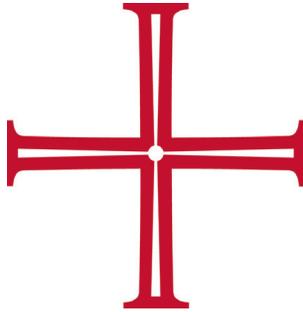


Wartburg Theological Seminary



*Class of 2020
Commencement*

COMMENCEMENT LITURGY *with*
THE CONFERRING OF ACADEMIC DEGREES & CITATIONS

WARTBURG THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
The One Hundred and Sixty-Sixth Year
May 17, 2020
3:00 PM

From the Class of 2020

Class Verse | Offering Designation | Class Banners

CLASS VERSE

Ephesians 4:4-6

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

OFFERING DESIGNATION

The Naming Project

The Naming Project is a Christian youth ministry serving youth of all sexual and gender identities. The summer camp at Bay Lake Camp in Minnesota provides a safe place for LGBTQIA+ or allied youth from all over the country to learn, grow, and share their experiences. Sadly, The Naming Project had to cancel its summer camp due to the coronavirus. However, they are partnering to provide online pastoral care and a virtual summer camp experience for youth across the country. They continue to educate and edify youth, parents, pastors, youth workers, and others who care for LGBTQIA+ youth.

The program was founded by ELCA Deacon Ross Murray, Wartburg Seminary alum Jay Wiesner, and Rev. Brad Froslee, and is now led by an ecumenical cadre of caring adults, both clergy and laypeople. Deacon Ross Murray is a recipient of the Living Loehe award by Wartburg Seminary and addressed the 2019 graduating class at their commencement.

Donations may be made online (wartburgseminary.edu/giving-opportunities) or by mail, delivered to Wartburg Theological Seminary directed towards the 2020 Commencement Offering.

CLASS BANNER

Featuring Ephesians 4:4-6

The class banner proudly bears the class verse from Ephesians 4. This scripture is true even and especially in the midst of global pandemic, reminding us God gathers us into one body in Jesus Christ. As the Class of 2020 is sent from this place where God formed and knit them together as community, they hold close God's unity in and among them. This banner represents God's gift in Jesus Christ as they leave from this place to new and varied adventures. Special thanks to 2020 graduate Teri Sutherlin for the design and creation of the banner!



SPECIAL BANNER

In memory of Rev. Dr. Gwen Sayler

The special banner in memory of Rev. Dr. Gwen Sayler is presented in honor of this bold woman who was mentor, professor, and adviser to many. She left an indelible mark on our learning, with remarkably memorable PowerPoint presentations, and on our lives, with her generous spirit and passion for the inclusivity of the good news of the Gospel.

Special thanks to 2020 graduate Teri Sutherlin for the design and creation of the banner! The inscription includes a piece by 2020 graduate, Kirsten Lee It is reproduced on the following page.

SPECIAL BANNER INSCRIPTION



“Where, oh death, is your sting? A pierced sting to the heart, to the soul.

Colors dance around her as she teaches us about God's unrelenting care of God's people the Israelites. A bold and loving disciple spoke Christ's empowering truth to countless students needing wisdom and guidance.

God names her, claims her in her baptism, and gives her life forever in God's care at the cross of our Lord and Savior. Her pain, her suffering, is no more as she is raised into a new creation. Death does not win the day.

The victory, oh cursed death? The victory is not yours. The victory is in and through our Savior who died on the cross to give our beloved friend, sister, aunt, and professor life forever embraced in heavenly glory.

Where, oh death, is your victory? As we cry, as we sit in the shock, our Savior wipes away our tears and embraces us in love and comfort. God's home is right where we are because God's home has always been in us and will always be our shelter and our rock.

In God's glorious eternal home, our beloved is forever with us and never gone. In God's home, hope is claimed in Christ and hope will carry us through.”

*Kirsten Lee, November 12, 2019
Printed with Permission.*

Commencement Liturgy

Service of the Word | Sixth Sunday of Easter

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

Wer nun den lieben Gott läßt walten
J.S. Bach

OPENING WORD

Rev. Dr. Thomas Schattauer
Dean of the Chapel and Professor of Liturgics

GATHERING MUSIC

Down in the River to Pray

As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the starry crown
Good Lord, show me the way

O sisters, let's go down
Let's go down, come on down
O sisters, let's go down
Down in the river to pray

As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the robe and crown
Good Lord, show me the way

O brothers, let's go down
Let's go down, come on down
Come on, brothers, let's go down
Down in the river to pray

As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the starry crown
Good Lord, show me the way

O siblings, let's go down
Let's go down, come on down
O fathers, let's go down
Down in the river to pray

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.
Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Pour water into a bowl at home.

We give you thanks, holy and gracious God,
for you created the waters of the earth:
wide oceans, rushing streams, clear lakes, mighty rivers.

Praise to you for the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans,
for the Mississippi River and Catfish Creek,
and for all the waters that sustain our lives.
All life is sustained by you, our Source.

We praise you for Christ, the firstborn from the dead,
who frees us from sin and raises us up to new life.
Here at this font we touch the river of the water of life,
bright as crystal, flowing through the city of God.
Here, death is washed away forever.
Here, we are grafted into the tree of life,
with leaves for the healing of the world.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on this assembly,
into this community, and throughout all creation.
Cleanse us from our fears and drown our divisions.
Grant that all may drink of your mercy and peace,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG

Be Not Afraid

A cantor sings the verses. The assembly sings the refrain.

You shall cross the barren desert, but you shall not die of thirst.
You shall wander far in safety though you do not know the way.
You shall speak your words in foreign lands and all will understand.
You shall see the face of God and live.

♩ Refrain

Be not a - fraid. I go be - fore you al - ways.

Come, fol - low me, and I will give you rest.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major. The first staff is marked with a double bar line and a repeat sign, indicating the start of the refrain. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics.

If you pass through raging waters in the sea, you shall not drown.
If you walk amid the burning flames, you shall not be harmed.
If you stand before the pow'r of hell and death is at your side,
know that I am with you through it all.

Refrain

Blessed are your poor, for the kingdom shall be theirs.
Blest are you that weep and mourn, for one day you shall laugh.
And if wicked tongues insult and hate you all because of me, blessed,
blessed are you!

Refrain

Text: Isaiah 43:2-3, Luke 6:20ff; Bob Dufford, SJ, b.1943
Tune: Bob Dufford, SJ, b.1943; acc. by Theophane Hytrek, OSF, 1915-1992

GREETING

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.
Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. You hold us together in the bonds of community in you, even, and especially, when we cannot gather in person. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Almighty God, we praise you for your servants through whom you call the church its tasks and renew its life. Raise up in our own day pastors and deacons, teachers and prophet inspired by your Spirit, whose voices will give strength to your church and proclaim in word and deed the reality of your reign, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

FIRST READING

Acts 17:22-31

Paul's message to the Athenians

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said,
"Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way.
For as I went through the city
and looked carefully at the objects of your worship,
I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.'
What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.
The God who made the world and everything in it,
the one who is Lord of heaven and earth,
does not live in shrines made by human hands,
nor is God served by human hands, as though he needed anything,
since that very God gives to all mortals life and breath and all things.

From one ancestor God made all nations to inhabit the whole earth,
and he allotted the times of their existence
and the boundaries of the places where they would live,
so that they would search for God
and perhaps grope for and find God—
though indeed God is not far from each one of us.
For 'In God we live and move and have our being';

as even some of your own poets have said,
'For we too are the offspring of God.'

"Since we are God's offspring,
we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone,
an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals.
While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance,
now God commands all people everywhere to repent,
because God has fixed a day
on which to judge the world in righteousness
by a man whom he has appointed,
and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 66:8-20

Be joyful in God, all you lands

Read by members of the graduating class.

Bless our God, you peoples;
let the sound of praise be heard.
Our God has kept us among the living
and has not allowed our feet to slip.
For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us as silver is tried.
You brought us into the net;
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.
You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water,
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.
I will enter your house with burnt offerings
and will pay you my vows,
those that I promised with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams;
I will give you oxen and goats.
Come and listen, all you who believe,
and I will tell what God has done for me.
I called out to God with my mouth,
and praised the Lord with my tongue.
If I had cherished evil in my heart,
the Lord would not have heard me;
but in truth God has heard me;
and has attended to the sound of my prayer.

Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,
nor withheld unfailing love from me.

SECOND READING

1 Peter 3:13-22

The days of Noah, a sign of baptism

Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good?
But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed.
Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated,
but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord.
Always be ready to make your defense to anyone
who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you;
yet do it with gentleness and reverence.
Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned,
those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame.
For it is better to suffer for doing good,
if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil.
For Christ suffered for sins once for all,
the righteous for the unrighteous,
in order to bring you to God.
Christ was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;

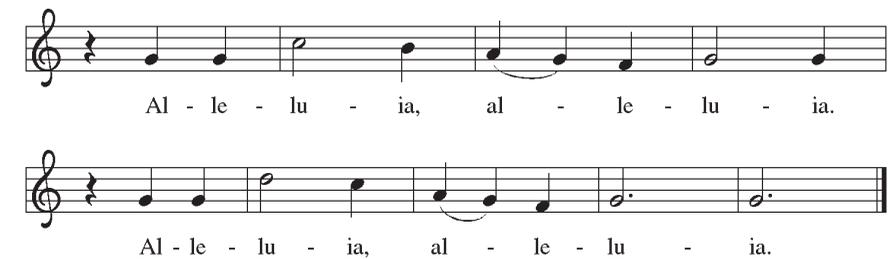
in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison,
who in former times did not obey,
when God waited patiently in the days of Noah,
during the building of the ark,
in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water.

And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—
not as a removal of dirt from the body,
but as an appeal to God for a good conscience,
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God,
with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly welcomes the gospel, singing Alleluia.



A cantor sings the proper verse. The assembly repeats the Alleluia.

Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and
we will come to them and make our home with them. **Alleluia.**

GOSPEL

John 14:15-21
Christ our advocate

The holy gospel according to John, the 14th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said:

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

And I will ask the Father,

who will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever.

This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive,

whom the world neither sees nor knows.

You know the Spirit, because the Spirit abides with you, and will be in you.

“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you.

In a little while the world will no longer see me,

but you will see me;

because I live, you also will live.

On that day you will know that I am in my Father,

and you in me, and I in you.

They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me;

and those who love me will be loved by my Father,

and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Nathan Frambach
Professor of Pastoral Theology

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song

1 Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te;
1 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney;
2 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
3 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant,
4 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my jour - ney;

Jé - sus, je vou - drais t'an-non - cer à mes voi - sins par - tout,
I'll tell ev - 'ry - bod - y a - bout you wher - ev - er I go:
May all of my joy be a faith - ful re - flec - tion of you.
to car - ry your cross and to share all your bur - dens and tears.
but cour - age will come with the sound of your steps by my side.

car toi seul es la vie et la paix et l'a - mour:
you a - lone are our life and our peace and our love.
May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
For you saved me by giv - ing your bod - y and blood.
And with all of the fam - 'ly you saved by your love,

Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te.
Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney.
Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant.
we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our jour - ney.

Text: Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community; tr. Stephen Somerville, b. 1931
Music: LES PETITES SOEURS, Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community

COMMENCEMENT

Wartburg Theological Seminary's one hundred and sixty-sixth year

WELCOME

Rev. Michael Carlson
Representative, Board of Directors

SPECIAL AWARDS AND HONORS

Dr. Kristine Stache
Interim President

The Living Loehe Award



Rev. Kenneth D. Gibson is Senior Pastor at Grace Lutheran Church in Woodstock, IL, where he prayerfully leads a congregation of over 1700 members, cultivating a culture of love and generosity since 2009. He provides key leadership in the Woodstock Area Community Ministries, an ecumenical and interfaith organization.

Pastor Gibson has built a unique “Lunches for Learning” program in which members of his congregation travel to Honduras to provide education and support. He is a graduate of the Wartburg Seminary class of 1995 and majored in agricultural education at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, where he graduated with a B.A. in 1982. Rev. Gibson also has completed advanced studies at the Institute of Charitable Giving. His life prior to seminary study included farming and teaching agriculture. Pastor Gibson served in the WTS Mission Support office from 2000-2008, specializing in Resource Development and Strategic Planning, and was Vice President for the last three years. While living in Dubuque, Pastor Gibson was a member of the Association of Lutheran Development Executives and served on the Governor’s Non-Profit Task Force. Pastor Gibson also has served as the Vice President for Development for Hillcrest Family Services in Dubuque. In the spirit of Dr. William Weiblen, the air Ken breathes is Wartburg air.



Rev. Dr. David Solberg was baptized, confirmed, and ordained at Big Elk Creek Church in Elk Creek, WI. A 1966 graduate of Wartburg Seminary, he earned his B.A. degree from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire in 1962. He studied theology in West Germany from 1966-1967, and in 1980 earned a Doctor of Ministry from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Pastor Solberg

has served as a pastor at Sugar Creek Lutheran in Elkhorn, WI and at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Waverly, IA. From 1984-2008, he was Vice President for Development and Strategic Planning at WTS, where he was instrumental in organizing seminary efforts in development. Rev. Solberg’s fundraising efforts led WTS to be identified as the top seminary for alumni support among 214 accredited theological schools in the United States and Canada. Rev. Solberg also served as Interim Vice President for Mission Support at Hillcrest Family Services in Dubuque. He has served as an independent consultant for capital campaigns. During his fundraising career, Pastor Solberg raised more than \$100 million to support the church and its mission. He has a gift for summoning communities to generosity in accomplishing significant projects. Pastor Solberg remarks: “Little did I realize when coming to Wartburg 44 years ago how deeply this seminary would shape and form both my life and ministry.”

The Honorary Doctor of Divinity



Rev. Susan Canda, Bishop of the Central States Synod, was elected in June 2019. In her career, she has been involved in many forms of ministry, including advocacy work, campus ministry, youth gatherings, community organizing, interfaith cooperation, and ecumenical work, and been a voting member at four churchwide assemblies. Bishop Canda served as assistant to the bishop in

the Central States Synod beginning in 2013 and as Director for Evangelical Mission since 2016. Rev. Canda served as pastor at King of Glory Lutheran Church in Loveland, CO from 2006-2013, Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Topeka, KS from 1989-2006, and as co-pastor at Immanu-

el Lutheran Church in WaKeeney, KS from 1983-1989. Bishop Candea received a B.A. degree from California Lutheran University in 1979 and a Master of Divinity from Wartburg Seminary in 1983. She emphasizes that all Christians are called to be disciples of Jesus Christ who listen to the Spirit to grow in their faith in Jesus Christ and participate faithfully in God's transforming work in the world. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we belong to the church as the body of Christ and are called to walk together, mutually encouraging and building up one another in Jesus' Name, as the Spirit guides and empowers us.



Rev. Rubén F. Durán serves as Director for Congregational Vitality in the Domestic Mission Unit of the ELCA. He promotes synodical mission strategies, local initiatives, and innovative models to nurture life-changing relationships in new and existing communities of faith in the US and the Caribbean. Pastor Durán oversees 352 new mission congregations that reach people in multiple contexts with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He is a native of Lima, Peru. Through the faithful ministry of missionaries to Peru, Rev. Durán became a member of the Lutheran Church. Pastor Durán served parishes in Seattle, WA and Los Angeles, CA prior to becoming Associate to the Bishop and Mission Director for the Metropolitan Chicago Synod. He has also served as Associate Director for Latino Outreach and Director for New Congregations in the ELCA churchwide offices. Pastor Durán serves as Interim Pastor at New Hope-Nueva Esperanza Lutheran Church in Aurora, IL. He is a graduate of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, CA and Trinity Lutheran College in Seattle, WA, and holds a B.A. degree in Business Administration from the Escuela Nacional de Turismo. Keenly aware that members of the body of Christ come from diverse backgrounds, Rev. Durán is passionate about equipping and forming disciples for their witness to the Gospel.

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Rev. Rubén F. Durán

MUSICAL REFLECTION

A Meditation on "Veni, Creator, Spiritus..."
from A Pentecost Prelude by Charles Callahan

The Conferring of Academic Degrees & Citations

Dr. Kristine Stache, Interim President | Rev. Michael Carlson, Board of Directors | Rev. Dr. Craig Nesson, Academic Dean

WARTBURG THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY CLASS OF 2020

Certificate of Attendance

Corinna Karin Bader

TEEM (Theological Education for Emerging Ministries) Certificate

Dubuque program participants [D] and Lutheran Seminary Program in the Southwest, Austin, Texas participants [A]

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Clark Joseph Baldwin [D] | Larry Alfred Lemke [D] |
| Philip A. Deng [D] | James Richard McColley [D] |
| Kimberly Jo Frederking [D] | William Eric Saed [A] |
| Gail Hagerty [D] | German Antonio Santana [A] |
| Jua J. Her [D] | Thomas Walter Schwolert [A] |
| Joel Matthew Hicks [A] | John Parke Sheahan, II [D] |
| Timothy John Johnson [D] | Robert Stark [D] |
| John Jorgensen [D] | Enedina Casarez Vasquez [A] |

Certificate in Theological Studies

Jill Renee Klitz
Robert Oliver Lynn

Certificate in Hispanic Ministry

Completed through the Lutheran Seminary Program in the Southwest
Carlota Ma. Del Consuelo Espejel-Reid

Certificate for Lutheran Learning and Formation

Laura Kline

Paul Strike

Michael Charles Szydowski II

The Degree Master of Arts

Bradley Wayne Brunfelt

Lisa Margaret Grundtner

John Stephen Gutteter

Joseph William Holmberg

Heidi Ann Lender

Baird James Linke

Carrin Victoria Mahmood

Kristine Michelle Mason

Leah D. McDougall

Joshua Moss

Benjamin Scheirer

Savanna Paulena Sullivan

The Degree Master of Arts in Diaconal Ministry

Kenneth Michael Champagne

Mackenzie Ruth Hoffmann

Kellie Lavender Lisi

Nichole Elaine Lyons

The Degree Master of Divinity

Anthony Francisco Acompañado

Maria Ann Bonine

Jason Robert Davis (M)

Charlotte E. Eversoll

Christina Louise Mitchell Kadelbach

Kathryn A. Kieckhafer

Kirsten Marie Bjork Lee

Connie Lee Monson

Emily Harkins Norris (M)

Jason R. Poole-Xiong (Y)

Elisabeth Ruth Pynn Himmelman (M)

Drew Douglas Riter

Michelle L. Schultz

Matthew Thomas Shapton (M)

Teresa René Sutherlin (RM)

Matthew Grant Vanderford

Chad Michael Welch

Alfi Zoran Sarbeth Wyatt

Kelly Jean Ylitalo

Key: (Y) completed Youth, Culture, and Mission Concentration
(M) completed Mission Development/Redevelopment Concentration
(RM) completed Rural Ministry Concentration

CHARGE TO THE CLASS OF 2020

Dr. Kristine Stache
Interim President

RESPONSE

Elisabeth Ruth Pynn Himmelman
Matthew Grant Vanderford
Final Year Class Presidents

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Members of the graduating class lead the prayers of intercession.

Confident in the promise of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

God of presence, you have revealed yourself to us in your Son, Jesus Christ. Embolden your church, still gathered body of Christ, to reveal your kingdom of love for all through our speaking and listening, with ministries that persist during this time of pandemic, and in all the ways of our living. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of creation, you are the creator of heaven and earth. We give you thanks for the gift of water and ask your healing for oceans, rivers, lakes, springs, glaciers, and other bodies of water that give life to your creatures. Give us courage to respond to your call to care for your creation with love and justice. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of justice, you call all people of the world your children. Judge the nations justly, give leaders your wisdom and grace, show mercy to the oppressed and marginalized, especially immigrants and those seeking asylum. Raise up prophets to speak truth to power in pulpits, in protests, in living rooms, and in halls of justice. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of the hurting, you come near to us when we are lost, and you hear our distress. In the midst of the Covid-19 global pandemic, we know too well isolation, illness, and death. Draw us into your peace and grant your mercy to all people. We pray for all who suffer grief, sickness, and pain in any way, especially Duane Priebe and those we now name aloud in our homes. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of unity, in our differences, guide leaders in this church and all churches, as they lead your people to love as Jesus taught us to love. Set their hearts on the work of social justice; to be voices for those who have no voice; to advocate for the full participation of our LGBTQIA+ siblings in the church and this world. Provide them with the courage to boldly proclaim welcome to all of your people. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God without limits, we give you thanks for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's anniversaries of 50 years of ordaining women, 40 years of ordaining women of color, and 10 years of fully receiving the ministries of the LGBTQIA+ community; for all in ministry who deepen our theological understandings, remind us of the promises of Christ, preach the reality of wholeness, and still persist and work toward justice and full inclusion within the church. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of all, you remain with us always, and your kingdom has no end. We remember the saints who have gone before us in this community, especially Gwen Saylor, Michael Reibel, and Maria Pitt, and all who have been witnesses of the faith to us and have joined the church triumphant. Unite us forever in your final victory over death. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers with thanksgiving for the Word.

O God of justice and love, we give you thanks that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need,

awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit be honor and glory forever.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

SPECIAL GREETING

POETIC BLESSING

Beloved Is Where We Begin
Jan Richardson

If you would enter
into the wilderness,
do not begin
without a blessing.

Do not leave
without hearing
who you are:
Beloved,
named by the One
who has traveled this path
before you.
Do not go
without letting it echo
in your ears,
and if you find
it is hard
to let it into your heart,
do not despair.
That is what
this journey is for.

I cannot promise
this blessing will free you
from danger,

from fear,
from hunger
or thirst,
from the scorching
of sun
or the fall
of the night.

But I can tell you
that on this path
there will be help.

I can tell you
that on this way
there will be rest.

I can tell you
that you will know
the strange graces
that come to our aid
only on a road
such as this,
that fly to meet us
bearing comfort
and strength,
that come alongside us
for no other cause
than to lean themselves
toward our ear
and with their
curious insistence
whisper our name:

Beloved.
Beloved.
Beloved.

SENDING SONG

We Are Called



1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the
2 Come! O - pen your heart! Show your . . mer - cy to all those in
3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be



Lord! We are called to be light for the king - dom, to
fear! We are called to be hope for the hope - less so
one! God will reign, and we'll walk with each oth - er as



live in the free - dom of the cit - y of God.
ha - tred and blind - ness . . . will be . . . no more.
sis - ters and broth - ers . . . u - nit - ed in love.



We are called to act with jus - tice, we are called to



love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -



oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.

Text: David Haas, b. 1957
Music: WE ARE CALLED, David Haas

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessings.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

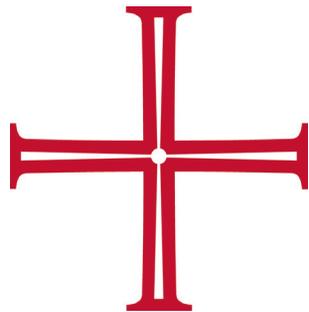
The assembly is sent into mission.

Go in peace. Christ is with you. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Tocatta 4

Georg Muffat



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