

A Service of Thanksgiving

*For the Privilege of Serving
in the Gospel Ministry*



Martin Luther College

**April 24, 2016
3:00 pm
Chapel of the Christ**

Order of Service

Pre-service Music

Processional Hymn

Voices Raised to You We Offer
CWS 724

Stand at the direction of the presiding minister. Face the cross at the back of the chapel and follow its path to the chancel where it becomes the focus of Christian worship.

Invocation

M: In the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Dialogue from the *Psalms*

M: Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

C: **Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.**

M: Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.

C: **Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.**

M: The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their cry.

C: **The Lord redeems his servants; no one will be condemned who takes refuge in him.**

M: As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him;

C: **For he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.**

M: But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear him.

C: **And his righteousness with their children's children.**

M: He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our forefathers to teach their children,

C: **So the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children.**

M: Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds.

C: **They will proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn.**

M: In his mercy and grace, our God has allowed Professors Keith Wessel and Jeffery Wiechman to complete 25 years of service, and Professor Paul Tess to complete 40 years of service, all in the gospel ministry,

C: **That his ways may be known on earth, his salvation among all nations.**

M: Then the land will yield its harvest, and God, our God, will bless us.

C: **God will bless us, and all the ends of the earth will fear him.**

Be seated

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Text by Charles Wesley 1707-1788
Music by Mark Hayes (Quoting AZMON)

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace.

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.

Let ev'ry creature join to praise the one eternal God,
ye heav'nly hosts the song begin and sound his name abroad!

Jesus, the name that calms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease,
'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.

He breaks the pow'r of cancelled sin, he sets the pris'ner free.
His blood can make the foulest clean; his blood availed for me.

He speaks, and list'ning to his voice, new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.

To God all glory, praise, and love be ever, ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heav'n.

Stand

Prayer of the Day

M: Almighty God, look with favor on those whom you have called to serve your people. Fill them with faithfulness to 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 Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *(spoken)* Amen.

Lesson

1 Corinthians 15:50-58

I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed — in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

“Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?”

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, 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.

Be seated

Hymn

Holy God, We Praise Your Name
CW 278

Sermon

What Are We Celebrating Today?

Ephesians 3:7-12

I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God’s grace given me through the working of his power. Although I am less than the least of all the Lord’s people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.

After the sermon, please stand for the Response and Prayers

Response

**Not unto us, not unto us be glory, Lord;
Not unto us but to your name be praise;
Not unto us but to your name all honor be giv'n
For matchless mercy, forgiveness, and grace.**

Not unto Us
CW 392

**O faithful love -- that shepherded through faithless years;
Forgiving love -- that led us to your truth;
Unyielding love -- that would not let us turn from you
But sent us forth to speak pardon and peace.**

**Not unto us but to your name be glory, Lord,
For grace so rich, so wide, so high, so free.
Abide with us till trav'ling days are over and done,
And pilgrim feet lead us home, Lord, to you.**

Prayer

M: Almighty God, through your Son Jesus Christ, you gave the apostles many gifts and commanded them to feed your flock. Continue to give great gifts to all pastors and teachers, professors and ministers that they may proclaim your Word diligently and feed your people with the good news of Christ.

C: **We thank you for great gifts, O God.**

M: Lord of the Church, you have guided hundreds of young men and women to Martin Luther College in order to study at the feet of professors and instructors whose goal is to prepare them for service in the ministry. Continue to bless our college with faithful men and women who instruct with care and counsel with wisdom.

C: **We thank you, Lord, for those able to teach and those eager to learn.**

M: Good Shepherd, you have blessed our jubilarians with spouses who love them, with children who honor them, and with family and friends who nurture and encourage them. Continue to guard the lives of our colleagues and keep them—body, mind, and spirit—in your gracious care.

C: **We thank you, Good Shepherd, for providing everything we need for life.**

M: Your great glory, Savior, is in the redemption and rescue of your people from sin and its curse. Continue to hold your cross before the eyes of our Christian friends and fill their hearts with the promise of your empty tomb. Keep them safe in your forgiveness and dressed in your beautiful righteousness. Take them by the hand and walk them through this life to that permanent and holy life in heaven.

C: **Savior, we thank you for giving your life for us, and giving us life with you. Amen.**

Be seated

Choir Our Father

Text adapted by Arthur
S. Kimball
Music by Alexander
Gretchaninoff,
1864-1956

Holy, holy, holy, Lord of Sabaoth, heav'n and earth are full of thy glory.
Thine are kingdoms, thrones, dominions, might and majesty.
Thy name be hallowed on earth, as it is hallowed in heav'n.

Thou givest strength to the weak; thou rememb'rst the poor and the distress'd.
And upon them that fear thy name show'rs of blessing unnumber'd shall fall:
Peace shall follow them. By still waters their path shall be.

Sing then of mercy, of judgment, of kingdoms,
of thrones, dominions and pow'rs forevermore.

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts.

Come to us, O Lord, in splendor bright. Fill our hearts with everlasting light.
Amen.

Benediction

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: (spoken) Amen.

Choir Alleluia

Music by Jake Runestad

Relatives and friends are invited to greet the jubilarians in the Chapel Gathering Space.

The Jubilarians

Professor Paul Tess, 40 Years of Service to the Church

Studies

Dr. Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN	1977	B.S. Education
Silver Lake College, Manitowoc, WI	1993	M.A. Education
University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN		Ph.D. Educational Psychology

Service to the Church

Jerusalem Lutheran School, Milwaukee, WI	1974-1975	Teacher
St. John Lutheran School, Neillsville, WI	1977-1984	Teacher & Principal
St. John Lutheran School, Manitowoc, WI	1984-2000	Teacher & Principal
St. Mark Lutheran School, Green Bay, WI	2000-2006	Teacher & Principal
Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN	2006-2007	Professor of Education
Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN	2007-Present	Director of Field Experiences

Professor Keith Wessel, 25 Years of Service to the Church

Studies

Northwestern College, Watertown, WI	1987	B.A. Liberal Arts
Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, WI	1991	M.Div. Theology

Other Studies

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL		Ph.D. Classical Civilizations
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Service to the Church

Michigan Lutheran Seminary, Saginaw, MI	1991-1994	Tutor
Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Marietta, GA	1994-2002	Pastor
Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN	2002-Present	Professor of Latin and Greek

Vice-President Jeffery Wiechman, 25 Years of Service to the Church

Studies

Dr. Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN	1992	B.S. Education
University of Nebraska at Omaha, Omaha, NE	1999	M.S. Educational Administration
University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN	2013	Ph.D. Educational Administration

Service to the Church

Martin Luther Preparatory School, Prairie du Chien, WI	1990-1991	Emergency Instructor
Gethsemane Lutheran School, Omaha, NE	1992-2000	Principal & Teacher
Shoreland Lutheran High School, Somers, WI	2000-2001	Assistant Principal & Teacher
Martin Luther College New Ulm, MN	2001-2008	Principal & Teacher
	2008-2013	Professor of Education
	2013-2014	Academic Dean
	2014-Present	Vice-President for Academics

Presiding Minister

Preacher

Organist

College Choir Conductor

President Mark Zarling

Rev. Mark Wessel

Prof. Jon Roux

Dr. Kermit Moldenhauer