

Commencement Service

*Pictures may be taken during the processional, the distribution of diplomas, and the recessional.
Please remain seated for the processional.*

Hymn—How Firm a Foundation

CWS 768

Text: *A Selection of Hymns*, London, 1787, alt.

Tune, Setting: Traditional American melody, Caldwell's *Union Harmony*, 1837

**How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said
Who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?**

**“Fear not, I am with you. Oh, be not dismayed;
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.**

**“The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes.
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake!**

**“When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
My grace all sufficient shall be your supply.
The flames will not hurt you; I only design
Your dross to consume and your gold to refine.**

**“Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove
My sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love,
And then, when gray hair shall their temples adorn,
Like lambs they shall still on my shoulders be borne.”**

Stand

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: **And also with you.**

DIALOGUE FOR THANKSGIVING

from Psalms 103 and 145

M: Praise the Lord, O my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
Praise the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits.

- C: I will exalt you, my God the King;
I will praise your name forever and ever.
Every day I will praise you
and extol your name forever and ever.**
- M:** He forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases;
he redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion.
- C: The Lord is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and rich in love.
The Lord is good to all;
he has compassion on all he has made.**
- M:** He does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.
as far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.
- C: The Lord is faithful to all his promises
and loving toward all he has made.
The Lord upholds all those who fall
and lifts up all who are bowed down.**
- M:** As a father has compassion on his children,
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.
From everlasting to everlasting
the Lord's love is with those who fear him.
- C: The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food at the proper time.
You open your hand
and satisfy the desires of every living thing.**
- M:** Praise the Lord, all his works
everywhere in his dominion.
Praise the Lord, O my soul.
- C: My mouth will speak in praise of the Lord.
Let every creature praise his holy name
forever and ever.**

Be seated

Lesson — Romans 8:37-39

Choral Response

“Fear Not”

Text: Isaiah 43:1-4
Music: Carl J. Nygard Jr.

Fear not, for I am with you.
Fear not, for I have redeemed you and loved you,
blessed you and called you by name.
You are mine. Fear not.

Fear not the threat of the fire.
Fear not the threat of the water.
Fear not when troubles surround you and trials confound you.
Be not afraid. I am your God.

Fear not, for I am the Lord God.
My love will always surround you and hold you;
for you are precious to me.
I have called you by name. Most precious child, you are mine.

I am the Lord God.
I am yours. You are mine.

Stand

The Gospel — Matthew 6:25-33

Be seated

Hymn—Day by Day

CWS 765

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903; tr. Robert Leaf, b. 1936
Used by permission. Tr. © 1992 Augsburg Fortress

**Day by day, your mercies, Lord, attend me, Bringing comfort to my anxious soul.
Day by day, the blessings, Lord, you send me Draw me nearer to my heav’nly goal.
Love divine, beyond all mortal measure, Brings to naught the burdens of my quest;
Savior, lead me to the home I treasure, Where at last I’ll find eternal rest.**

**Day by day, I know you will provide me Strength to serve and wisdom to obey;
I will seek your loving will to guide me O’er the paths I struggle day by day.
I will fear no evil of the morrow; I will trust in your enduring grace.
Savior, help me bear life’s pain and sorrow; Till in glory I behold your face.**

**Oh, what joy to know that you are near me When my burdens grow too great to bear;
Oh, what joy to know that you will hear me When I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.
Day by day, no matter what betide me, You will hold me ever in your hand.
Savior, with your presence here to guide me, I will reach at last the promised land.**

Sermon — Deuteronomy 31:8

The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.

Never Alone!

Choral Response

“O God, We Kneel before Your Throne”

Text: Ephesians 3:14-21

Music: Roy Hopp



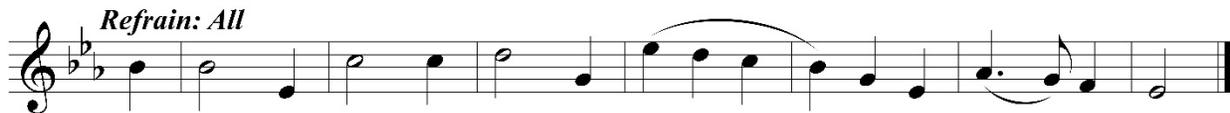
Choir: 1. O _____ God, we kneel be - fore your throne to _____
Choir: 2. O _____ Christ, we bow in faith to pray: come _____
Choir: 3. O _____ Spir - it, grace us with your pow'r so _____
All: 4. Now _____ to the One who can do more than _____



hon - or you whose name is known to _____ all your fam - 'ly
live with - in our hearts to - day and _____ fill us till we
that our weak - ened faith may flow'r; come _____ breathe your sa - cred
we could dream of ask - ing for, e - ter - nal glo - ry



by your love _____ on _____ earth be - low and heav'n a - bove:
o - ver - flow _____ with _____ love sur - pass - ing all we know.
har - mo - ny _____ that _____ we with all your saints may see
to our King _____ as _____ gen - er - a - tions rise to sing:



How wide, how long, how high, how deep _____ is the love _____ of Christ!

Conferring of Degrees *Please reserve applause for the Presentation of the Class.*

Hymn—Praise to You and Adoration

CW 470

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634-1703; tr. composite
Tune: *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

**Praise to you and adoration, Blessed Jesus, Son of God,
Who, to serve your own creation, Came to share our flesh and blood.
Guide me that I never may From your fold or pastures stray,
But with zeal and joy exceeding Follow where your steps are leading.**

**Hold me ever in your keeping; Comfort me in pain and strife.
In my laughter and my weeping Be with me throughout my life.
Give me greater love for you, And my faith and hope renew
In your birth, your life, and passion, In your death and resurrection.**

Stand

Prayer

M: Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for giving your Church men and women who are qualified to serve in the public ministry.

All: **Bless every servant of your Word who proclaims Christ crucified for sinners as the wisdom and power of God.**

M: We pray especially for our graduates, who have successfully completed their course of study at this college of ministry

Graduates: Lord, from your hand we are willing to accept the joys and the sorrows of life. Keep us from sin, comfort us with your Word, and bless our service to you.

All others: **You have promised to be with them. Watch over their lives, both now and forevermore. Keep them faithful to your Word, that they may continue to grow in wisdom, righteousness, and holiness.**

M: Gracious Lord, continue to bless Martin Luther College with instructors who recognize Jesus Christ as wisdom's highest and noblest treasure, and with students who are committed to preparing themselves for the public ministry of your Church.

Faculty & Students: Help us use our talents and energies in joyful service to you.

M: Lord God, watch over the lives of all your people. Dispel our fears, strengthen us in our weakness, and finally bring us all to everlasting glory through the merits of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

All: **In his name we pray. Amen.**

Blessing

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

All: **Amen. (spoken)**

Choral Response

“Peace I Leave with You”

Text: John 14:27

Music: Walter L. Pelz

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth give I unto you.
Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.
Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth give I unto you.
My peace I give to you.

Be seated

Presentation of the Graduates of May 2018

Recessional

Following the recessional, please usher yourselves out of the sanctuary.

Service Participants

Presiding Minister

Prof. Paul Koelpin
Professor of History/Theology, MLC

Preacher

Rev. Mark Zarling
President, MLC

Presenting degrees

Dr. Jeff Wiechman
Vice-president for Academics, MLC

Organist

Prof. Craig Hirschmann
Professor of Music, MLC

Martin Luther College Choir Conductor

Prof. Adrian Smith
Professor of Music, MLC

Martin Luther College Wind Symphony Conductor

Prof. Miles Wurster
Professor of Music, MLC

Graduation Marshal

Michelle Gartner
Event Coordinator, MLC

Instrumentalists

Raquel Freese, *piano*
Hannah Paustian, Matthew Scharp, *trumpet*
Joseph Loescher, Karissa Nolte, *trombone*
Zachary Johnson, *tuba*
Zachary Scharlemann, *timpani*