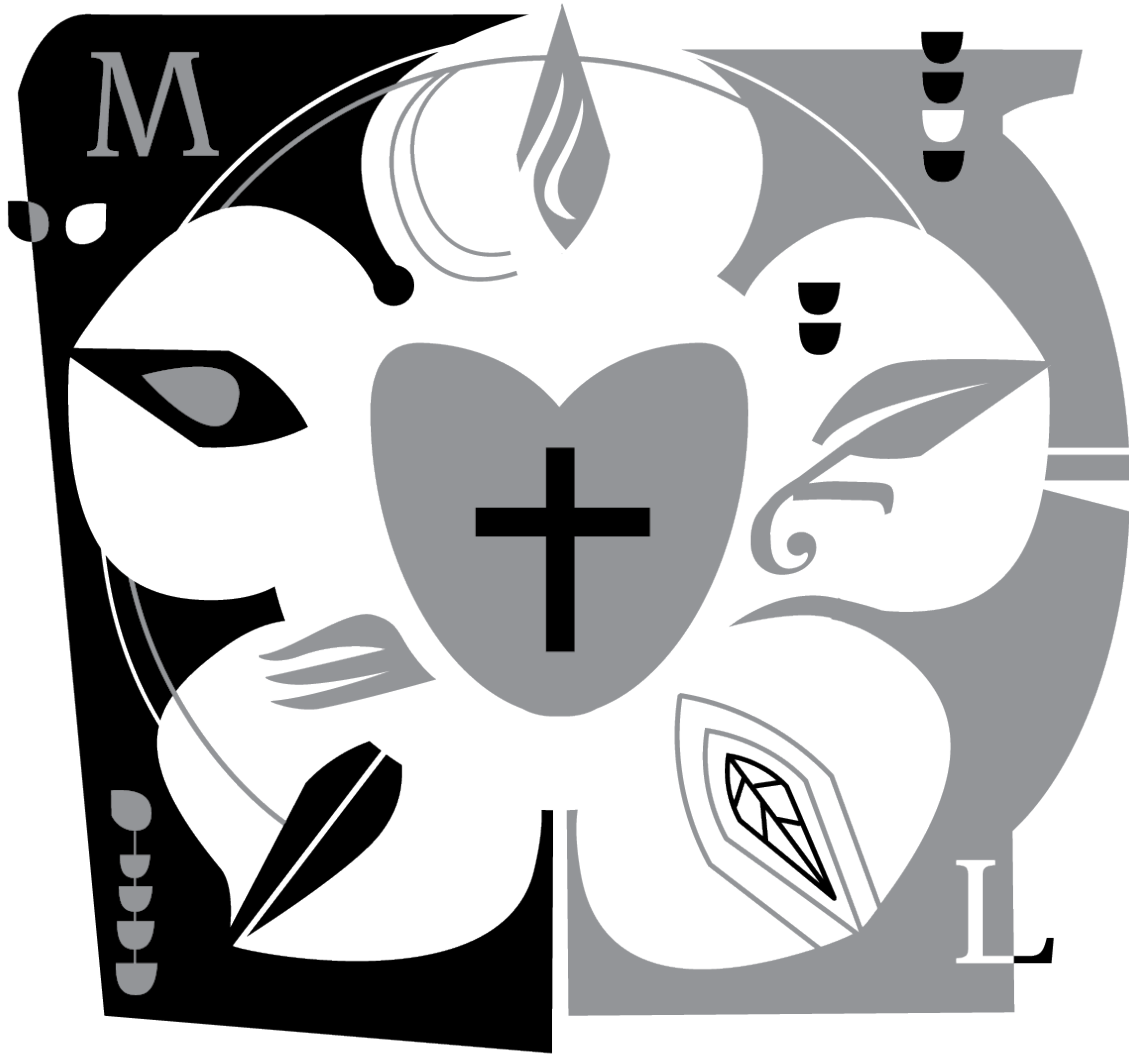


The Festival of the Lutheran Reformation



St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI

Featuring the Seminary Chorus
of
Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary
Mequon, WI

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, located in Mequon, Wisconsin, is a post-graduate school owned and supported by the members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Since its founding in 1863, the school has had as its specific purpose to offer theological training for men who desire to enter the pastoral ministry. The seminary carries out this purpose by training all its students to preach and teach the pure gospel of Jesus Christ and to carry out the work of the ministry in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and in conscious agreement with the historical confessions of the Lutheran Church. The seminary's stated goal is to produce pastors who are

Confessional in stance
Evangelical in approach
Mission-minded in spirit
Culturally sensitive
Appropriately flexible, and
Zealous both to nurture and equip the saints.

Most students attending Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary have been trained at Martin Luther College in New Ulm, Minnesota, and many have attended our synod's preparatory high schools in Watertown, Wisconsin, and Saginaw, Michigan. At the seminary, students enroll in a three-year program of classroom instruction. A fourth year, spent in a congregation under the supervision of its pastor, precedes the senior year. The on-campus curriculum includes both academic courses—such as scriptural, historical, and doctrinal studies—and professional courses like preaching, worship, teaching, evangelism, administration, counseling, and more. The seminary's Pastoral Studies Institute offers training for students from diverse ethnic backgrounds. Students who successfully complete the seminary's course of study and are presented by the faculty as candidates for the ministry are assigned to their first field of service by the presidents of the synod's twelve districts. This year, 115 students are attending classes on campus, and 37 are serving as vicars.

Since 1929, the seminary has been located on a beautiful 80-acre campus in Mequon, a suburb of Milwaukee. The primary campus buildings—chapel, classrooms, library, cafeteria, and dormitories—are under one roof and are situated around a central park-like circle. This complex was designed to resemble the Wartburg Castle, where Martin Luther translated the New Testament into German. A 1000-seat auditorium and gymnasium is located within a short walk of the main complex. Members of the faculty live in homes on the campus.

The seminary also serves pastors who are active in WELS congregations through Grow in Grace Institute for Continuing Education; many are involved in an advanced degree program. The campus hosts a variety of professional seminars, and faculty members are frequent speakers at continuing education events both in the United States and on the synod's world mission fields.

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary is supported by the mission offerings of WELS congregations, the tuition paid by its students, and private gifts directed to the seminary. Should you desire more information about the seminary, please contact Mr. Sean Young, the seminary's Director of Mission Advancement at 262-242-8100 or go to wls.edu.

The Seminary Chorus

For 94 years, the Seminary Chorus has appeared regularly in congregations of the Wisconsin Synod to proclaim God's Word through song and to represent the ministry of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. Membership in the chorus is open to all students, and the group rehearses three times a week. The choir presents an annual Christmas concert, performed twice on the second Sunday of December for several thousand guests. A concert also takes place the evening before the seminary's graduation service in May. Throughout the school year, the choir participates in worship at Wisconsin congregations and embarks on extended concert tours across North America during the second semester. In April 2026, the chorus will go on tour to sing for twelve WELS congregations in Oklahoma, Texas, Tennessee, Illinois, and Wisconsin.

Professor Aaron Christie

Professor Aaron Christie served as a parish pastor for 23 years in Antioch, IL, and Waukesha, WI, before transitioning to Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in the summer of 2020. He serves the seminary as dean of chapel and professor of worship and homiletics. Professor Christie serves the synod at large as chair of the hymnal project's Hymnody Committee, as a member of the Commission on Worship, and the Institute for Worship and Outreach. In addition to his training as a pastor, he holds a Master of Church Music degree from Concordia University Wisconsin. He is currently working toward a Master in Theology in Christian Liturgy from St. John's Graduate School and Seminary in Collegeville, MN.

Offering

A freewill offering will be gathered after services to support the work of Seminary Chorus. Thank you for your generosity!

CDs Available

Several recent CD recordings by the Seminary Chorus are for sale in the narthex following services for \$12. Anthems by the Seminary Chorus are available on Spotify, iTunes, and Apple Music.



ORDER OF SERVICE

Anthem

Great and Glorious

Great and glorious is the Lord in majesty, glorious in pow'r eternal, mighty and loving Father; praise him for his exceeding greatness. Great and glorious, mighty in awful majesty, let all extol him evermore.

Praise ye the Lord, for it is good to sing praises unto our God; glorious and mighty, loving Father, glorious ever in majesty. Praise to Thy holy name forevermore, glorious forever in majesty!

Text: Adapted and translated by Charles F. Manney

Music: Franz Joseph Haydn (1732–1809)

Arrangement: Joseph S. Daltry

Stand

Invocation

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 *Kyrie*

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

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 mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Glory to God in the Highest *Gloria in Excelsis*

The musical score is written for a single voice part on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "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". The score consists of seven lines of music, each with a corresponding line of lyrics. The first line of music is a short phrase, and the second line begins the main text. The music is written in a clear, legible font, and the lyrics are centered under the notes.

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

glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

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.

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Gracious Lord, our refuge and strength, pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the church your saving peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:31–34

“The days are coming,” declares the Lord,
“when I will make a new covenant
with the people of Israel
and with the people of Judah.

³² It will not be like the covenant
I made with their ancestors
when I took them by the hand
to lead them out of Egypt,
because they broke my covenant,
though I was a husband to them,”
declares the Lord.

³³ “This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel
after that time,” declares the Lord.
“I will put my law in their minds
and write it on their hearts.
I will be their God,
and they will be my people.

³⁴ No longer will they teach their neighbor,
or say to one another, ‘Know the Lord,’
because they will all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest,”
declares the Lord.
“For I will forgive their wickedness
and will remember their sins no more.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It

- 1 God's own child, I gladly say it:
I am baptized into Christ!
He, because I could not pay it,
Gave my full redemption price.
Do I need earth's treasures many?
I have one worth more than any
That brought me salvation free,
Lasting to eternity!
- 2 Sin, disturb my soul no longer:
I am baptized into Christ!
I have comfort even stronger:
Jesus' cleansing sacrifice.
Should a guilty conscience seize me
Since my baptism did release me
In a dear forgiving flood,
Sprinkling me with Jesus' blood?
- 3 Satan, hear this proclamation:
I am baptized into Christ!
Drop your ugly accusation,
I am not so soon enticed.
Now that to the font I've traveled,
All your might has come unraveled,
And, against your tyranny,
God, my Lord, unites with me!
- 4 Death, you cannot end my gladness:
I am baptized into Christ!
When I die, I leave all sadness
To inherit paradise!
Though I lie in dust and ashes
Faith's assurance brightly flashes:
Baptism has the strength divine
To make life immortal mine.
- 5 There is nothing worth comparing
To this lifelong comfort sure!
Open-eyed my grave is staring:
Even there I'll sleep secure.
Though my flesh awaits its raising,
Still my soul continues praising:
I am baptized into Christ;
I'm a child of paradise!

Text: Erdmann Neumeister (1671–1756)

Translation: Robert E. Voelker, 1991

Tune: BACHOFEN, Johann Caspar Bachofen (1695–1755), alt.

Setting: Kevin Becker

Second Reading

Galatians 5:1–6

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

² Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. ³ Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. ⁴ You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. ⁵ For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope. ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

- 1 O Word of God incarnate,
O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging,
O Light of our dark sky,
We praise you for the radiance
That from the hallowed page,
A lantern to our footsteps,
Shines on from age to age.
- 2 The Church from you, our Savior,
Received the gift divine,
And still that light is lifted
O'er all the earth to shine.
It is the sacred vessel
Where gems of truth are stored;
It is the heav'n-drawn picture
Of Christ, the living Word.

O Word of God Incarnate

- 3 The Scripture is a banner,
Before God's host unfurled;
It is a shining beacon
Above the dark'ning world.
It is the chart and compass
That o'er life's surging tide,
Mid mists and rocks and quicksands,
To you, O Christ, will guide.
- 4 O make your Church, dear Savior,
A lamp of purest gold
To bear before the nations
Your true light, as of old.
O teach your wand'ring pilgrims
By this their path to trace
Till, clouds and darkness ended,
They see you face to face. Amen.

Arrangement: Craig Courtney

Text: William How

Stand

Gospel

John 8:31–36

³¹ To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

³³ They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?"

³⁴ Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. ³⁵ Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated



1-2: All 3: Choir 4: All



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a trust - y shield
 2 With might of ours can naught be done, soon were our loss
 3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill, all ea - ger to
 4 The Word they still shall let re - main nor an - y thanks



and weap - on; he helps us free from ev - 'ry need
 ef - fect - ed; but for us fights the val - iant one
 de - vour us, we trem - ble not, we fear no ill;
 have for it; he's by our side up - on the plain



that has us now o'er - tak - en. The old
 whom God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask,
 they shall not o - ver - pow'r us. This world's
 with his good gifts and Spir - it. And take



e - vil foe now means dead - ly woe;
 "Who is this?" Je - sus Christ it is,
 prince may still scowl fierce as he will,
 they our life, goods, fame, child, and wife,



deep guile and great might are his dread arms in fight;
 the al - might - y Lord, and there's no oth - er God;
 he can harm us none. He's judged; the deed is done;
 though all may be gone, our vic - to - ry is won;



on earth is not his e - qual.
 he holds the field for - ev - er.
 one lit - tle word can fell him.
 the king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther (1483–1546)

Translation: Composite

Tune: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther (1483–1546)

Arrangement: Michael D. Costello ©2017

God's Son Has Made Us Free!

1. Free from Slavery
2. Free for Sonship

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

Almighty and eternal God, when the time had fully come, you sent your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to take our place under the demands of the law and to endure the just punishment for our sins. You accepted his sacrifice on the cross. You raised him from death in glorious splendor. For his sake, you richly and daily forgive the sins of all who put their trust in you.

Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

When the time had fully come, you bestowed your Spirit upon your people as a testimony that you had called them to proclaim the gospel to every creature. Equipped and encouraged, they carried the story of salvation into all the world.

The Lord reigns, let the earth be glad; let the distant shores rejoice.

When the time had fully come, you raised up your servant Martin Luther to destroy the idols of the medieval age and to restore the pure and right teaching of the Scriptures. You renewed your people with the light of your love, you granted power and success to the proclamation of the gospel, and your holy Church grew and prospered throughout the world.

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

When the time had fully come, you made our fathers bold to take their stand on the truth of your Word. Guided by your Spirit, they joined hands and hearts under a common confession and with a determined resolve to work together in the ministry. You have blessed their sons and daughters during the last 175 years and enabled us to preserve and proclaim the saving gospel of your Son.

Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world.

Let this be the time, O Lord, when you renew us again by Word and Sacrament, when you reform our hearts and minds, and when you restore to us the joy of fellowship and service. Grant to us in this age and in this place the courage of the apostles, the steadfastness of the reformers, and the dedication of the fathers of our church's past.

May the Lord our God be with us as he was with our fathers; may he never leave us or forsake us.

Let this be a time, O Lord, for confession and repentance. For Jesus' sake forgive us whenever we love ourselves more than you and whenever we serve ourselves instead of your people. Forgive us for the apathy which harms our faith and hinders our work. Forgive us for boasting of our past achievements and for blaming others for our present problems. Rid us of indifference for public worship and continued growth, destroy the distrust that plagues us, and shatter every thought and word that harms the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace.

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Let this be the time, O Lord, when we recommit and re-consecrate ourselves to the ministry of the gospel of your Son. Let us find joy in our unity, zeal for our work, and, if it is your will, success in our labor. And give us faith, O Lord, to take up again the trumpet none can silence or mistake and grant us courage to proclaim once more for all the world to hear: The feast is ready! Come to the feast!

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us, that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.

Keep in your care, O Lord, all those we love, those who are close by and those far from home. Protect them from temptation and every spiritual evil. Watch over those among us who are lonely or distressed, those who are afraid and facing danger, those who have pain of body or mind, and those who are at the hour of death. Hear the prayers your people bring you this day, O Lord, and answer them according to your wisdom and grace.

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.**

Offering

Anthem

Sung with the children of St. Paul's

The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is his new creation
By water and the Word.
From heav'n he came and sought her
To be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought her,
And for her life he died.

Elect from ev'ry nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation:
One Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses,
With ev'ry grace endued.

The Church's One Foundation

The Church shall never perish.
Her dear Lord, to defend,
To guide, sustain, and cherish,
Is with her to the end.
Tho' there be those that hate her
And strive to see her fail,
Against both foe and traitor
She ever shall prevail.

Mid toil and tribulation
And tumult of her war
She waits the consummation
Of peace forevermore
Till with the vision glorious
Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious
Shall be the Church at rest.

*Text: Samuel J. Stone (1839–1900), abr. alt.
Tune: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley (1810–1876)
Arrangement: A. O. Lehmann*

Anthem

Worthy the Lamb

Worthy the Lamb.

Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim
And publish abroad his wonderful name;
The name all victorious of Jesus extol;
His kingdom is glorious and rules over all.

“Salvation to God, who sits on the throne!”
Let all cry aloud, and honor the Son;
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
Fall down on their faces and worship the Lamb.

God rules in the height, almighty to save;
Though hid from our sight, his presence we have,
The great congregation his triumph shall sing,
Ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.

The let us adore and give him his right,
All glory and pow’r, all wisdom and might;
All honor and blessing with angels above,
And thanks never ceasing, and infinite love.

Worthy the Lamb.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1744

Music: Dan Forrest (b. 1978)

Tune: KINGSWOOD NEW

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Stand

Prayer

Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ’s holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, 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

Anthem

Lord, when your glory I shall see
And taste your kingdom's pleasure,
Your blood my royal robe shall be,
My joy beyond all measure!
When I appear before your throne,
Your righteousness shall be my crown;
With these I need not hide me.
And there, in garments richly wrought,
As your own bride I shall be brought
To stand in joy beside you.

Lord, When Your Glory

Text: Paul Gerhardt (1607–76)
Translation: The Lutheran Hymnal, alt., 1941
Tune: WEDDING GLORY, Kurt J. Eggert (1923–93)
Arrangement: Carl F. Schalk, 1992

Service Participants

Presiding Minister

Pastor Matthew Holtz

Preacher

Prof. Aaron Christie
Dean of Chapel, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

Choir

The Seminary Chorus
Prof. Aaron Christie, *director*

Accompanists

Owen Eubank, *organ and piano*
Noah Melso, *organ and piano*

Brass Ensemble

Matthew Rugen, *trumpet*
Matthew Hillmer, *trumpet*
Luke Rogotzke, *trumpet*
Grant Gawrisch, *French horn*
Joshua Bannick, *trombone*
Benjamin Hillmer, *trombone*
Josiah Mittelstadt, *trombone*

Liturgical Ensemble

Jack Heichelbech, *guitar*
Adam Dahle, *bass guitar*
Jerry Yang, *violin*
Matthew Rugen, *trumpet*
Matthew Hillmer, *trumpet*
Luke Staude, *djembe*
Robert Reinke, *cajon*
Joseph Behm, *piano*

Acknowledgments

Setting Three from Christian Worship

Musical setting for liturgical ensemble is available at nph.net under Musician's Resource.

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