



Homecoming Service
October 4, 2026
9:30 am

Processional Hymn

We All Are One in Mission

Arr. Benjamin Foster and Joseph Panning

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 joint choirs sing stanza 3.



1. We all are one in mis - sion; We all are one in call,
2. We all are called to ser - vice, to wit - ness in God's name.
3. We all be-hold one vi - sion, a stark re - a - li - ty;
4. Now let us be u - ni - ted, and let our song be heard;



Our var - ied gifts u - ni - ted by Christ, the Lord of all.
Our min - i - stries are dif - f'rent; our pur - pose is the same:
The au - thor of sal - va - tion was nailed u - pon a tree.
Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing Word.



A sin - gle great co - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove____
To touch the lives of o - thers with God's sur - pris - ing grace,____
Yet res - ur - rec - ted jus - tice gives rise that we may share____
We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,____



To plan and work to - ge - ther that all may know Christ's love.
so ev - 'ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.
free re - con - cil - i - a - tion and hope a - mid de - spair.
our var - ied gifts u - ni - ted by Christ, the Lord of all.



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.

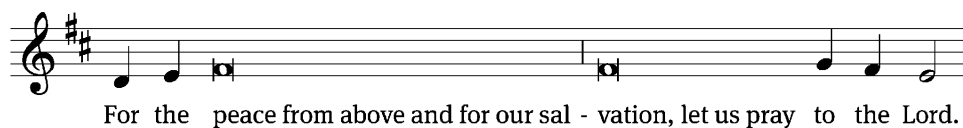
Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

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 the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the un - it - y of all, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and
praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra - cious Lord.
A - men. A - men.

Glory to God in the Highest

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

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. 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

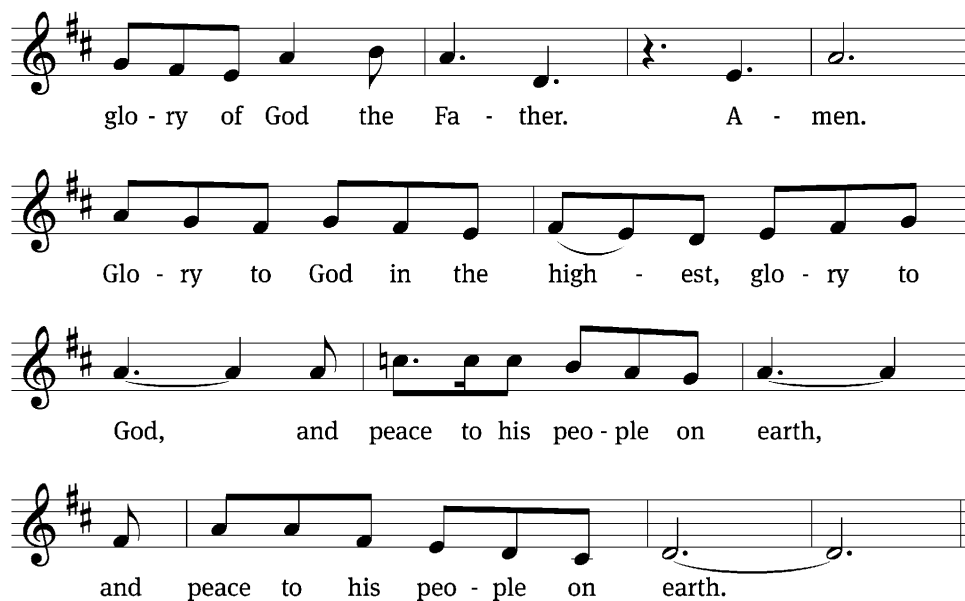
us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the

Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. 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



The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

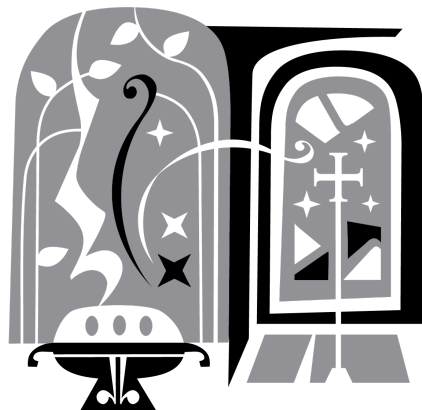
Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, you sent your disciples to proclaim your coming. Bless all the missions of your church, and enable your workers to gather in your harvest. Through them, show your love to the helpless, enlighten those in darkness, assist those in peril and need, and at last bring all your children home to yourself, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated



Choral Anthem

O Splendor of God's Glory Bright

Toby Young

O splendor of God's glory bright,
from light eternal bringing light,
thou light of light, light's living spring.
True day, all days illumining.

Come, very Sun of heaven's love,
in lasting radiance from above,
and pour the Holy Spirit's ray
on all we think and do today.

And now to you our prayers ascend,
O Father glorious without end,
we plead with the sov'reign grace for pow'r
to conquer in temptation's hour.

Teach us to love with all our might,
and keep our hearts from envy's blight,
let faith her eager fires renew,
and hate the false and love the true.

As dawn speeds on across the sky,
true Dawn with haste come from on high.
O Word, through whom light came to be,
come in your pow'r and set us free.

First Reading

Jonah 3

¹Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: ²"Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you."

³Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. ⁴Jonah began by going a day's journey into the city, proclaiming, "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown." ⁵The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

⁶When Jonah's warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. ⁷This is the proclamation he issued in Nineveh:

"By the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. ⁸But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. ⁹Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish."

¹⁰When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

O God, Show Us Your Mercy | Psalm 67



1 O God, show us your mer - cy and bless us with your grace;
2 For you will judge the peo - ples in truth and right - eous - ness,



and cause to shine up - on us the bright - ness of your face,
your rule of per - fect jus - tice all na - tions will con - fess.



that so your way most ho - ly on earth may soon be known,
Let all the peo - ples praise you, let all the na - tions sing;



and un - to ev - 'ry peo - ple your sav - ing grace be shown.
then earth in rich a - bun - dance to us its fruit shall bring.



Let all the peo - ples praise you, let all the na - tions sing;
The Lord our God will bless us, his rich - est bless - ing send,



in ev - 'ry land let prais - es and songs of glad - ness ring.
and all cre - a - tion praise him to earth's re - mot - est end.

Second Reading

Romans 10:8–15

⁸But what does it say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: ⁹If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. ¹¹As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, ¹³for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

¹⁴How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

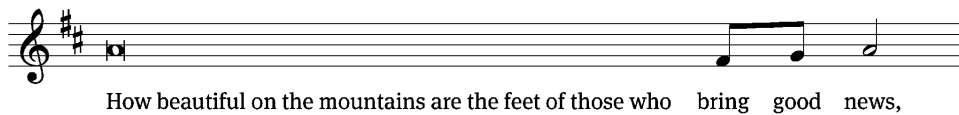
Isaiah 52:7



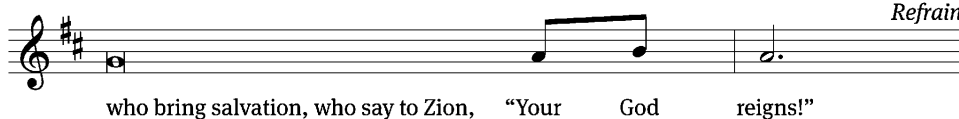
Refrain



Tone



How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news,



who bring salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

Refrain

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

Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying | CW 745



- 1 Hark, the voice of Je - sus cry - ing, "Who will go and work to - day?
- 2 If you can - not speak like an - gels, if you can - not preach like Paul,
- 3 If you can - not be a watch - man, stand - ing high on Zi - on's wall,
- 4 Let none hear you i - dly say - ing, "There is noth - ing I can do,"



Fields are ripe and har - vests wait - ing; who will bear the sheaves a - way?"
 you can tell the love of Je - sus, you can say he died for all.
 point - ing out the path to heav - en, of - f'ring life and peace to all,
 while the mul - ti - tudes are dy - ing, and the Mas - ter calls for you.



Loud and long the Mas - ter call - eth; rich re - ward he of - fers thee.
 If you can - not rouse the wick - ed with the judg - ment's dread a - larms,
 with your prayers and with your of - f'rings you can do what God de - mands;
 Take the task he gives you glad - ly, let his work your plea - sure be;



Who will an - swer, glad - ly say - ing, "Here am I, send me, send me"?
 you can lead the lit - tle chil - dren to the Sav - ior's wait - ing arms.
 you can be like faith - ful Aar - on, hold - ing up the proph - et's hands.
 an - swer quick - ly when he call - eth, "Here am I, send me, send me!"

Sermon

Romans 10:8–15

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 Dedication of Recent Campus Improvements

Hosanna Ringers

Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying
Arr. Sandra Eithun

Offering

*A freewill offering will be gathered to support student financial aid at MLC.
If you prefer to support Martin Luther College electronically:*

- Text **AID** to 507.223.4344
- Go to ***mlc-wels.edu/donate***
- Scan the **QR Code** and select **MLC Financial Aid** in the drop-down menu.



Prayer of the Church

Loving God and Lord, you created the universe that surrounds us and the globe on which we live. You control all things through your Son, who sits at your right hand in glory.

Comfort us with the promise of your eternal presence.

Give your Word power as it works in our hearts and minds. Clear away our confusion, and demolish our doubts. Send your Spirit to strengthen both our confidence in your promises and our desire to live according to your will.

Take away our love of sinning, and restore us each day by your grace.

The signs of the times warn us that the end of time is near. Protect us from scoffers who sneer at your truth. Spare us and Christians around the world from all forms of hate and persecution.

Give us courage to carry the cross with patience and joy.

Instill in the hearts of our children a desire to follow you as they prepare for future days. Help them distinguish between what is passing and what is eternal, between instant thrills and lasting joy. Encourage more young people to prepare for service in the public ministry of the gospel.

Mold us and move us to be good examples for our youth.

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical or emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. Pour out your compassion on the grieving, and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Whether we pray together or alone, you have promised to hear and answer us. Give us patience to accept your blessings in whatever way you send them. In your love and wisdom, prepare us for the day when you will take us to be with you forever.

Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Hymn

Rise, Shine, You People | CW 744



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
 2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
 3 Come, cel - e - brate, your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
 4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent his Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered.
 he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing.
 your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing.
 Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us.



He comes to us, by death and sin sur -
 All men and wom - en, who by guilt are
 To all the world go out and tell the
 Tell how the Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry



round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.
 driv - en, now are for - giv - en.
 sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.
 na - tion his new cre - a - tion.

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

Now Thank We All Our God | CW 598

Arr. John Rutter

The joint choirs sing stanza 2.



- 1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voic - es,
- 2 Oh, may this boun-teous God through all our life be near us,
- 3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en,



who won-drous things has done, in whom his world re - joic - es,
with ev - er - joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us
the Son, and him who reigns with them in high - est heav - en,



who from our moth-ers' arms has blessed us on our way
and keep us in his grace and guide us when per-plexed
the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heav'n a - dore;



with count-less gifts of love and still is ours to - day.
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

Announcements

Serving at Worship

Presiding Minister

Rev. Jacob Behnken
MLC Dean of Chapel

Preacher

Rev. Dr. Rich Gurgel
MLC President

Lectors

Jeremiah Bain
Owen Prael
August Wall

Organists

Benjamin Foster
Staff Minister of Music and Discipleship
St. Paul-Green Bay WI

Will Archer

George Hogan

College Choir/Männerchor

Dr. Adrian Smith
MLC Music Division

Chorale/Women's Choir

Prof. Jon Hermanson
MLC Music Division

Hosanna Ringers

Prof. Craig Hirschmann
MLC Music Division

Trumpet

Norah Jaeger
Eric Smith
Josiah Smith
Elijah Vik

Trombone

Benjamin Gumm
Elijah Ruddat
Maria Vik

Tuba

Henry Pape

Percussion

Caleb Krahn
Mary Niebuhr
Noah Nolte

Acknowledgments

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Setting Three from Christian Worship.

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