

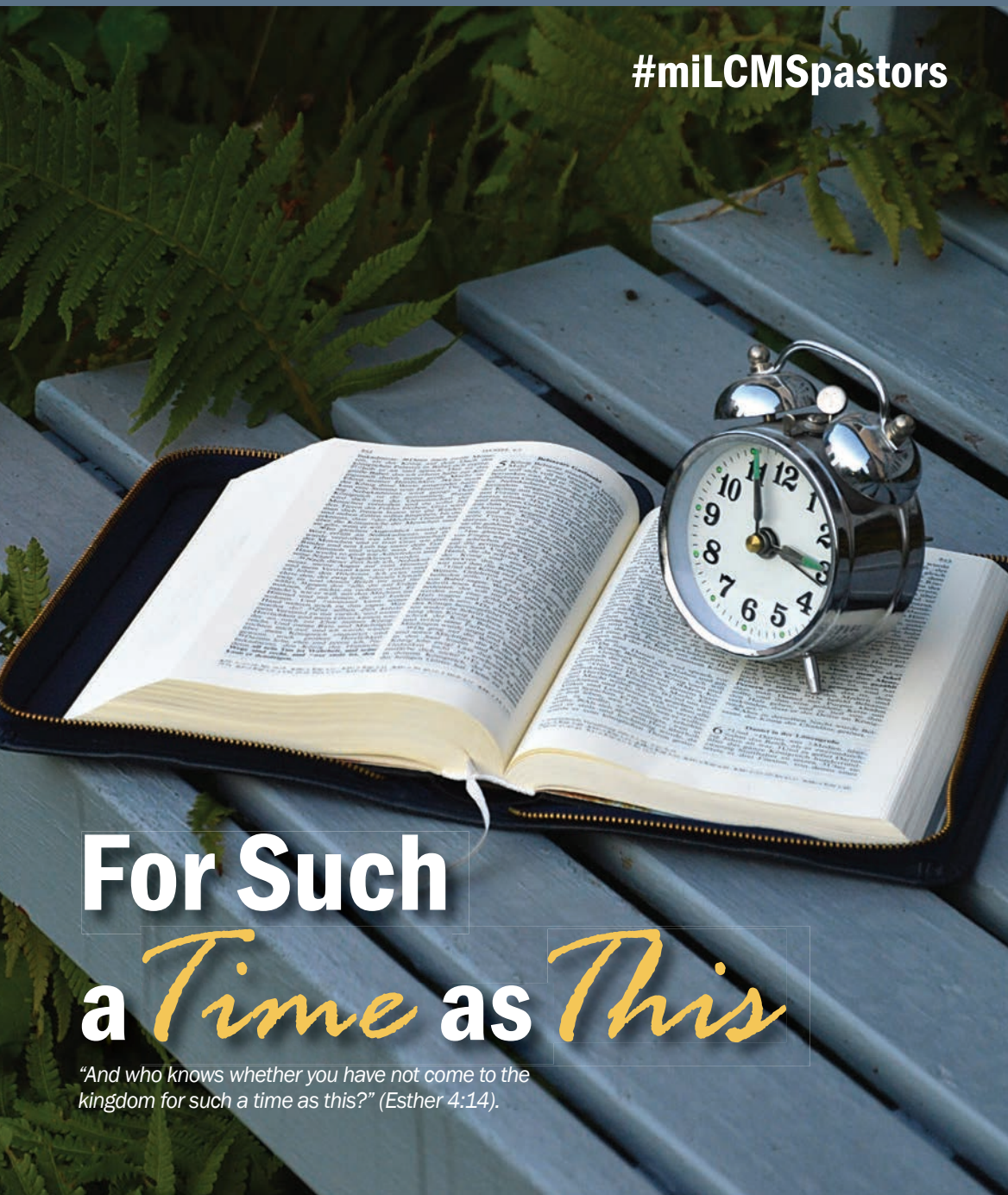


Michigan District, LCMS

All Pastors Conference

October 10–13, 2021 – Bellaire, Michigan

#miLCMSpastors



For Such

a *Time* as *This*

"And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14).



#miLCMSpastors

Use **#miLCMSpastors** during the conference to connect with others.

4 ideas for connecting:

- Tweet during the sessions
- Post pictures to Instagram
- Snap a selfie with President Maier
- Tag and share the pictures being uploaded to the Michigan District LCMS Facebook page throughout the conference.

Thank you to the
2021 All Pastors Conference Committee:

Trevor Sutton - St. Luke, Haslett
Dennis Matyas - St. Paul, Bay City
Erik Schmidt - Peace, Saginaw
Sean McCoy - Ascension, East Lansing
Evan Gaertner - Our Shepherd, Birmingham
Chris Garcia - Immanuel, Bay City

Welcome



Dear Michigan District Pastors and Wives,

I thank and praise our Triune God for His love for the world, His gracious faithfulness to us, and for your empowered faithful service to Him!

What a privilege to welcome you to the 2021 All Pastors Conference here at beautiful Shanty Creek Resort in Bellaire!

This Year's Conference, *“For Such A Time As This,”* is meant to recognize the difficult 18 months-plus that we've ALL gone through. During the pandemic we, along with our families and our congregations, have experienced great change, unforeseen hardships, and exhaustion. There has been an unusual abundance of challenges and too many decisions.

Yet, GOD was FAITHFUL, is FAITHFUL, and promises that He **will be FAITHFUL!!** *“For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD” (Psalm 117:2, NIV).*

YES! Let's praise the LORD! Let's give thanks in ALL circumstances! (*1 Thessalonians 5:18*)

God's faithfulness gives us hope! *“Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the LORD'S great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness” (Lamentations 3:21–23).*

God's faithfulness supplies us with mercy and grace and forgiveness and wisdom. It enables and enlivens us *“for such a time as this.”*

- When we are exhausted, God gives us rest (*Matthew 11:28–30*)
- When we are fearful, God declares, *“Fear not!”* (*Matthew 10:31*)
- When we are confounded by this world, God gives the necessary wisdom (*James 1:5; 3:17–18*).

God is faithful!

Because of Who God is, we are able to **be a faithful presence** in this world. *“And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”* (*Esther 4:14*).

Rev. David P. E. Maier

Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier
President, Michigan District, LCMS

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Agenda

Sunday, October 10

4–6 p.m.	Registration	Hotel Lobby
7–8 p.m.	Opening Service: Vespers Rev. Dennis Matyas	Grand Ballroom
8–10 p.m.	Reception Sponsored by COFA & LOGOS	Grand Ballroom

Monday, October 11

7:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.	Exhibitors Open	Bellaire Ballroom
8–10 a.m.	Conference Check-in	Promenade Hallway
8–8:10 a.m.	Welcome Matins Rev. Chris Garcia	Grand Ballroom
8:10–8:30 a.m.	Sponsor Presentations COFA & LOGOS	Grand Ballroom
8:30–9:30 a.m.	Session 1 Dr. T. David Gordon Why Johnny Can't Preach: The Media Have Shaped the Messengers	Grand Ballroom
9:30–10 a.m.	Break	Bellaire Ballroom
10–10:20 a.m.	Family Mr. Joshua B. Kittleman	Grand Ballroom
10:20–10:40 a.m.	Legal/Liberty Rev. Dr. Gregory P. Seltz	Grand Ballroom
10:40–11 a.m.	Preaching Rev. Dr. Carl C. Fickenscher II	Grand Ballroom
11–11:20 a.m.	Outreach/Tech Mr. Seth R. Hinz	Grand Ballroom
11:20–11:30 a.m.	CUAA/CUW Rev. Dr. Ryan Peterson	
11:30–12:30 p.m.	Lunch Overflow seating will be in Lakeview Restaurant	Grand Ballroom
12:30–1:30 p.m.	Session 2 Dr. T. David Gordon Paul and Ministerial Presence	Grand Ballroom
1:30–2 p.m.	Break	Bellaire Ballroom
2–3 p.m.	Breakout Sessions Family Mr. Joshua B. Kittleman Legal/Liberty Rev. Dr. Gregory P. Seltz Outreach/Tech Mr. Seth R. Hinz Preaching Rev. Dr. Carl C. Fickenscher II	Grand Ballroom A Grand Ballroom B Grand Ballroom C Grand Ballroom D
3–5 p.m.	Free Time see page 8	
5–6 p.m.	Dinner Overflow seating will be in Lakeview Restaurant	Grand Ballroom
7:30–9 p.m.	Divine Worship Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier	Grand Ballroom
9–11 p.m.	Gemütlichkeit <i>Sponsored by Church Extension Fund</i>	Grand Ballroom

Tuesday, October 12

7:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.	Exhibitors Open	Bellaire Ballroom
8:15–8:30 a.m.	Service of Prayer Rev. Sean McCoy	Grand Ballroom
8:30–9:20 a.m.	Concordia Plan Services Update Mr. James F. Sanft	Grand Ballroom
9:20–10:20 a.m.	Session 3 Rev. Dr. Timothy E. Saleska Psalm 31	Grand Ballroom
10:20–10:50 a.m.	Break	Bellaire Ballroom
10:50–11:35 a.m.	President’s Report Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier	Grand Ballroom
11:35–12:05 p.m.	Sponsors CEF & Wellspring	Grand Ballroom
12:05–1:15 p.m.	Wives’ Luncheon Men’s Lunch Overflow seating will be in Lakeview Restaurant	Grand Ballroom A/B Grand Ballroom C/D
1:15–1:35 p.m.	Board of Directors Update Mr. Stephen Boergert	Grand Ballroom
1:35–2:35 p.m.	Session 4 Rev. Dr. Timothy E. Saleska The Imprecatory Psalms	Grand Ballroom
2:35–3 p.m.	Responsive Prayer Rev. Erik Schmidt	Grand Ballroom
3–6 p.m.	Free Time	
6–8 p.m.	Banquet and Presentations	Grand Ballroom
8–10 p.m.	Gemütlichkeit <i>Sponsored by Lutheran Benefits Group and Lutheran Trust</i>	Grand Ballroom

Wednesday, October 13

8:15–8:30 a.m.	Morning Prayer Rev. Dennis Matyas	Grand Ballroom
8:30–10 a.m.	Alliance Defending Freedom Mr. Ryan Tucker, JD	Grand Ballroom
10–10:15 a.m.	Sending Prayer Rev. Dr. Evan Gaertner	Grand Ballroom

Important Information

Cell Phones – Please set cell phones to silent during all sessions. Also, please be sure to mute sound on your laptops. We want to spare you the embarrassment.

Internet – Wireless Internet is available for free in conference areas and guest rooms. No password required.

Check-Out – Check out time is 12 noon. Please be sure to have your belongings out of your room by that time.

Evaluation – You will receive an online evaluation via email at the conclusion of the conference.

Presentations – Videos of speaker presentations from main room sessions will be available online to all attendees. You will be notified via email when available. Subscribe to our channel: *YouTube.com/michiganlcms*

Acknowledgments – Thank you to the musicians and tech team from Faith, Troy for blessing us with their gifts/expertise.

Thank you to our sponsors:

Church Extension Fund

Lutheran Benefits Group & Lutheran Trust

Wellspring Lutheran Services

Faithlife - Logos Bible Software

Concordia University Ann Arbor | Concordia University Wisconsin

COFA

Area Activities

Mammoth Distillery - specials available
Blending and Mixology Classes
109 N Bridge St
Bellaire, MI 49615
mammothdistilling.com/bellaire

Hello Vino - specials available
122 N. Bridge St
Bellaire, MI 49615
www.hellovinobellaire.com

Be Well Mead & Cider - \$10 off flights
116 N. Bridge St
Bellaire, MI 49615
www.beewellmeadery.com/home

Short's Brewery
121 N. Bridge Street
Bellaire, MI 49615
www.shortsbrewing.com

For additional area activities visit:
michigandistrict.org/shantycreekarea

Connect With Us



@miLCMS

Did you know that there is a District Pastors' Group on Facebook?
Join today to connect and share resources with fellow brothers in Christ!
"Pastors of the Michigan District, LCMS" click *"Join Group"*

Pastors' Wives! You can also connect on Facebook at
"The Katie - Wives of Pastors in Michigan" click *"Join Group"*



Exhibitors

**Visit the Exhibitors' displays in the Bellaire Ballroom:
Monday, October 11 & Tuesday, October 12 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.**

Alliance Defending Freedom
adf.com

Camp Arcadia
camp-arcadia.com

Camp Concordia
campconcordia.com

Church Extension Fund
mi-cef.org

Concordia Plan Services
concordiaplans.org

Concordia Publishing House
cph.org

Concordia Theological Seminary
ctsfw.edu

Concordia University Ann Arbor / Wisconsin
cuaa.edu | cuw.edu

Connection by Design
connectionbydesign.org/

En Gedi Music Fest
engedimusicfest.com

Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society
elms-deaf.org

Faithlife - Logos Software
logos.com

Genesis System Integration, LLC
genesissav.com

Gifts for All God's Children
giftsforallgodschildren.org

Heal Our Land
healourlandpray.org

Hmong International Mission
hmongmissionsociety.org

LCMS Foundation
lcmsfoundation.org

Lutheran Federal Credit Union
lfcu.org

Lutheran Heritage Foundation
lhfmissons.org

Lutheran Hour Ministries
lhm.org

Lutherans For Life of Michigan
lutheransforlifeofmichigan.org

Merritt Cieslak Design, PLC
merrittcieslakdesign.com

Michigan District, LCMS
michigandistrict.org

Michigan District, LCMS
Campus Ministry
michigandistrict.org/campusministry

Michigan District, LCMS
CCWC/Parish Nursing
michigandistrict.org/parishnurse

Michigan District, LCMS
Michigan School of Missional Formation
(formerly School of Deacon/PreSMP Training)
michigandistrict.org/missional

Ministry Focus
ministryfocus.org

Mission Nation Publishing
missionnationpublishing.com

MOST Ministries
mostministries.org

POBLO International Ministries
poblo.org

The Luke Clinic
thelukeclinic.org

The Power Company Kids Club
thepckc.org

Wellspring Lutheran Services
wellspringlutheran.com



Keynote Speaker

Dr. T. David Gordon

Why Johnny Can't Preach | Paul & Ministerial Presence

Monday, 8:30–9:30 a.m., 12:30–1:30 p.m.



Dr. T. David Gordon is Professor of Religion and Greek at Grove City College, where he has taught since 1999. Prior to that, he taught for 13 years at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in S. Hamilton, Mass; and for nine years he was pastor of Christ Presbyterian Church in Nashua, NH. He is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church in America. Dr. Gordon has contributed to a number of books and study Bibles and has published scholarly reviews and articles in journals. He maintains a webpage at www.tdgordon.net.

Backgrounds to Why Johnny Can't Preach: The Media Have Shaped the Messengers

Introduction

I. The Literary Background

A. *Why Johnny Can't Read: And What You Can Do About It* (1955). Rudolph Flesch

B. *Why Johnny Can't Write: How to Improve Writing Skills* (1990). Myra J. Linden and Arthur Whimbey.

C. *Reading at Risk: A Survey of Literary Reading in America*, 2004 (Research Division Report #46, National Endowment for the Arts). Part of this report coined the term “aliteracy,” to denote not “illiteracy,” which is the *inability* to read, but “aliteracy,” to denote people who *can* read but do not.

II. The Historical-Cultural Background

A. The movement from linguistic media to visual media (from language to image), due to the photograph, movies, and television.

B. The early (pre-digital) media-ecological observations about the movement from language to image

1. Marshall McLuhan, chapter one, “The Medium is the Message,” in *Understanding Media: Extensions of Man*, 1964.
2. Malcolm Muggeridge, *Christ and the Media*, 1977.
3. Neil Postman, *Amusing Ourselves to Death: Public Discourse in the Age of Television*. 1985.
4. Jacques Ellul, *The Humiliation of the Word*, translated by Joyce Main Hanks, 1985.

III. My Personal Background

A. A sense of calling to serve the church in High School that prompted my observing ministry as a future practitioner, and therefore noticing both successes and failures.

B. Conversations with two search committee members, in the same calendar year with different churches, who observed that “we just accept from the outset that we will not find a good preacher, so we look for skills in other areas.”

C. My growing commitment to expository preaching, influenced both by books and by individuals such as Doug Stuart and Haddon Robinson at Gordon-Conwell, coupled with my noticing that exposition was frequently lacking or disastrously bad.

D. My personal reading of R. L. Dabney’s *Lectures on Sacred Rhetoric*, and noticing that his “Seven Cardinal Requisites” were rarely fulfilled, and many sermons fulfilled none of them.

E. My stage III colo-rectal cancer in 2004, that was 75% likely to kill me, and I sensed that I could not leave the world without bearing some feeble testimony about the poor state of preaching.





Why Johnny Can't Preach: The Media Have Shaped the Messengers
(P&R Publishing, 2009)

Preface Circumstances of writing

Introduction Explains title and subtitle

Chapter 1, Johnny Can't Preach

Anecdotal Evidence

The Testimony of a Ruling-Elder Rotarian

The Common (Almost Universal) Evaluation of Ministers
by Their Congregations: "Well, he's not a great preacher,
but..."

Dabney's "Cardinal Requisites of a Sermon" (from his
Lectures on Sacred Rhetoric, 1870) Are Manifestly Absent

Textual Fidelity

Unity

Evangelical Tone

Instructiveness

Movement

Point

Order

The Almost Universal Desire for Briefer Sermons

The Contemporary and Emergent Churches

The Annual Review (evaded/avoided in many churches)

Are the Seminaries at Fault?

Chapter 2, Why Johnny Can't Preach, Part I: Johnny Can't Read
(Texts)

Sven Birkerts, *The Electric Life: Essays on Modern Poetry*
(1989, p. 92):

"To read poetry as it is meant to be read, you must push
your way through the shallow-field perceptual mode that modern
life makes habitual. The operation is not nearly as simple as it
sounds. The eye has been taught to speed across word clusters.
The sound in the ear, which lags behind the eye, is usually a
noise, like the garbling that comes when tape gets dragged across
magnetic heads. That garble has to be slowed. First to normal
speech tempo, then by half again. Otherwise the intricacy that
the poet 'listened' into his lines will remain unavailable.

The harder it is for you to slow down, the more you need to be rescued from the twentieth century; the more you *need* poetry.” (italics his)

Chapter 3, Why Johnny Can't Preach, Part II: Johnny Can't Write
[*Telephone replaced handwritten letters; then texting, tweeting, and social media replaced even the telephone]

Chapter 4, A Few Thoughts About Content

Christ-centered preaching: Calvin, Robert Lewis Dabney, Edmund P. Clowney, Bryan Chapell, et al.

Some Alternatives Exposed: Four Failures

Moralism

How-To

Introspection: “I Know You Think You Are a Christian, but You Are Not.”

Social Gospel/So-Called Culture War

Chapter 5, Teaching Johnny to Preach

Annual Review

Cultivating the Sensibility of Reading Texts Closely

Charles Grosvenor Osgood, *Poetry as a Means of Grace* (1942), and Gaebelein to Boice

Cultivating the Sensibility of Composed Communication

Handwritten letters, articles, editorials, journaling, prayers (Samuel Miller), Rotary International

Cultivating Pre-Homiletical Sensibilities: Johnny Can Learn to Preach



Paul and Ministerial Presence

Introduction/Thesis: We know Paul through thirteen of his letters, but he regarded them as second-rate. Paul preferred the “incarnate” medium of orality to the dis-incarnated medium of a letter.¹

I. Positive references to ministerial presence

A. Rom. 1:9–13 For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you always in my prayers, *asking that somehow by God’s will I may now at last succeed in coming to you*. For *I long to see you*, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you—that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith, both yours and mine. I want you to know, brothers, that *I have often intended to come to you* (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles.

B. Gal. 4:20 I wish *I could be present with you* now and change my tone, for I am perplexed about you.

C. 1 Th. 3:6 But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us the good news of your faith and love and reported that you always remember us kindly and *long to see us, as we long to see you* (ἐπιποθοῦντες ἡμᾶς ἰδεῖν καθάπερ καὶ ἡμεῖς ὑμᾶς)—

D. 1 Th. 3:10 as we pray most earnestly night and day *that we may see you face to face* (δεόμενοι εἰς τὸ ἰδεῖν ὑμῶν τὸ πρόσωπον) and supply what is lacking in your faith?

E. 2 Tim. 1:4 As I remember your tears, *I long to see you* (ἐπιποθῶν σε ἰδεῖν), that I may be filled with joy.

¹ I am indebted to Ken Myers for introducing me to the distinction between incarnated and dis-incarnated media and communication, descriptors that are expressly and intentionally Christian. Myers appears to have gotten this from Marshall McLuhan’s “Laws of Media,” *Essential McLuhan*, ed. Eric McLuhan and Frank Zingrone (New York, Basic Books, 1995), p. 370. Cf. also Jacques Ellul, *The Humiliation of the Word* (Eerdmans, 1985), pp. 51-52, 244-248.

II. Reminders of the manner of Paul’s life when personally present.

1 Thess 2:5–11 For we never came (lit., “we never *were*,” ἐγενήθημεν) with words of flattery, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness. Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others, though we could have made demands as *apostles of Christ*. But we were gentle² among you, *like a nursing mother taking care of her own children*. So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but *also our own selves*, because you had become very dear to us. For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we *worked night and day*, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers. For you know how, *like a father with his children*, we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

2 “gentle”/ἡπιοι *txt* ℱ⁶⁵ ℵ* B C* F G I Ψ* 104*. 326^c *pc* it; but some mss read “infants,” νηπιοι ℵ² A C² D² Ψ^c 0278. 33. 1739. 1881 ℳ. Textual support for either reading is strong, and the presence or absence of the one letter at the beginning of the word—ν—could easily be due to a visual slight. It is also possible that the original was “gentle”/ ἡπιοι, and that scribes, noticing the references to “nursing mother” (τροφὸς) and “like a father with his children” (ὡς πατὴρ τέκνα ἑαυτοῦ), assumed that the original contained three familial terms.



III. Negative (even painful) statements about ministerial absence.

1 Th. 2:17–18 “But since we were *torn away from you*,³ brothers, for a short time, in person not in heart, we endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire *to see you face to face*, because we wanted to come to you⁴—I, Paul, again and again—but *Satan hindered us* (literally, “Satan cut us off,” καὶ ἐνέκοψεν ἡμᾶς ὁ σατανᾶς).”

Note the almost-violent and sinister language Paul employed for being distant from others: “torn away ... Satan hindered us.” Paul attributed his absence from the Thessalonians—an absence that required the second-best medium of a written letter—to a *diabolical* source.

Conclusion: We might well conclude that Paul—whom we know only through the medium of his written letters—regarded such letters as ministerially second-rate. Of course we have no objection to recording sermons for the benefit of those who are ill, or otherwise unable to attend the service (such as nursery workers or Covid-avoiders). Yet, in our digital-media-saturated culture,⁵ we often accept mediated communication as though it were as normal and normative as non-mediated, face-to-face communication,⁶

3 The verb, ἀπορφανισθέντες, is a *hapax legomenon* in the NT, and does not appear in the LXX. It is obviously formed from the preposition ἀπό and the noun ὀρφανός, “orphan,” itself rare in the NT (John 14:18, James 1:27), but it is also familial language, though the language of a separated family-member who has been orphaned.

4 ἠθελήσαμεν ἐλθεῖν πρὸς ὑμᾶς.

5 As early as 2008, the Ball State University report indicated that the typical American spent more than 8.5 hours/day on a screen; that is over half of the waking day, meaning that the typical American, by that point, experienced more mediated reality than unmediated reality. And this was before smartphones or tablets such as iPads; the figures now are higher, and most studies indicate that the typical American views a screen for over 13.5 of the sixteen waking hours of the day.

6 If Marc Prensky is right—and I judge that he is, while disagreeing with his recommendation that we accommodate ourselves to the matter—we now experience a cultural divide between what he astutely calls “digital immigrants,” who grew to maturity *without* digital devices, and “digital natives,” who grew to maturity *with* them. The latter are far more comfortable with them, far less likely to raise questions about their normativity. Cf. Marc Prensky, “Digital Natives, Digital Immigrants, Part One.” *On the Horizon*, 9, 2001, pp. 1–6

something the apostle Paul not only did not concede to be true, but something that he attributed to Satanic activity. If material bodies are inconsequential, why did the Creator make them? Did Christ not ascend bodily (*Book of Concord*, viii.12: "... the assumed human nature in Christ not only *has and retains* its natural, essential properties, but that over and above these, through the personal union with the Deity, and *afterwards through glorification*, it has been exalted to the right hand of majesty, power, and might...me" *WCF* 8:4: "On the third day he arose from the dead, with the same body in which he suffered, with which also he ascended into heaven, and there sitteth at the right hand of his Father")?

In a live setting, we cannot simply turn off what makes us uncomfortable (though we may "tune out," as they say). There is an element of confrontation that requires either agreement or disagreement; we cannot as easily dismiss the public speaker as we can turn off our digital device. Nor, listening privately, are we as apt to raise questions about how others, in the public service, are hearing the message; does it comfort the grieving, encourage the faint-hearted, challenge the complacent? Listening privately, we do not encounter the Word preached as a *Word-to-the-public* (which is what Christian proclamation, or even the Greek *kerygma* of the first century *is*); we encounter it as a "Word-to-me," which it is *not*. The digital world is almost inherently narcissistic; it converts nearly every *public* reality into a *private* reality. However, if I am not mistaken, Christianity is not a narcissistic religion; its founder encouraged other-love not self-love, encouraged self-control and self-discipline, not self-service, and even dying to self as a Christian duty.⁷

7 There may be pedagogical value to digitized preaching; I can easily suppose that a seminary student might listen to several different preachers online, preaching the same text, to observe differences in homiletical style that may inform his own development as a preacher.











Worship Services

Opening Service: Vespers

Sunday, 7–8 p.m.

Opening Hymn | O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth

- 1 O God, O Lord of heav'n and earth,
Thy living finger never wrote
That life should be an aimless mote,
A deathward drift from futile birth.
Thy Word meant life triumphant hurled
In splendor through Thy broken world.
Since light awoke and life began,
Thou hast desired Thy life for man.
- 2 Our fatal will to equal Thee,
Our rebel will wrought death and night.
We seized and used in prideful spite
Thy wondrous gift of liberty.
We housed us in this house of doom,
Where death had royal scope and room,
Until Thy servant, Prince of Peace,
Breached all its walls for our release.
- 3 Thou camest to our hall of death,
O Christ, to breathe our poisoned air,
To drink for us the dark despair
That strangled our reluctant breath.
How beautiful the feet that trod
The road that leads us back to God!
How beautiful the feet that ran
To bring the great good news to man!
- 4 O Spirit, who didst once restore
Thy Church that it might be again
The bringer of good news to men,
Breathe on Thy cloven Church once more,
That in these gray and latter days
There may be those whose life is praise,
Each life a high doxology
To Father, Son, and unto Thee.

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- L O Lord, open my lips,
C and my mouth will declare Your praise.
- L Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
C make haste to help me, O Lord.
- C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
 Praise to You, O Christ. Alleluia.**

Psalmody | Psalm 35:3, 11–12, 22; antiphon: v. 1–2

- L Contend, O LORD, with those who con- | tend with me;*
 fight against those who fight a- | gainst me!
- C Take hold of shield and | buckler*
 and rise | for my help!**
- L Draw the spear and javelin against my pur- | suers!*
 Say to my soul, “I am your sal- | vation!”
- C Malicious witnesses | rise up;*
 they ask me of things that I | do not know.**
- L They repay me e- | vil for good;*
 my soul | is bereft.
- C You have seen, O LORD; be not | silent!*
 O Lord, be not | far from me!**
- L Contend, O LORD, with those who con- | tend with me;*
 fight against those who fight a- | gainst me!
- C Take hold of shield and | buckler*
 and rise | for my help!**
- C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
- L Contend, O LORD, with those who con- | tend with me;*
 fight against those who fight a- | gainst me!

Sit

Hymn | Church of God, Elect and Glorious

- 1 Church of God, elect and glorious,
Holy nation, chosen race;
Called as God's own special people,
Royal priests and heirs of grace:
Know the purpose of your calling,
Show to all His mighty deeds;
Tell of love that knows no limits,
Grace that meets all human needs.
- 2 God has called you out of darkness
Into His most marv'lous light;
Brought His truth to life within you,
Turned your blindness into sight.
Let your light so shine around you
That God's name is glorified
And all find fresh hope and purpose
In Christ Jesus crucified.
- 3 Once you were an alien people,
Strangers to God's heart of love;
But He brought you home in mercy,
Citizens of heav'n above.
Let His love flow out to others,
Let them feel a Father's care;
That they too may know His welcome
And His countless blessings share.
- 4 Church of God, elect and holy,
Be the people He intends;
Strong in faith and swift to answer
Each command your Master sends:
Royal priests, fulfill your calling
Through your sacrifice and prayer;
Give your lives in joyful service—
Sing His praise, His love declare.

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Readings | Esther 3:2-6; 4

And all the king's servants who were at the king's gate bowed down and paid homage to Haman, for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai did not bow down or pay homage. Then the king's servants who were at the king's gate said to Mordecai, "Why do you transgress the king's command?" And when they spoke to him day after day and he would

not listen to them, they told Haman, in order to see whether Mordecai's words would stand, for he had told them that he was a Jew. And when Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow down or pay homage to him, Haman was filled with fury. But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone. So, as they had made known to him the people of Mordecai, Haman sought to destroy all the Jews, the people of Mordecai, throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus.

When Mordecai learned all that had been done, Mordecai tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and he cried out with a loud and bitter cry. He went up to the entrance of the king's gate, for no one was allowed to enter the king's gate clothed in sackcloth. And in every province, wherever the king's command and his decree reached, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting and weeping and lamenting, and many of them lay in sackcloth and ashes.

When Esther's young women and her eunuchs came and told her, the queen was deeply distressed. She sent garments to clothe Mordecai, so that he might take off his sackcloth, but he would not accept them. Then Esther called for Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs, who had been appointed to attend her, and ordered him to go to Mordecai to learn what this was and why it was. Hathach went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate, and Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and the exact sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king's treasuries for the destruction of the Jews. Mordecai also gave him a copy of the written decree issued in Susa for their destruction, that he might show it to Esther and explain it to her and command her to go to the king to beg his favor and plead with him on behalf of her people. And Hathach went and told Esther what Mordecai had said. Then Esther spoke to Hathach and commanded him to go to Mordecai and say, "All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law—to be put to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter so that he may live. But as for me, I have not been called to come in to the king these thirty days."

And they told Mordecai what Esther had said. Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not think to yourself that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai, "Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my young women will also fast as you do. Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish." Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.**

Reading | Romans 8:18–39

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.**

Reading | John 16:1-4, 33

[Jesus said,] “I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Responsory | LSB 230

L Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth.

C **Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.**

L Unite my heart to fear Your name that I may walk in Your truth.

C **Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.**

L Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C **Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.**

Homily | Rev. Dennis Matyas

Stand

L Let my prayer rise before You as incense,

C **and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

Hymn | Take My Life and Let It Be

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| 1 | Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise. | 4 | Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use
Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose. |
| 2 | Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee. | 5 | Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne. |
| 3 | Take my voice and let me sing
Always, only for my King;
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee. | 6 | Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee. |

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Collects

L O Lord, hear my prayer.

C **And let my cry come to You.**

L Lord Jesus Christ, whose grace always precedes and follows us, help us to forsake all trust in earthly gain and to find in You our heavenly treasure;

Eternal Lord, ruler of all, graciously regard those who have been set in positions of authority among us that, guided by Your Spirit, they may be high in purpose, wise in counsel, firm in good resolution, and unwavering in duty, that under them we may be governed quietly and peaceably;

Almighty and gracious God, send Your Holy Spirit to bless, with His grace and presence, all those here assembled in Your name that Your Church, being preserved in true faith and godly discipline, may do the will of Him who loved her and gave Himself for her, even Jesus Christ, our Lord;

Almighty God, merciful Father, Your thoughts are not our thoughts, Your ways are not our ways. In Your wisdom You have permitted disaster to befall us in recent times. We implore You, let not the hearts of Your people despair nor our faith fail us, but sustain and comfort us. Direct all efforts to attend the sick, console the bereaved, and protect the helpless. Bring hope and healing that we may find relief and restoration;

O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Benedicamus | LSB 234

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction | LSB 234

P The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

Hymn | Lift High the Cross

Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.

- 1** Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain*
- 2** Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. *Refrain*
- 3** All newborn soldiers of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. *Refrain*
- 4** O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. *Refrain*
- 5** Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. *Refrain*
- 6** So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain*

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Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

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Venite | LSB 220

1 O come, let us sing to the Lord,
2 For the Lord is a great God
3 The sea is His, for He made it,

5 Glory be to the Father and to the Son

1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.
2 and a great king a - bove all gods.
3 and His hand formed the dry land.

5 and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;

1 Let us come into His presence with thanks - giv - ing,
2 The deep places of the earth are in His hand;
3 O come, let us worship and bow down,
4 For He is our God,
5 as it was in the be - gin - ning,

1 let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise.
2 the strength of the hills is His al - so.
3 let us kneel before the Lord, our mak - er.
4 and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.
5 is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.



L Blessed be God, the Fa - ther, the Son, and the Ho - ly Spir - it.



C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Sit

Reading | Esther 4:1-3, 13-14

When Mordecai learned all that had been done, Mordecai tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and he cried out with a loud and bitter cry. He went up to the entrance of the king's gate, for no one was allowed to enter the king's gate clothed in sackcloth. And in every province, wherever the king's command and his decree reached, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting and weeping and lamenting, and many of them lay in sackcloth and ashes.

Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not think to yourself that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.**

Reading | 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

So to keep me from being too elated by the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.**

Reading | Mark 6:7-13, 30-34

And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their belts—but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics. And he said to them, “Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you depart from there. And if any place will not receive you and they will not listen to you, when you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent. And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them.

The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. And he said to them, “Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Stand

Kyrie



C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Collects



L O Lord, hear my prayer.



C And let my cry come to You.

Collect for Grace

L O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Stand

Benedicamus | LSB 228



L Let us bless the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

Benediction | LSB 228



P The grace of our Lord † Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the communion of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



C A - men.

Hymn | O God, Our Help in Ages Past

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home: | 6 O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles
last
And our eternal home. |
|---|---|

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Matins from Lutheran Service Book

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Divine Service

Monday, 7–8:30 p.m.

Opening Worship

Great Are You Lord

Verse You give life You are love
 You bring light to the darkness
 You give hope You restore ev'ry heart that is broken
 And great are You Lord

Chorus It's Your breath in our lungs
 So we pour out our praise
 We pour out our praise
 It's Your breath in our lungs
 So we pour out our praise to You only

Bridge And all the earth will shout Your praise
 Our hearts will cry these bones will sing
 Great are You Lord
 (REPEAT)

"Great Are You Lord"

David Leonard | Jason Ingram | Leslie Jordan

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O Praise the Lord

Verse 1
 I cast my mind to Calvary
 Where Jesus bled and died for me
 I see His wounds His hands His feet
 My Saviour on that cursed tree

Verse 2
 His body bound and drenched in tears
 They laid Him down in Joseph's tomb
 The entrance sealed by heavy stone
 Messiah still and all alone

Chorus
 O praise the Name of the Lord our God
 O praise His Name forevermore
 For endless days we will sing Your praise
 Oh Lord oh Lord our God

"O Praise the Name"

Benjamin Hastings | Dean Ussher | Marty Sampson

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Verse 3
 Then on the third at break of dawn
 The Son of heaven rose again
 O trampled death where is your sting
 The angels roar for Christ the King

Verse 4
 He shall return in robes of white
 The blazing sun shall pierce the night
 And I will rise among the saints
 My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face

Living Hope

Verse 1

How great the chasm that lay between us
How high the mountain I could not climb
In desperation I turned to heaven
And spoke Your name into the night
Then through the darkness Your loving-kindness
Tore through the shadows of my soul
The work is finished the end is written
Jesus Christ my living hope

Verse 2

Who could imagine so great a mercy
What heart could fathom such boundless grace
The God of ages stepped down from glory
To wear my sin and bear my shame
The cross has spoken I am forgiven
The King of kings calls me His own
Beautiful Savior I'm Yours forever
Jesus Christ my living hope

Chorus

Hallelujah praise the One who set me free
Hallelujah death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain
There's salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ my living hope

Verse 3

Then came the morning that sealed the promise
Your buried body began to breathe
Out of the silence the Roaring Lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me
(REPEAT)
Jesus Yours is the victory whoa

Ending

Jesus Christ my living hope
Oh God You are my living hope

"Living Hope"

Brian Johnson | Phil Wickham

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Reading | Isaiah 6:1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory!”

And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.”

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.”

Reading | Romans 10:1-15

Brothers, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God’s righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them. But the righteousness based on faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) or “‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

But how are they to call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”

Reading | Matthew 28:16–20

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Offering | The Blessing

Verse

The Lord bless you
And keep you
Make his face shine upon you
And be gracious to you
The Lord turn his
Face toward you
And give you peace

Chorus

Amen
Amen
Amen

Bridge 1

May his favor
Be upon you
And a thousand generations
And your family
And your children
And their children
And their children

Bridge 2

May his presence
Go before you
And behind you
And beside you
All around you
And within you
He is with you
He is with you

Bridge 3

In the morning
In the evening
In your coming
And your going
In your weeping
And rejoicing
He is for you
He is for you

Tag

He is for you
He is for you

“The Blessing”

Chris Brown | Cody Carnes | Kari Jobe | Steven Furtick

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Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

Confession and Absolution

- P** Having heard God's Word, we recognize that we all too often place too much confidence in our own abilities, and not enough confidence in God's calling on our lives. Left alone, we cannot possibly walk in our callings. But we are never alone, and God is our strength in the midst of our weakness.
- C** **Strengthen us, Lord, and grant us Your forgiveness. We confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We repent of our many sins, those known to us and those unknown as well. Create in us clean hearts, gracious Lord, and put new and right spirits within us that we may know the fullness of Your love and be at peace with all people. Grant that the Holy Spirit guide and direct us into new opportunities for growth in Christian learning and strengthened faith.**
- P** By grace, you are known and loved by the God who made you, by the God who saved you, by the God who calls you now to serve His Church faithfully. Through the suffering, death, and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ, He has brought about the forgiveness of your sins, and by the power of His Holy Spirit He gives us all we need to serve Him in our vocations. As a called and ordained

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.

C Amen.

Words of Institution

Distribution

O Come to The Altar

Verse 1

Are you hurting and broken within
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin
Jesus is calling
Have you come to the end of yourself
Do you thirst for a drink from the well
Jesus is calling

Chorus

O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

Verse 2

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes
Come today there's no reason to wait
Jesus is calling
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy
From the ashes a new life is born
Jesus is calling

Bridge

Oh what a Savior
Isn't he wonderful
Sing alleluia Christ is risen
Bow down before him
For he is Lord of all
Sing alleluia Christ is risen

Verse 3

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown
Tell the world of the treasure you've found

"O come to the Altar"

Chris Brown | Mack Brock | Steven Furtick | Wade Joye

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Goodness of God

Verse 1

I love You Lord
Oh Your mercy never fails me
All my days
I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head
I will sing of the goodness of God

Chorus

All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God

Verse 2

I love Your voice
You have led me through the fire
In darkest night
You are close like no other
I've known You as a father
I've known You as a friend
I have lived in the goodness of God

Bridge

Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
With my life laid down
I'm surrendered now
I give You everything
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me

"Goodness of God"

Ben Fielding | Brian Johnson | Ed Cash | Jason Ingram | Jenn Johnson

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Glorious Day

Verse 1

I was buried beneath my shame
Who could carry that kind of weight
It was my tomb 'til I met You

Verse 2

I was breathing but not alive
All my failures I tried to hide
It was my tomb 'til I met You

Chorus

('Cause when) You called my name (and)
I ran out of that grave
Out of the darkness into Your glorious day
You called my name (and) I ran out of that grave
Out of the darkness into Your glorious day

Verse 3

Now Your mercy has saved my soul
Now Your freedom is all that I know
The old made new Jesus when I met You

Bridge

I needed rescue my sin was heavy
But chains break at the weight of Your glory
I needed shelter I was an orphan
Now You call me a citizen of Heaven
When I was broken You were my healing
Now Your love is the air that I'm breathing
I have a future my eyes are open

"Glorious Day"

Jason Ingram | Jonathan Smith | Kristian Stanfill | Sean Curran

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Dismissal and Blessing

Closing Song In Christ Alone

Verse 1 In Christ alone my hope is found
 He is my light my strength my song
 This Cornerstone this solid Ground
 Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
 What heights of love what depths of peace
 When fears are stilled when strivings cease
 My Comforter my All in All
 Here in the love of Christ I stand
 Oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh (repeat)

Verse 2 In Christ alone who took on flesh
 Fulness of God in helpless babe
 This gift of love and righteousness
 Scorned by the ones He came to save
 Till on that cross as Jesus died
 The wrath of God was satisfied
 For every sin on Him was laid
 Here in the death of Christ I live
 Oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh (repeat)

Verse 3 There in the ground His body lay
 Light of the world by darkness slain
 Then bursting forth in glorious Day
 Up from the grave He rose again
 And as He stands in victory
 Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
 For I am His and He is mine
 Bought with the precious blood of Christ
 Oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh (repeat)

Verse 4 No guilt in life no fear in death
 This is the power of Christ in me
 From life's first cry to final breath
 Jesus commands my destiny
 No power of hell no scheme of man
 Can ever pluck me from His hand
 Till He returns or calls me home
 Here in the power of Christ I'll stand
 Oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh (repeat)

In Christ Alone
Oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh (repeat)

Bridge I find my strength
I find my hope
I find my help
In Christ alone
When fear assails
When darkness falls
I find my peace
In Christ Alone
I give my life
I give my all
I sing this song
To Christ alone
The King of Kings
The Lord of all
All heaven sings
To Christ alone 3x

Ending 'til he returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand
Here in the power of Christ we stand

In Christ Alone – Passion
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Service of Prayer

Tuesday, 8:15–8:25 a.m.

Hymn | Father, We Praise Thee

- 1 Father, we praise Thee, now the night is over,
Active and watchful, stand we all before Thee;
Singing, we offer prayer and meditation:
Thus we adore Thee.
- 2 Monarch of all things, fit us for Thy mansions;
Banish our weakness, health and wholeness sending;
Bring us to heaven, where Thy saints united
Joy without ending.
- 3 All-holy Father, Son, and equal Spirit,
Trinity blessed, send us Thy salvation;
Thine is the glory, gleaming and resounding
Through all creation.

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Opening Versicles

- L This is the day which the Lord has made;
C let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- L From the rising of the sun to its setting,
C the name of the Lord is to be praised.
- L Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;
**C I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.**
- L Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.
C Teach me Your paths.
- L Sanctify us in Your truth.
C Your Word is truth.
- L From the rising of the sun to its setting,
C the name of the Lord is to be praised.
- C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Sit

Reading | Psalm 30

L A reading from Psalm, the thirtieth chapter.

I will extol you, O LORD, for you have | drawn me up*
and have not let my foes rejoice | over me.

O LORD my God, I cried to | you for help,*
and you have | healed me.

O LORD, you have brought up my soul | from Sheol;*
you restored me to life from among those who go down | to the pit.

Sing praises to the LORD, O | you his saints,*
and give thanks to his | holy name.

For his anger is but for a moment,
and his favor is for a | lifetime.*

Weeping may tarry for the night,
but joy comes with the | morning.

As for me, I said in my pros- | perity,*
“I shall nev- | er be moved.”

By your favor, O LORD,
you made my mountain | stand strong;*
you hid your face;
I | was dismayed.

To you, O | LORD, I cry,*
and to the Lord I plead for | mercy:

“What profit is there in my death,
if I go down | to the pit?*

Will the dust praise you?
Will it tell of your | faithfulness?

Hear, O LORD, and be merci- | ful to me!*
O LORD, be my | helper!”

You have turned for me my mourning into | dancing;*
you have loosed my sackcloth
and clothed me with | gladness,

that my glory may sing your praise and not be | silent.*
O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you for- | ever!

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Responsory

L Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.

**C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where
Your glory dwells.**

- L Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.
C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.
- L Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

Lord's Prayer

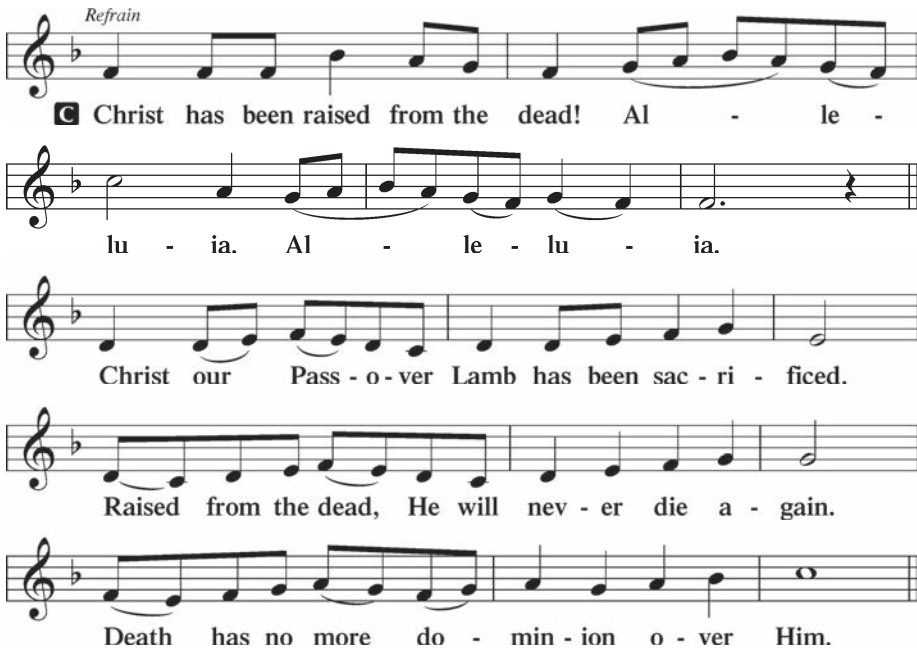
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

New Testament Canticle

Refrain



C Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
 Christ our Pass - o - ver Lamb has been sac - ri - ficed.
 Raised from the dead, He will nev - er die a - gain.
 Death has no more do - min - ion o - ver Him.

Refrain

Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Dy - ing, Christ dies to sin, once for all. Liv - ing, He lives to God. Count your - selves as dead to sin and a - live to God in Christ Je - sus, our Lord.

Refrain

Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Blessing

L Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

L The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.

C **Amen.**

Acknowledgments

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Responsive Prayer II

Tuesday, 2:15–2:45 p.m.

Song | Cornerstone

Verse 1

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name
(REPEAT)

Chorus

Christ alone cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love
Through the storm He is Lord
Lord of all

Verse 2

When darkness seems to hide His face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil
My anchor holds within the veil

Interlude

He is Lord Lord of all

Verse 3

When He shall come with trumpet sound
Oh may I then in Him be found
Dressed in His righteousness alone
Faultless stand before the throne

"Cornerstone"

Edward Mote | Eric Liljero | Jonas Myrin | Reuben Morgan | William Batchelder Bradbury

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Opening Versicles | LSB 285

L O Lord, open my lips,
C and my mouth will declare Your praise.

L Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
C make haste to help me, O Lord.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Psalm | Psalm 90:12-17; antiphon: v. 1

L So teach us to number | our days*
that we may get a heart of | wisdom.

C Return, O LORD! | How long?*

Have pity on your | servants!

L Satisfy us in the morning with your | steadfast love,*
that we may rejoice and be glad | all our days.

**C Make us glad for as many days as you have af- | flicted us,*
and for as many years as we have seen | evil.**

L Let your work be shown to your | servants,*
and your glorious power to their | children.

**C Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
and establish the work of our hands up- | on us;*
yes, establish the work | of our hands!**

**C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

L So teach us to number | our days*
that we may get a heart of | wisdom.

Reading | Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.

He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Reading | Matthew 11:28-30

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Homily | Rev. Erik Schmidt

Kyrie | LSB 285

L O Lord,
C **have mercy.**

L O Christ,
C **have mercy.**

L O Lord,
C **have mercy.**

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

Versicles | LSB 286

L Hear my prayer, O Lord;
C **let my cry come to You.**

L In the day of my trouble I call upon You,
C **for You answer me.**

L Hide Your face from my sins,
C **and blot out all my iniquities.**

L Create in me a clean heart, O God,
C **and renew a right spirit within me.**

- L Cast me not away from Your presence,
C and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.
- L Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,
C and uphold me with a willing spirit.
- L Because Your steadfast love is better than life,
C my lips will praise You.
- L For You have been my help,
C and in the shadow of Your wings I will sing for joy.
- L Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth;
C unite my heart to fear Your name.
- L I give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,
C and I will glorify Your name forever.
- L May all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You.
C May those who love Your salvation say evermore, "God is great!"
- L Save Your people and bless Your heritage!
C Be their shepherd and carry them forever.
- L Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;
C listen to my plea for grace.

Collect of the Day

- L Let us pray.
 Lord God our Father, You kept Abraham and Sarah in safety throughout the days of their pilgrimage, You led the children of Israel through the midst of the sea, and by a star You led the Wise Men to the infant Jesus. Protect and guide us now in this time as we set out to travel. Make our ways safe and our homecomings joyful, and bring us at last to our heavenly home, where You dwell in glory with Your Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.**

Benedicamus | LSB 287

- L Let us bless the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Blessing | LSB 287

- L The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.
C Amen.

Hymn | Almighty Father, Bless the Word

- 1 Almighty Father, bless the Word
Which through Your grace we now have heard.
Oh, may the precious seed take root,
Spring up, and bear abundant fruit!
- 2 We praise You for the means of grace
As homeward now our steps we trace.
Grant, Lord, that we who worshiped here
May all at last in heav'n appear.
- 3 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

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Responsive Prayer 2 from Lutheran Service Book

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Morning Prayer

Wednesday, 8:15–8:30 a.m.

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

Amen.

Versicles

L Listen to my prayer, O God, do not ignore my plea;

C **hear me and answer me.**

L Evening, morning, and noon

C **I cry out in distress, and He hears my voice.**

L Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you;

C **He will never let the righteous fall.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Hymn | Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

- 1 Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;
Curb those who by deceit or sword
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son
And bring to naught all He has done.
- 2 Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow'r make known,
For You are Lord of lords alone;
Defend Your holy Church that we
May sing Your praise eternally.
- 3 O Comforter of priceless worth,
Send peace and unity on earth;
Support us in our final strife
And lead us out of death to life.

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Reading | 2 Timothy 2:1-13

You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. The saying is trustworthy, for:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;
if we endure, we will also reign with him;
if we deny him, he also will deny us;
if we are faithless, he remains faithful—
for he cannot deny himself.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P O Lord,

C have mercy upon us.

P O Christ,

C have mercy upon us.

P O Lord,

C have mercy upon us.

C Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Blessing | LSB 287

L The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

C Amen.

Sending Prayer

Wednesday, 10–10:15 a.m.

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

Prayer for Travel

P Lord God, heavenly Father, we offer before You our common supplications for the well-being of Your Church throughout the world. So guide and govern it by Your Holy Spirit that all who profess themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Send down upon all ministers of the Gospel and upon the congregations committed to their care the healthful spirit of Your grace that they may please You in all things. Behold in mercy all who are in authority over us. Supply them with Your blessing that they may be inclined to Your will and walk according to Your commandments. We humbly ask Your abiding presence in every situation that You would make known Your ways among us. Preserve those who travel, satisfy the wants of Your creatures, and help those who call upon You in any need that they may have patience in the midst of suffering and, according to Your will, be released from their afflictions; through Christ Jesus, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Luther's Morning Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C **Amen.**

Hymn | Go, My Children, with My Blessing

- 1 Go, My children, with My blessing,
Never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you;
You are My own.
In My love's baptismal river
I have made you Mine forever.
Go, My children, with My blessing—
You are My own.
- 2 Go, My children, sins forgiven,
At peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you,
What I can cure.
Here you heard My dear Son's story;
Here you touched Him, saw His glory.
Go, My children, sins forgiven,
At peace and pure.
- 3 Go, My children, fed and nourished,
Closer to Me;
Grow in love and love by serving,
Joyful and free.
Here My Spirit's power filled you;
Here His tender comfort stilled you.
Go, My children, fed and nourished,
Joyful and free.
- 4 I the Lord will bless and keep you
And give you peace;
I the Lord will smile upon you
And give you peace:
I the Lord will be your Father,
Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, My children; I will keep you
And give you peace.

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Noon from Lutheran Service Book

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Information for Wives

The Katie—a Michigan District conference for the wives and widows of pastors, deacons, and vicars—is designed with prayer and love for this special group of women. A gathering unique to the Michigan District, The Katie has been made possible through the years by an amazing collection of highly creative and deeply committed leaders who have a passion for uplifting, encouraging, and supporting. The result is an opportunity to draw near to God through worship and praise, prayer, Bible study, small group discussion, social gathering opportunities, sharing, and laughter.



The theme for the 2022 event is “Very Ordinary Grace: Life in Relationship,” based on Ephesians 6:24. Relationships are complicated. And there are so many of them in our lives! Family, friendship, neighbors, online connections, people we work with, church, or community relationships—they all have a place and add many layers to our lives. Any of these relationships might also add layers of hurt and struggle. Relationships at their best are places of grace, but how do we get there? God’s grace alive in our relationships looks ordinary and extraordinary all at once. At this year’s Katie, we’ll walk with the Ephesian Christians in their relationships and find for ourselves how this very ordinary grace works transformation into our days.

As always, our conference will seek to provide spiritual refreshment to the women God has chosen to be His hands and heart to the men He has called into the ministry. While these women carry a unique set of burdens, they also enjoy some amazing and abundant blessings. The Katie is a celebration of those blessings and a support for those burdens. We have greatly missed this time of connection over the past two years of pandemic cancellations. Join us for a joyful re-gathering on April 1–3, 2022 in Bay City as the Holy Spirit deepens our faith through “Very Ordinary Grace: Life in Relationship.” If you are a wife new to the Michigan District in the past three years or have never attended, there is a \$50 scholarship gift available for you from the Michigan District CEF. This is a great opportunity to meet new friends and renew old relationships!

Michigan District Events



Connections Conference

November 22–23, 2021
Fort Wayne, Ind.
michigandistrict.org/connections



Theological Conference

Beyond the Walls with Jesus
February 5, 2022
Lansing, Mich.
michigandistrict.org/theological22



The Katie

Very Ordinary Grace: Life in Relationship
April 1–3, 2022
Bay City, Mich.
michigandistrict.org/katie22



Office Personnel Conference (OPC)

Hope, Joy, Peace, and Trust
April 24–26, 2022
Bay City, Mich.
michigandistrict.org/opc22



South and East Pastors Conference

May 3–4, 2022
Frankenmuth, Mich.
michigandistrict.org/ne22



Circuit Visitors Conference

May 4–5, 2022
Frankenmuth, Mich.
michigandistrict.org/cvspring22





North and East Pastors Conference

May 9–11, 2022

Lewiston, Mich.

michigandistrict.org/se22



West Pastors Conference

May 16–17, 2022

Traverse City, Mich.

michigandistrict.org/west22



Intentional Interim Ministry Conf.

May 25–26, 2022

Hillsdale, Mich.

michigandistrict.org/iimspring22



Junior High Youth Gathering

June 3–5, 2022

Frankenmuth, Mich.

michigandistrict.org/jrhigh22



Michigan District Convention

People of Hope ... It's Time!

June 26–28, 2022

Ann Arbor, Mich.

michigandistrict.org/convention



Lutheran Adult Gathering

In His Presence - Throughout All Generations

October 14–16, 2022

Mackinac Island, Mich.

michigandistrict.org/lag22



Michigan District, LCMS presents

2022 Theological Conference

February 5, 2022 | Our Savior, Lansing, Mich.



Beyond the WALLS with Jesus

1 Peter 2:10

Speakers:

Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer

Rev. Dr. Joel D. Lehenbauer

Mr. Greg S. Baylor, JD

Rev. Dr. Theodore J. Hopkins

General \$20

Student \$15

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