



Homecoming Service

Chapel of the Christ
Martin Luther College

October 12, 2025

9:30 a.m.

Preservice Music

Processional Hymn

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation | CW 920

Arr. Carl Schalk / Benjamin Culli

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.

The choir sings stanza 3.



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and
2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of
3 Grant, we pray, to all your faith - ful all the gifts they
4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, praise and hon - or



cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
hosts, and stay; come with all your lov - ing - kind - ness,
ask to gain; what they gain from you for - ev - er
to the Son, praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,



bind - ing all the Church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
hear your peo - ple as they pray; and your full - est
with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter
ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and



help for - ev - er and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
ben - e - dic - tion speak with - in these walls to - day.
in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.
one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

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

Amen.

Confession

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just

and will forgive us our sins

and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

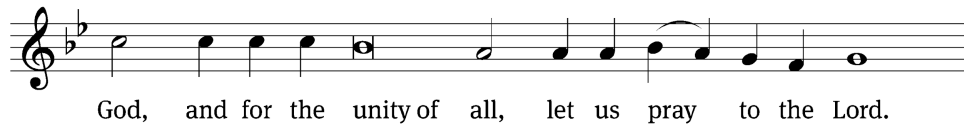
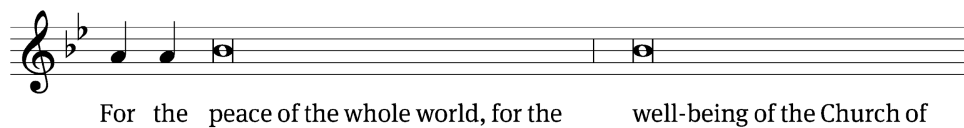
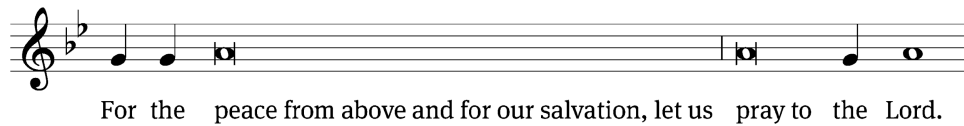
I have not loved you with my whole heart;
 I have not loved others as I should.
 I deserve your punishment both now and forever.
 But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins
 with his innocent suffering and death.
 Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy





For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, com - fort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

Glory to God in the Highest



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his



peo - ple on earth. Lord God,



heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your



glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and



peace to his peo - ple on earth.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,

Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. You are seat - ed at the

right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his

peo - ple on earth. For you a -

lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,

with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the glo - ry of

God the Fa - ther. A - men. A - men.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his



The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have promised to be with your church forever. We praise you for your presence in this place of worship and ask your ongoing blessing upon those who gather here. Dwell continually among us with your holy Word and sacraments, strengthen our fellowship in the bonds of love and peace, and increase our faithful witness to your salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Genesis 3:8–15

⁸Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”

¹⁰He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

¹¹And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

¹²The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴So the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this,
“Cursed are you above all livestock

and all wild animals!

You will crawl on your belly

and you will eat dust

all the days of your life.

¹⁵And I will put enmity

between you and the woman,

and between your offspring and hers;

he will crush your head,

and you will strike his heel.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 46

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Arr. Kyle Pederson

A mighty fortress is our God,
a refuge never failing.
Our helper he amid the flood
of mortal winds prevailing.
For still our spirit's foes
doth seek to work us woe;
they lure with pow'r so great,
with judgment and with hate;
shield us e'er, guard us as thy own.

If we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing.
Were not the right Man on our side,
the Man of God's own choosing.
You ask who this may be?
Christ Jesus it is he.
Emmanuel his name,
from age to age the same;
who was, who is, who e'er shall be.

Thy Word above all earthly pow'r;
Thy love above all earthly pow'r;
Thy hope above all earthly pow'r;
My God above all earthly pow'r.
Let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also.
The body they may kill,
God's truth abideth still.
The Kingdom is forever.

Second Reading

Romans 5:6–11

⁶You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

⁹Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! ¹⁰For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! ¹¹Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 115:1

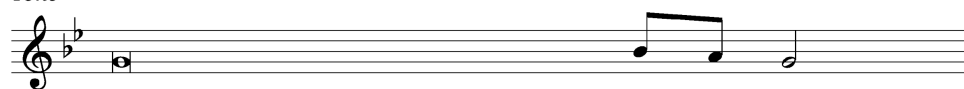


Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Tone



Not to us, LORD, not to us but to your name be the glo - ry,



because of your love and faith - ful - ness.

Gospel

John 1:9-14

⁹The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹²Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Hymn of the Day

O God, Our Help in Ages Past | CW 820



- 1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
- 2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
- 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
- 4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
soon bears us all away;
we fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home!

Sermon

Romans 5:6-11

Can you be certain that Christ is for you?

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

Prayer of the Church

Offering

A freewill offering will be collected at this time to support student financial aid. If you'd prefer to support Martin Luther College electronically:

*-Text **AID** to 507.223.4344*

-Go to mlc-wels.edu/donate

*-Scan the **QR code** and go to MLC Financial Aid*



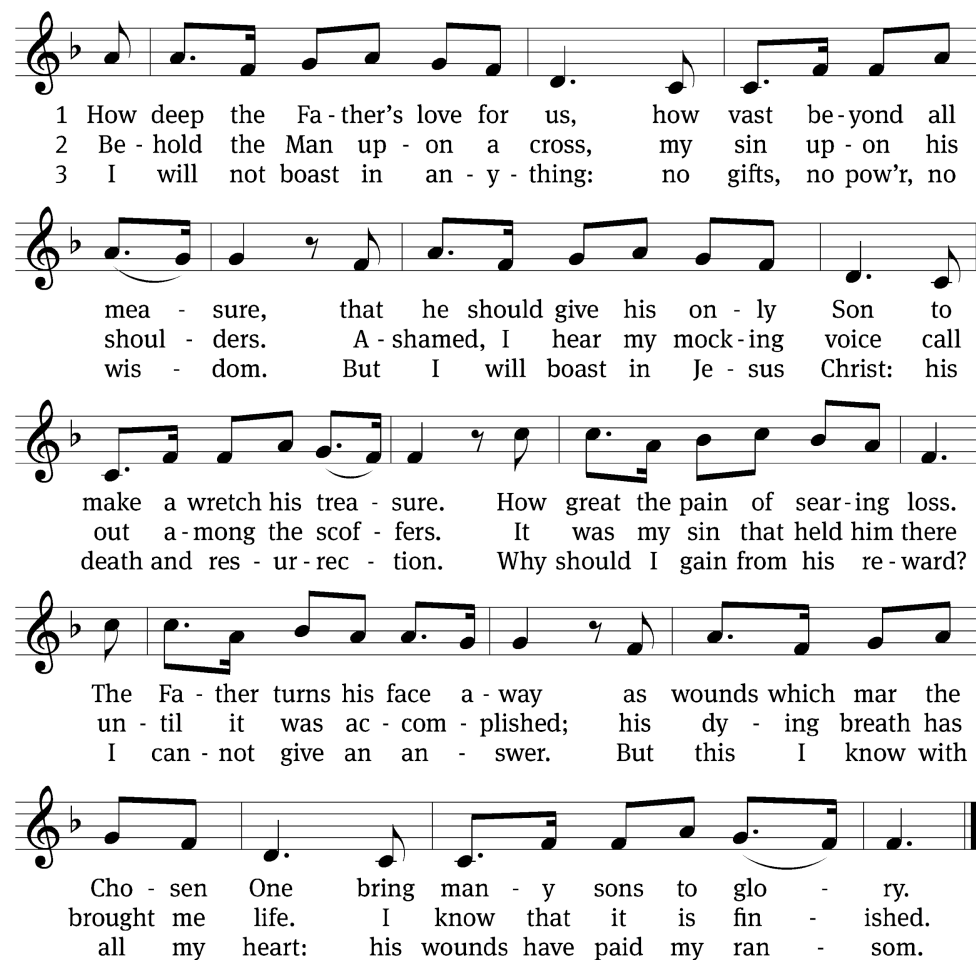
Hosanna Ringers

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

Arr. Peggy Bettcher

Hymn

How Deep the Father's Love for Us | CW 523



1 How deep the Fa - ther's love for us, how vast be - yond all
2 Be - hold the Man up - on a cross, my sin up - on his
3 I will not boast in an - y - thing: no gifts, no pow'r, no
mea - sure, that he should give his on - ly Son to
shoul - ders. A - shamed, I hear my mock - ing voice call
wis - dom. But I will boast in Je - sus Christ: his
make a wretch his trea - sure. How great the pain of sear - ing loss.
out a - mong the scof - fers. It was my sin that held him there
death and res - ur - rec - tion. Why should I gain from his re - ward?
The Fa - ther turns his face a - way as wounds which mar the
un - til it was ac - com - plished; his dy - ing breath has
I can - not give an an - swer. But this I know with
Cho - sen One bring man - y sons to glo - ry.
brought me life. I know that it is fin - ished.
all my heart: his wounds have paid my ran - som.

Stand

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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 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.

Amen.

Be seated

Closing Hymn

Built on the Rock

Arr. Dale Wood

The choir sings stanza 1-3. The congregation joins in stanza 4.

Built on the Rock the Church shall stand,
even when steeples are falling.
Crumbled have spires in ev'ry land,
bells still are chiming and calling—
calling the young and old to rest,
calling the souls of those distressed,
longing for life everlasting.

Not in our temples made with hands
God, the Almighty is dwelling.
High in the heav'ns his temple stands,
all earthly temples excelling.
Yet he who dwells in heav'n above
deigns to abide with us in love,
making our bodies his temple.

We are God's house of living stones,
built for his own habitation;
he fills our hearts, his humble thrones,
granting us life and salvation.
Were two or three to seek his face,
he in their midst would show his grace,
blessings upon them bestowing.

**Through all the passing years, O Lord,
grant that, when church bells are ringing,
many may come to hear God's Word
where he this promise is bringing:
“I know my own, my own know me;
you, not the world, my face shall see.
My peace I leave with you.” Amen.**

Acknowledgments

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Setting Two from Christian Worship

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College Choir/Männerchor

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Dr. Miles Wurster

Hosanna Ringers

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