



Homecoming Worship

You Can Always Come Home

**Chapel of the Christ
October 14, 2018 - 9:30 AM**

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

Hosanna Ringers

*Here I Am, Lord
O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing
All Creatures of Our God and King*

*Arnold B. Sherman
Terry Osman
John A. Behnke*

As the hymn is introduced, stand and face the cross at the entrance to the chapel and follow its path to the chancel where it becomes the focus of Christian worship.

Congregation and Chorale

Voices Raised

Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923–2007

SONG OF PRAISE

Carolyn Jennings

Setting by Jeffrey Blersch



All 1 Voic - es raised to You we of - fer; Tune them, God, for
All 2 All cre - a - tion joins to praise You; Earth and sky Your
All 3 Christ, the song of Love in - car - nate, Touch - ing earth with
Choir 4 Spir - it, flam - ing through cre - a - tion, Kin - dle faith with -
All 5 How can an - y praise we of - fer Mea - sure all the



songs of praise. Hearts and hands we bring in trib - ute
 works dis - play. Art and mu - sic, gifts You lend us,
 heav - en's grace, For Your liv - ing, suf - f'ring, dy - ing,
 in each heart. Lift our voic - es high in cho - rus;
 thanks we owe? Take our hearts and hands and voic - es -



For Your gifts through all our days. Al - le - lu - ia!
 We re - turn to You to - day. Al - le - lu - ia!
 For Your ris - ing, hear our praise! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Through our hands Your love im - part. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Gifts of love we can be - stow. Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to You we sing!
 Al - le - lu - ia! God, Cre - a - tor, source of life!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, Re - deem - er, Lord of life!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Spir - it, Help - er, breath of life!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to You we sing!

Text copyright © 1997 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Tune copyright © 1996 Carolyn Jennings. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: (*spoken*) Amen.

DIALOGUE OF 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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The minister says the Prayer of the Day.

C: (spoken) Amen.

BE SEATED

FIRST LESSON

Judges 16

One day Samson went to Gaza, where he saw a prostitute. He went in to spend the night with her. The people of Gaza were told, "Samson is here!" So they surrounded the place and lay in wait for him all night at the city gate. They made no move during the night, saying, "At dawn we'll kill him."

But Samson lay there only until the middle of the night. Then he got up and took hold of the doors of the city gate, together with the two posts, and tore them loose, bar and all. He lifted them to his shoulders and carried them to the top of the hill that faces Hebron.

Some time later, he fell in love with a woman in the Valley of Sorek whose name was Delilah. The rulers of the Philistines went to her and said, "See if you can lure him into showing you the secret of his great strength and how we can overpower him so we may tie him up and subdue him. Each one of us will give you eleven hundred shekels of silver."

So Delilah said to Samson, "Tell me the secret of your great strength and how you can be tied up and subdued."

Samson answered her, "If anyone ties me with seven fresh bowstrings that have not been dried, I'll become as weak as any other man."

Then the rulers of the Philistines brought her seven fresh bowstrings that had not been dried, and she tied him with them. With men hidden in the room, she called to him, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" But he snapped the bowstrings as easily as a piece of string snaps when it comes close to a flame. So the secret of his strength was not discovered.

Then Delilah said to Samson, "You have made a fool of me; you lied to me. Come now, tell me how you can be tied."

He said, "If anyone ties me securely with new ropes that have never been used, I'll become as weak as any other man."

So Delilah took new ropes and tied him with them. Then, with men hidden in the room, she called to him, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" But he snapped the ropes off his arms as if they were threads.

Delilah then said to Samson, "All this time you have been making a fool of me and lying to me. Tell me how you can be tied."

He replied, "If you weave the seven braids of my head into the fabric on the loom and tighten it with the pin, I'll become as weak as any other man." So while he was sleeping, Delilah took the seven braids of his head, wove them into the fabric and tightened it with the pin. Again she called to him, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" He awoke from his sleep and pulled up the pin and the loom, with the fabric.

Then she said to him, "How can you say, 'I love you,' when you won't confide in me? This is the third time you have made a fool of me and haven't told me the secret of your great strength." With such nagging she prodded him day after day until he was sick to death of it.

So he told her everything. "No razor has ever been used on my head," he said, "because I have been a Nazirite dedicated to God from my mother's womb. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as any other man."

When Delilah saw that he had told her everything, she sent word to the rulers of the Philistines, "Come back once more; he has told me everything." So the rulers of the Philistines returned with the silver in their hands. After putting him to sleep on her lap, she called for someone to shave off the seven braids of his hair, and so began to subdue him. And his strength left him. Then she called, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!"

He awoke from his sleep and thought, "I'll go out as before and shake myself free." But he did not know that the Lord had left him.

Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza. Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding grain in the prison. But the hair on his head began to grow again after it had been shaved.

Now the rulers of the Philistines assembled to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god and to celebrate, saying, "Our god has delivered Samson, our enemy, into our hands." When the people saw him, they praised their god, saying, "Our god has delivered our enemy

into our hands,
the one who laid waste our land
and multiplied our slain.”

While they were in high spirits, they shouted, “Bring out Samson to entertain us.” So they called Samson out of the prison, and he performed for them.

When they stood him among the pillars, Samson said to the servant who held his hand, “Put me where I can feel the pillars that support the temple, so that I may lean against them.” Now the temple was crowded with men and women; all the rulers of the Philistines were there, and on the roof were about three thousand men and women watching Samson perform. Then Samson prayed to the Lord, “Sovereign Lord, remember me. Please, God, strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes.” Then Samson reached toward the two central pillars on which the temple stood. Bracing himself against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other, Samson said, “Let me die with the Philistines!” Then he pushed with all his might, and down came the temple on the rulers and all the people in it. Thus he killed many more when he died than while he lived.

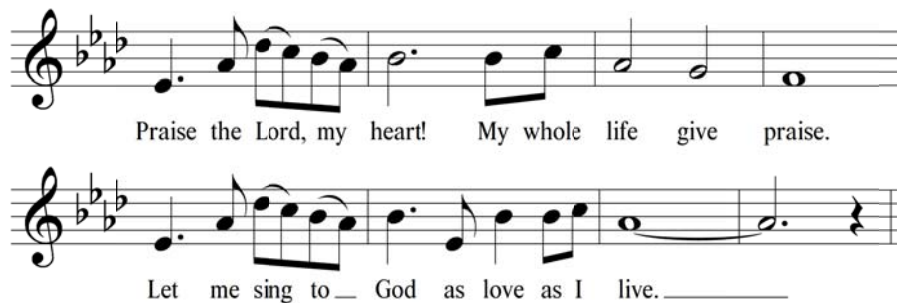
Then his brothers and his father’s whole family went down to get him. They brought him back and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the tomb of Manoah his father. He had led Israel twenty years.

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 146 - Männerchor with congregation

Psalm 146, adapt. David Haas
Refrain text: ICEL

Music by David Haas

The choir sings the refrain. All repeat the refrain and sing it as indicated.



Praise the Lord, my heart! My whole life give praise.
Let me sing to — God as love as I live. _____

The choir sings the verses of the psalm.

God will be faith for all who are wronged, and the crushed will hear God’s song:
justice for the poor, food for the starved, freedom for all.

Refrain

God is the window for blinded eyes, and strength for all who are alone.
God the lover of all good, where strangers will be safe, and God calls us home.

Refrain

God will breathe life into all broken hearts, and destroy the tyrant and the wicked.
God will reign, forever we will sing, until the end of time.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them. But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Women's Choir

Set Our Hearts on Fire, Lord!

Words and music, Joyce Schubkegel

God, our heav'nly Father, humbly now we pray.
Thank you for the blessings of this wondrous day.
Through your holy Word, Lord, help us to proclaim
To our friends and neighbors, glories of your name!

Savior in your mercy, hear our fervent plea,
As we view your body hung on Calv'ry's tree.
Through your death and rising, heav'nly bliss we'll see!
Eagerly we'll share this news of grace so free!

Holy Spirit, hear now, this our anxious prayer.
May we want to witness here and ev'rywhere!
Though we oft may tremble deep inside with fear,
What assuring comfort, knowing you are near!

Father, Son and Spirit, Blessed Three in One,
Through our words and actions, may your will be done.
'Round us souls are dying, we have much to do!
Set our hearts on fire Lord, winning souls for you!

STAND

GOSPEL LESSON

John 14:1-7

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.”

Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”
Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

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

Congregation

Chief of Sinners

CW395

1. Chief of sinners though I be,
 Jesus shed His blood for me,
 Died that I might live on high,
 Lived that I might never die.
 As the branch is to the vine,
 I am his, and he is mine.

2. Oh, the height of Jesus' love,
 Higher than the heav'ns above,
 Deeper than the depths of sea,
 Lasting as eternity,
 Love that found me--wondrous thought!--
 Found me when I sought Him not.

3. Only Jesus can impart
 Comfort to a wounded heart:
 Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n,
 Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
 Faith and hope to walk with God
 In the way that Enoch trod.

4. Chief of sinners though I be,
 Christ is all in all to me.
 All my wants to him are known;
 All my sorrows are his own.
 Safe with him in earthly strife,
 I await the heav'nly life.

5. Strengthen me, O gracious Lord,
 By your Spirit and your Word.
 When my wayward heart would stray,
 Keep me in the narrow way;
 Grace in time of need supply
 While I live and when I die.

SERMON

Restored by Grace

Judges 16:22-31

College Choir

Wayfaring Stranger

Arranged by Michael Engelhardt

I am a poor wayfaring stranger while journeying through this world of woe,
Yet, there's no sickness, toil nor danger, in that bright land to which I go.
I'm going there to meet my Savior, I'm going there no more to roam;
I'm only going over Jordan, I'm only going over home. Libera nos. Deliver us.

I know dark clouds will gather o'er me. I know my way is rough and steep.
Yet beautiful fields lie just before me, where God's redeemed their vigils keep.
I'm going there to meet my Savior, who shed for me his precious blood;
I'm only going over Jordan, I'm only going over home.

I want to wear a crown of glory, when I get home to that good land;
I want to shout salvation's story, in concert with the blood-washed band.
I'm going there to meet my Savior, to sing his praise forevermore;
I'm only going over Jordan, I'm only going over home.

OFFERING (Designated for Student Financial Assistance)

Hosanna Ringers

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Ron Mallory

STAND

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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.**

Combined Choirs

Luther's Morning Prayer

Carl Schalk

I thank you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.
You kept me safely through the night, and brought me to the morning light.

Be with me through this day, I pray, and keep me safe from Satan's sway
that all I think or do or say please only you, my Strength and Stay.

Into your hands I now commend my body and soul until life's end.
Your angel keep me safe from harm until I rest in Jesus' arm. Amen.

BLESSING

M: 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.

C: (*spoken*) Amen.

Congregation/All MLC Choirs

Guide Me, Oh Thou Great Jehovah



1. Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, Pil - grim through this
Choir: 2. O - pen now the crys - tal_ foun - tain, Whence the heal - ing
3. When I tread the verge of_ Jor - dan, Bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land; I am weak, but thou art might - y; Hold me with thy
stream doth flow; Let the fi - ery, cloud - y_ pil - lar Lead me all my
fears sub - side; Death of death, and hell's De - struc - tion, Land me safe on



pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
jour - ney through. Strong De - liv - 'rer; strong De - liv - 'rer;
Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, Songs of prais - es,



Feed me till I want no more; Feed me till I_ want no more.
Be thou still my strength and shield; Be thou still my strength and shield
I will ev - er give to thee; I will ev - er_ give to thee.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Prof. John C. Boeder ('86) <i>Campus Pastor, Martin Luther College</i>
Preacher	Prof. David Scharf ('00) <i>Professor of Theology, Martin Luther College</i>
Organist	Katie Carlovsky ('02) <i>Alumnus, Martin Luther College</i>
Chorale	Jon Laabs ('06) <i>Professor of Music, Martin Luther College</i>
College Choir	Adrian Smith ('03) <i>Professor of Music, Martin Luther College</i>
Hosanna Ringers and Männerchor	Craig Hirschmann ('84) <i>Professor of Music, Martin Luther College</i>
Women's Choir	Grace Hennig ('89) <i>Professor of Music, Martin Luther College</i>
Accompanists	Soloists - Jacob Price (sophomore), Jazzmin Sanchez (junior) Keyboard - Allison Boggs (junior), Madelyn Neyhart (freshman) Cello - Karl Christie (senior) Percussion - Rachel Goddard (sophomore), Karissa Nolte (junior) Dan Wolff (sophomore) Trumpet - Matthew Rugen (freshman), Matthew Scharp (sophomore) Trombone - Caleb Dobberstein (senior), Karissa Nolte (junior) Tuba - Zachary Johnson (junior) Timpani - Jordan Massiah (sophomore) Organ - Noah Melso (sophomore)
Student Lectors	Jeremiah Wallander (senior) Christian Arnold (senior) Matthew Zeng (senior)
Cross/candles	Josh Frailing (senior) Grant Freese (senior) Ben Kieta (senior)

Acknowledgements

The following items are reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-704209

The English translation of the refrain text from the Liturgical Psalter © 1994, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, All Rights Reserved.

Music and Verse text copyright © 1997 by G.I.A. Publications, Inc. 7404 So. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. International Copyright Secured. All Rights Reserved.