



MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

Opening Service

**August 25, 2025
10:15 am**

Preservice Music

Processional Hymn

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty | CW 624

Arr. John Ferguson

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



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly
3 Praise to the Lord, who has fear - ful - ly, won - drous - ly,
4 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de -
5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -



a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is your
reign - ing and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up -
made you, health has be - stowed and, when heed - less - ly
fend you; sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall
dore him! All that has life and breath, come now with



health and sal - va - tion! Let all who hear now to his
lift - ing, sus - tain - ing. Have you not seen how all that's
fall - ing, has stayed you. What need or grief ev - er has
dai - ly at - tend you. Pon - der a - new what the Al -
prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his



tem - ple draw near, join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
need - ful has been sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
failed of re - lief? Wings of his mer - cy did shade you.
might - y can do as with his love he be - friends you.
peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

I rejoiced with those who said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the Lord.”

How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord Almighty!
Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.

The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.

Teach me, Lord, the way of your decrees,
that I may follow it to the end.

Your word is a lamp for my feet,
a light on my path.

Faith comes from hearing the message,
and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

Lord of the harvest, you have brought us together to begin another year of training for the public ministry of your Church. Look with favor on Martin Luther College, blessing those who teach, those who learn, and all who serve on our campus, that we may apply ourselves diligently to your will and faithfully to your service; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Joshua 1:1-9

¹After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: ²"Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. ³I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. ⁴Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. ⁵No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. ⁶Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.

⁷"Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. ⁸Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. ⁹Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

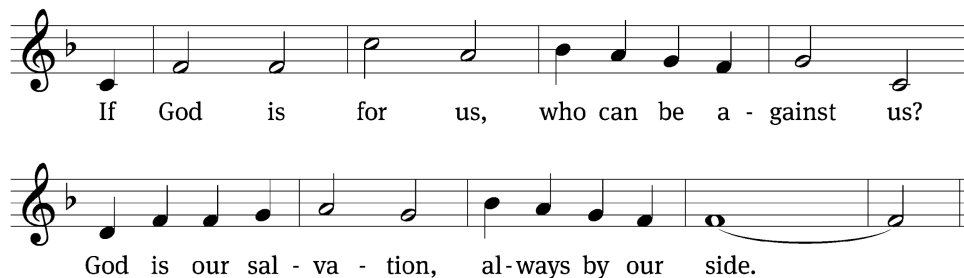
Psalm of the Day

If God Is For Us | Psalm 46E

James Chepponis

The congregation joins to sing the refrains; the cantor sings the verses.

Refrain



1. 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 seas be cast,
though foaming waters roar,
the LORD of hosts is by our side,
a refuge strong and sure. **Refrain**
2. 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**
3. 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**

Second Reading

1 Peter 5:1-7

¹To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: ²Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; ³not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. ⁴And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

⁵In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."

⁶Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.
⁷Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel

Matthew 9:35-38

³⁵Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Hymn of the Day

Preach You the Word | CW 895



1 Preach you the Word and plant it home to those who
2 We know how hard, O Lord, the task your ser - vant
3 The sow - er sows; his reck - less love scat - ters a -
4 Though some be snatched and some be scorched and some be



like or like it not, the Word that shall en -
bids us un - der - take: to preach your Word and
broad the good - ly seed, in - tent a - lone that
choked and mat - ted flat, the sow - er sows; his



dure and stand when flow'rs and mor - tals are for - got.
nev - er ask what pride - ful prof - it it may make.
there may be the whole - some loaves that peo - ple need.
heart cries out, "Oh, what of that, and what of that?"

5. Of all his scattered plenteousness
one-fourth waves ripe on hill and flat,
and bears a harvest, hundredfold:
"Ah, what of that, Lord, what of that!"

6. Preach you the Word and plant it home
and never faint; the Harvest Lord
who gave the sower seed to sow
will watch and tend his planted Word.

The Narrative Hasn't Changed

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

Rite of Ordination and Installation

Malachi Mortensen, Dormitory Supervisor and Instructor

Rite of Installation

Matthew Doering, Professor of History, Social Sciences, and Social Studies Education
Johanna Fischer, Lead Teacher, Early Childhood Learning Center
Benjamin Schaefer, Professor of Hebrew

Welcome and Introduction of New Adjunct Instructors

Holly Dannecker, Special Education
Hannah Ellingboe, Special Education
Amanda Gerdt, Psychology
Kristine Ringen, Special Education
Dale Witte, Music

Hymn

O Church, Arise | CW 870



1 O Church, a - rise and put your ar - mor on; hear the
 2 Our call to war— to love the cap - tive soul, but to
 3 Come see the cross, where love and mer - cy meet, as the
 4 So Spir - it come, put strength in ev - 'ry stride, give—



call of Christ our cap - tain. For now the weak can say that
 rage a - gainst the cap - tor; and with the sword that makes the
 Son of God is strick - en; then see his foes lie crushed be -
 grace for ev - 'ry hur - dle, that we may run with faith to



they are strong in the strength that God has giv - en.
 wound - ed whole we will fight with faith and val - or.
 neath his feet, for the Con - quer - or has ris - en!
 win the prize of a ser - vant good and faith - ful.



With shield of faith and belt of truth we'll stand a -
 When faced with trials on ev - 'ry side, we know the
 And as the stone is rolled a - way, and Christ e -
 As saints of old still line the way, re - tell - ing



gainst the dev - il's lies; an ar - my bold whose bat - tle
 out - come is se - cure, and Christ will have the prize for
 merg - es from the grave, this vic - t'ry march con - tin - ues
 tri - umphs of his grace, we hear their calls and hun - ger



cry is love, reach - ing out to those in dark - ness.
 which he died— an in - her - it - ance of na - tions.
 till the day ev - 'ry eye and heart shall see him.
 for the day when with Christ we stand in glo - ry.

Stand

Prayer

Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. Help your Church to persevere in faith, proclaim your Word, and bring salvation to people everywhere. Bless the work of Martin Luther College as we begin another year of your grace. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you guide the Church and make it holy. Give wisdom to our professors and instructors so that they can carry out their work faithfully and be a blessing to those they teach. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you cause us to grow in love for you and for one another so that we become more perfect witnesses of your love for all people. Give dedication to our students so that they can fan into flame the gifts you have given them. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you richly provide us with the bountiful goodness of your creation to enjoy. Give skill to all those who serve on this campus in many and various ways so that their work serves the common good. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, we thank you for parents who have raised their sons and daughters in the training and instruction of the Lord; for staff ministers, teachers, and pastors who have encouraged them on the path to public ministry; and for all those who support our college of ministry with their prayers and offerings. Hear our prayer of thanks in the name of your Son, our Lord, who has also taught us to pray:

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 almighty and merciful Lord—the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless us and keep us.
Amen.

Closing Hymn

God's Word Is Our Great Heritage | CW 640

Join to sing in harmony as able:

God's Word is our great her-i - tage and shall be ours for - ev - er; to spread its

light from age to age shall be our chief en-deav-or. Through life it guides our way,

in death it is our stay. Lord, grant, while worlds en - dure, we keep its

teach - ings pure through - out all gen - er - a - tions.

Announcements

Postlude

Matthew Doering

Professor of History, Social Sciences, and Social Studies Education

Matthew is a 1991 graduate of Minnesota Valley LHS and a 1996 graduate of MLC, where he received a BS-Education degree. In 2022, he was awarded an MA in American history and government from Ashland University.

Upon his graduation from MLC, Matthew was assigned to teach grades 3-5 at Our Savior in Bylas, Arizona. The following year he became principal as well and taught grades 6-8. In 2002, he accepted a call to Lakeside LHS, where he served for more than two decades, teaching social studies, coaching football and softball, and serving in 2024-2025 as the director of curriculum and instruction.

Since 1995, Matthew has been married to his wife Jill (Boggs). God has blessed them with three children, all graduates of MLC: Cassandra Schilling, Rebecca Kvam, and Kyle Doering.

Johanna Fischer

Lead Teacher at MLC Early Childhood Learning Center

Johanna is a 2017 graduate of Luther Preparatory School and a 2021 graduate of MLC, where she received a BS-Early Childhood Education degree. She also completed the Director Training Program through the WELS Commission on Lutheran Schools and is currently pursuing her MS-Educational Administration degree through MLC.

In 2021, Johanna was assigned to St. John in Baraboo, Wisconsin, where she served for four years as early childhood director, 3K & 4K teacher, and childcare teacher.

Johanna is the daughter of Doran and Rebecca Fischer. She has three sisters: Naomi (Matt) Christensen, Abby (Charlie) Galecki, and Miriam (Ben) DeGidio.

Malachi Mortensen

Dormitory Supervisor & Instructor

Malachi is a 2017 graduate of Lakeside LHS, a 2021 graduate of MLC (BA-Biblical Languages), and a 2025 graduate of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (M.Div.).

Malachi served his vicar year at Gethsemane in Omaha, Nebraska, in 2023-2024 and was also a part-time religion instructor at Kettle Moraine LHS during the 2024-2025 school year.

Malachi is the son of Marvin Mortensen and Mara Dahms. He has three brothers (Matthew, Marcus, and Mason) and one sister (Mariah).

Benjamin Schaefer

Professor of Hebrew

Benjamin is a 2001 graduate of St. Croix Lutheran Academy, a 2005 graduate of MLC (BA-Biblical Languages), and a 2009 graduate of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (M.Div.). In 2020, he was also awarded the Master of Sacred Theology degree from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary.

In 2009, Benjamin was assigned to First German in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, first as youth and outreach pastor and later as administrative pastor. In 2018, he accepted a call to serve as pastor at Calvary in Redding, California. From 2021 to 2025, he also served a second site in Anderson, California, as part of a WELS mission enhancement.

Since 2009, Benjamin has been married to his wife, Anna (Zarling). God has blessed them with five daughters: Ruth (15), Dorothea (14), Vivian (12), Alice (10), and Louisa (7).

Serving in Worship
Presiding Minister

Rev. Dr. Rich Gurgel

Preacher

Rev. Stephen Helwig
Gethsemane-Omaha NE

Organist

Prof. Craig Hirschmann

Cantor

Prof. Jon Hermanson

Trumpet

Jason Horn
Katie Rosenau

Trombone

Adam Conrad
Benjamin Foster

Percussion

Caleb Krahn

Piano

Elena Brauer

Vocalists

Lydia Meyer
Joseph Panning

Acoustic Guitar

Luke Zondervan

Bass Guitar

Timothy Manning

Violin

Bethany Spike

Flute

Magdalyn Witte

Cross and Candle Bearers

Thomas Balge
Zachary Maedke
Isaiah Scharf



Pursuing Excellence

UNDER THE CROSS

Acknowledgments

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