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# Commencement Service

**December 19, 2019**



MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE, New Ulm, Minnesota

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

**Processional Hymn—If God Is For Us**

*Refrain: Romans 8:31  
Verses: Psalm 46  
James Chepponis*

*Choir will sing the first refrain and all verses.  
Congregation will sing all following refrains as indicated.*

**Refrain:**

If God is for us, who can be a - gainst us?  
God is our sal - va - tion, al - ways by our side.

**Refrain: Choir**  
**Refrain: Congregation**

God is our refuge and our strength, an ever present aid,  
And therefore, though the earth be moved, we will not be afraid;  
Though hills into the sea be cast, though foaming waters roar,  
The Lord of hosts is by our side, a refuge strong and sure.

**Refrain: Congregation**

A river flows whose streams make glad the city of our God,  
The holy dwelling of the Lord, the place of God's abode.  
Since God is in the midst of it, our safety is secure;  
The Lord of hosts is by our side, a refuge strong and sure.

**Refrain: Congregation**

Behold the wondrous deeds of God, who causes wars to cease;  
The weapons of the strong destroyed, God brings abiding peace.  
"Be still and know that I am God, exalted evermore;"  
The Lord of hosts is by our side, a refuge strong and sure.

**Refrain: Congregation**

*Stand*

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

**C:** **And also with you.**

**Dialogue of Praise**

**M:** Great are the works of the Lord;

**C:** **They are pondered by all who delight in them.**

**M:** Glorious and majestic are his deeds,

**C:** **And his righteousness endures forever.**

**M:** He has caused his wonders to be remembered;

**C:** **The Lord is gracious and compassionate.**

**M:** The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

**C:** **To him belongs eternal praise.**

*Psalm 111:2-4,10*

**M:** We give thanks to you, O God, for your name is near.

**C:** **We will tell of your wonderful deeds.**

*Psalm 75:1*

**M:** We will not hide them from our children;

**C:** **We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done.**

*Psalm 78:4*

*Be seated*

**Lesson — 2 Chronicles 20:5-12**

Then Jehoshaphat stood up in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem at the temple of the Lord in the front of the new courtyard and said: “Lord, the God of our ancestors, are you not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you. Our God, did you not drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend? They have lived in it and have built in it a sanctuary for your Name, saying, ‘If calamity comes upon us, whether the sword of judgment, or plague or famine, we will stand in your presence before this temple that bears your Name and will cry out to you in our distress, and you will hear us and save us.’”

“But now here are men from Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, whose territory you would not allow Israel to invade when they came from Egypt; so they turned away from them and did not destroy them. See how they are repaying us by coming to drive us out of the possession you gave us as an inheritance. Our God, will you not judge them? For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.”

**M:** The Word of the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God!**

## Choral Response

**GRACE on GRACE**  
*based on John 1:14, 16-17*  
William Beckstrand

The law through Moses came.  
Grace on grace.  
God sent love, our life to claim.  
Grace on grace.  
Grace and truth in Jesus' name!

The glory of the Word became in flesh,  
like us, but not the same,  
For in his fullness all receive grace on grace.

God sent love, our life to claim.  
Grace on grace; grace on endless grace.

## *Stand*

### **Lesson — John 1:14-18**

The Word became flesh and dwelled among us. We have seen his glory, the glory he has as the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John testified about him. He cried out, "This was the one I spoke about when I said, 'The one coming after me outranks me because he existed before me.'" For out of his fullness we have all received grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only-begotten Son, who is close to the Father's side, has made him known.

**M:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C:** **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

## *Be seated*

### **Hymn—Christ Be My Leader (CW 367)**

**Christ be my leader by night as by day, Safe through the darkness, for he is the way.  
Gladly I follow, my future his care; Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.**

**Christ be my teacher in age as in youth, Drifting or doubting, for he is the truth.  
Grant me to trust him; though shifting as sand. Doubt cannot daunt me—in Jesus I stand.**

**Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife; Death cannot hold me, for he is the life.  
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain Can touch my salvation—with Jesus I reign.**

**Sermon**

**Romans 8:38-39**

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**It'll Be Alright. Really!**

**Choral Response**

**Children of the Heavenly Father**

*arr. Dan Forrest*



*Choir:* 1. Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther Safe - ly  
*Choir:* 2. God his own doth tend and nour - ish; In his  
*Choir:* 3. Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er, From the  
*All:* 4. Though he giv - eth, or he tak - eth, God his



in his bo - som gath - er; Nest - ling bird nor star in  
ho - ly courts they flour - ish; From all e - vil things he  
Lord his chil - dren sev - er, Un - to them his grace he  
chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth; His the lov - ing pur - pose



heav - en Such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.  
spares them; In his might - y arms he bears them.  
show - eth, And their sor - rows all he know - eth.  
sole - ly To pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

**Conferring of Degrees**

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

*Stand*

**Prayer**

Minister: Heavenly Father, we praise you for the gospel of our salvation, and for giving your Church men and women who are qualified to serve in the public ministry of the gospel. We pray especially for our graduates who have successfully completed their course of study at this college of ministry.

**Graduates:** Lord, be with us as we serve in the future. 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.**

Minister: Bless those who will enter your ministry as teachers and staff ministers with the boldness to speak the mysteries of your gospel. Give those who will continue their preparation for the pastoral ministry at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary patience and diligence. Provide those who will be serving as lay members in your congregations or in international fields with opportunities to use their training and gifts to serve your kingdom.

**All:** **Empower all of us to bring honor and glory to your name.**

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

**Faculty and Students:** Lord, all we have comes from you. Help us use our talents and energies in joyful service to you.

Minister: Lord God, watch over the lives of all your people. Cause the faith you have planted in our hearts to fill our lips with your praise that we may share Jesus' love with all 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**

Minister: 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)**

## Hymn—God's Word is Our Great Heritage

God's Word is our great heritage  
And shall be ours forever;  
To spread its light from age to age  
Shall be our chief endeavor.  
Through life it guides our way;  
In death it is our stay.  
Lord, grant, while worlds endure,  
We keep its teachings pure  
Throughout all generations.

## Presentation of the Graduates, December 2019

### Recessional

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

### Service Participants

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*

Graduation Marshal

Michelle Gartner  
*Event Coordinator, MLC*

### Instrumentalists

Oboe:

Ryan Kluba

Trumpet:

Alicia Mengel, Josiah Winkel

Trombone:

Josiah Mittelstadt, Karissa Nolte

Timpani:

Will DeMarce

Organ:

Karissa Nolte

Flute:

Carley Techlin

Bass Clarinet:

Prof. Wurster

## **Bachelor of Arts**



Jacob C. Klug  
Juneau, WI

## **Bachelor of Science in Education**

**Major:  
Early Childhood Education**



Elise A. Bush  
Pacific Grove, CA



Jessica L. Stibb  
Beaver Dam, WI



# Bachelor of Science in Education

## Major: Elementary Education



Michaela R. Bessler  
Bremerton, WA



Anastasia L. Bornschlegel  
Rochester, MN



Allison K. Hofland  
Elgin, MN



Emma K. Schibbelhut  
Onalaska, WI

# **Bachelor of Science in Education**

**Major:  
Secondary Education**



Aaron R. Swanson  
Rochester, MN  
Social Studies

# **Bachelor of Science in Education**

**Major:  
K-12 Physical Education**



Nathanael P. Lindloff  
Lansing, MI

# **Bachelor of Science in Education**

**Majors:**  
**Elementary Education**  
**Early Childhood Education**



Emma R. Schneck  
Monroe, MI

# **Bachelor of Science**

**Major:**  
**Educational Studies**



Benjamin P. Baganz  
Fond du Lac, WI



Stephanie M. Kempenich  
Slinger, WI



James N. Penrod  
San Antonio, TX

# Staff Ministry Certification



Benjamin J. Ristow  
New Ulm, MN

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## Completing Certificate Programs

### **Educational Technology**

Rachel A. Weiers, Belle Plaine, MN

### **Evangelism**

John K. Dale, Columbia, TN  
William T. Freitag, Mankato, MN

### **Mentoring and Coaching**

Kimberly S. Gartner, Johnson Creek, WI  
Gina E. Grove, Rochester, MN