



Opening Service
August 24, 2026
10:15 am

Processional Hymn

Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord | CW 585

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 Come, Ho - ly Ghost, God and Lord! May all your grac - es
2 Come, ho - ly Light, guide di - vine, and cause the Word of
3 Come, ho - ly Fire, com - fort true, grant us the will your



be out-poured on each be - liev - er's mind and heart;
life to shine. Teach us to know our God a - right
work to do and in your ser - vice to a - bide;



your fer - vent love to them im - part. Lord, by the bright - ness
and call him Fa - ther with de - light. From ev - 'ry er - ror
let tri - als turn us not a - side. Lord, by your pow'r pre -



of your light you gath - er and in faith u - nite
keep us free; let none but Christ our mas - ter be
pare each heart, and to our weak - ness strength im - part



your Church from ev - 'ry land and tongue: this to your
that we in liv - ing faith a - bide, in him, our
that brave - ly here we may con - tend, through life and



praise, O Lord our God, be sung. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Lord, with all our might con - fide. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
death to you, our Lord, as - cend. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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

Amen.

Confession

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,

and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,

according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever. **Amen.**

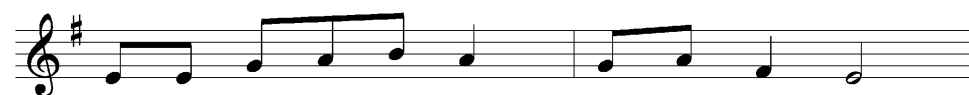
Lord, Have Mercy



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



For the peace from a - bove and for our sal - va - tion,



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



For the peace of the whole world, for the well - be - ing



of the Church of God, and for the un - i - ty of all,



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

For this ho - ly house and for all who of - fer here their
wor - ship 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, 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.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo-ple on earth.

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God.

The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

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

Proverbs 3:1–8

¹My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, ²for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity. ³Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. ⁴Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.

⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. ⁷Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil. ⁸This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.

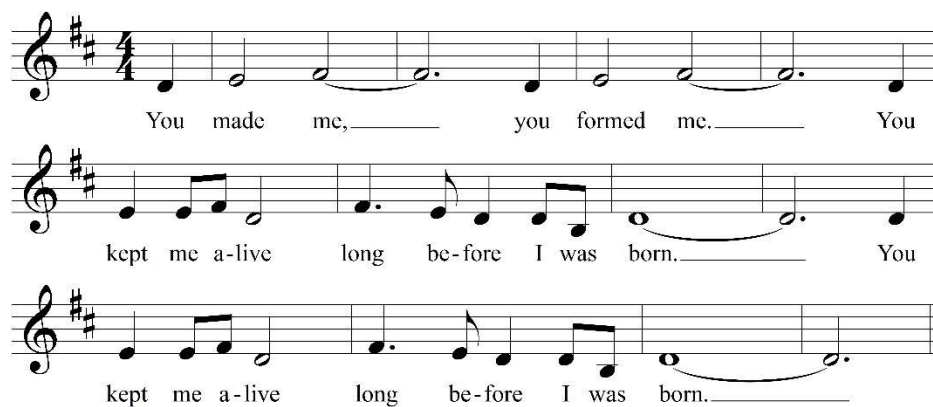
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Before I Was Born | Psalm 139

The choir will sing the first refrain and all verses. The congregation will sing all following refrains as indicated.



You have sought me out and found me; you know where I sit or stand.
You know the depths of my heart, whenever I move or rest,
you find me wherever I am. **Refrain**

Before the word comes from my mouth, you know what I want to say.
You come close to me, you lay your hand upon me.
All of this is too much for me. **Refrain**

How can I ever hide from you? Where can I run from you?
Above and below—you are there. To the dawn or to the sea—you are there.
Your hand will guide my way. **Refrain**

You have created every inch of me, you have knit me to my mother's womb.
You have record of all my days, long before they ever began.
How amazing your thoughts, O God. **Refrain**

1 Timothy 3:1–7

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

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

Johann Sebastian Bach

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

7

Gospel

John 1:43–51

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, “Follow me.”

⁴⁴Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

⁴⁶“Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked.

“Come and see,” said Philip.

⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.”

⁴⁸“How do you know me?” Nathanael asked.

Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.”

⁴⁹Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.”

⁵⁰Jesus said, “You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that.” ⁵¹He then added, “Very truly I tell you, you will see ‘heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on’ the Son of Man.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Hymn of the Day

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation | CW 920

Arr. Larry Visser

The choir sings stanza 3.

1. Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion,
2. To this tem - ple, where we call you,
3. Here be - stow on all your ser - vants
4. Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther,

Christ, our head and cor - ner - stone,
come, O Lord of hosts, and stay;
what they seek from you to gain.
praise and hon - or to the Son,

cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
come with all your lov - ing - kind - ness,
What they gain from you, for - ev - er
praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,

bind - ing all the Church in one;
hear your peo - ple as they pray,
with the bless - ed to re - tain;
ev - er three and ev - er one:



Ho - ly Zi - on's help for - ev - er
and your full - est ben - e - dic - tion
and here - af - ter in your glo - ry
one in might and one in glo - ry



and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
shed with - in these walls to - day.
ev - er - more with you to reign.
while un - end - ing ag - es run!

Sermon

Colossians 2:6–10

⁶So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

⁸See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.

⁹For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, ¹⁰and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority.

You have been brought to fullness in Christ.

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

Jack Heichelbech, Dormitory Supervisor and Instructor

Rite of Installation

Holly Dannecker, Professor of Special Education

Mark Parsons, Professor of English

Kevin Walker, Professor and Director of Staff Ministry

Alyssa Warnke, Lead Teacher, Early Childhood Learning Center

Welcome and Introduction of New Adjunct Instructors

Maya Heichelbech

Hymn

In Christ Alone | CW 510



1 In Christ a - lone my hope is found; he is my
2 In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, full - ness of
3 There in the ground his bod - y lay, light of the
4 No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the



light, my strength, my song; this cor - ner-stone, this sol - id
God in help - less babe; this gift of love and right-eous-
world by dark - ness slain; then burst - ing forth in glo - rious
pow'r of Christ in me; from life's first cry to fi - nal



ground, firm through the fierc - est drought and storm.
ness, scorned by the ones he came to save.
day, up from the grave he rose a - gain!
breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti - ny.



What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are
Till on that cross as Je - sus died, the wrath of
And as he stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man can ev - er



stilled, when striv-ings cease! My com - fort - er, my all in
God was sat - is - fied; for ev - 'ry sin on him was
lost its grip on me; for I am his and he is
pluck me from his hand; till he re - turns or calls me



all; here in the love of Christ I stand.
laid; here in the death of Christ I live.
mine, bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.
home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

Stand

Prayer

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, 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.

Closing Hymn

God's Word Is Our Great Heritage | CW 640

Join to sing a capella:

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.

The musical score is written for a capella choir in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are placed below the treble staff. The melody is primarily in the treble staff, with the bass staff providing harmonic support. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Be seated

Announcements

Postlude

Sinfonia on "We Thank Thee, God"

Johann Sebastian Bach

Arr. Harvey Grace

Serving at Worship

Presiding Minister

Rev. Dr. Rich Gurgel

Preacher

Rev. Brett Krause
Zion-Denver

Organist

Prof. Craig Hirschmann

Choir

Dr. Adrian Smith

Trumpet

Katie Rosenau, Josiah Smith

Trombone

Adam Conrad, Noah Sulzle

Timpani

Caleb Krahn

Cross and Candle Bearers

Isaac Boettcher
Jacob Gabb
Lucas Prange

A Note about the Vestments

The vestments worn during the service symbolize different forms of the one public ministry of the gospel for which Martin Luther College students prepare. Workers trained as pastors wear an alb (white robe) and stole, which represents the yoke of Christ that his undershepherds take up at their ordination. Workers trained as staff ministers wear an alb and the deacon stole over one shoulder, which represents their office as servants of Christ and his church.

Acknowledgments

Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord: Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; (st. 1): German, 15th cent.; (sts. 2–3): Martin Luther, 1483–1546. Tune: Eyn Enchiridion oder Handbüchlein, Erfurt, 1524. Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 704209. Tune: Public domain.

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Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation: Text: Latin, c. 8th cent., abr.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, abr., alt. Tune: Henry Purcell, 1659–1695, adapt. Text and tune: Public domain.

In Christ Alone: Text: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Stuart Townend, b. 1963. Tune: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Stuart Townend, b. 1963. Text and tune: © 2002 Thankyou Music, admin. CapitolCMGPublishing.com. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 704209.

God's Word Is Our Great Heritage: Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Ole G. Belsheim, alt. Tune: Friedrich O. Reuter, 1863–1924. Text and tune: Public domain.

Setting Four from Christian Worship

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(Gregory) Jack Heichelbech | *Dormitory Supervisor & Instructor*

Jack is a 2018 graduate of Luther Preparatory School, a 2022 graduate of MLC (BA-Biblical Languages), and a 2026 graduate of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (MDiv). Jack served his vicar year at Zion-Denver in 2024-2025 and served as a part-time religion instructor at Kettle Moraine LHS during the 2025-2026 school year. God has blessed Jack and his wife, Maya (Aden) MLC '23, with one son: Luke (5 months).

Holly Dannecker | *Professor of Special Education*

Holly is a 2005 graduate of Luther Preparatory School and a 2009 graduate of MLC (BS-Education). She earned her MS Education from MLC in 2023 and a cross-categorical special education license from St. Mary's University of Minnesota in Winona. From 2009-2020, Holly served as a teacher across grade levels ranging from kindergarten through fourth grade at St. John-Sparta WI. In 2020, she accepted a call to St. Mark-Green Bay WI, where she served as a part-time classroom teacher and part-time student services instructor. In 2022, she became St. Mark's full-time student services director. Most recently, Holly accepted a call to Mount Olive-Appleton WI, where she served as full-time director of student services, leading and growing the school's special education program. God has blessed Holly and her husband, Jordan MLC '09, with two daughters: Paige (13) and Eve (11).

Mark Parsons | *Professor of English*

Mark is a 2005 graduate of MLC (BA-Biblical Languages) and a 2009 graduate of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (MDiv). In 2020, he was also awarded a certificate of culture and theology from Fuller Theological Seminary. In 2009, Mark was assigned to Christ the King-Port Charlotte FL. In 2013, he accepted a call to serve as associate pastor of youth and school ministry at Faith-Fond du Lac WI. From 2020 to 2026, he served as missionary and executive director of Truth in Love Ministry (Nampa ID). God has blessed Mark and his wife, Molly (Merten) MLC '06, with three children: Jonas (18), Annabella (16), and Emmalyn (13).

Kevin Walker | *Professor and Director of Staff Ministry*

Kevin is a 1995 graduate of Northwestern College (BA-Biblical Languages) and a 2003 graduate of Martin Luther College (BS-Staff Ministry). From 2003-2018, Kevin served as staff minister at Cross of Life-Mississauga ON (Canada). From 2018-2026, he served as staff minister at Bethlehem-Germantown/Menomonee Falls WI. God has blessed Kevin and his wife, Cindie (Bode), with five children: Jordan (wife Rachel), Calista, Celina (husband Brandon), Japheth (wife Katy), and Josiah, as well as three grandchildren: Theophilus, Clio, and Elliana.

Alyssa Warnke | *Lead Teacher, Early Childhood Learning Center*

Alyssa is a 2013 graduate of MLC (BS-Early Childhood Education). She has served as lead toddler teacher at Jesus Loves Me Learning Center-Mankato MN, lead infant teacher at Stepping Stones-Neenah WI, PreK4 teacher at Divine Savior Academy-Doral FL, and as PreK director and teacher at Grace-Oshkosh WI. God has blessed Alyssa and her husband, Scott, with two children: Annabelle and Theodore.