was born on December 9, 1996, in Red Wing, Minn. He was confirmed in the Christian faith at First German Lutheran Church and School. He graduated from Manitowoc Lutheran High School in 2015, Martin Luther College in 2019 (B.A.), and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in 2024 (M.Div.).

During his time at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Jacob had the privilege to serve his vicar year at Living Savior in Asheville and Hendersonville, N.C. As a senior, he taught for the TELL Network and interacted with Bible students from across the world.

Jacob and Grace, née Christman, were married on August 4, 2019. Grace works as Manager of Marketing and Operations for WELS Multi-Language Productions. Jacob and Grace will be moving to Cincinnati, Ohio, where Jacob was assigned to serve as the Mission and Outreach Pastor for Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church. Along with members from Beautiful Savior, he will work to plant a second site in the Oakley and Hyde Park neighborhoods of Cincinnati.

PERMISSIONS

Setting Seven (British) from Christian Worship

O Christians, Haste Text: Mary A. Thomson, 1834–1923, abr., alt. Tune: Bruce R. Backer, b. 1929 Text: Public domain Tune: © 1993 Bruce R. Backer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House.

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