

OPENING WORSHIP

—

66TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION OF THE
WISCONSIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD

Here we
STAND



WORSHIP FOCUS

Convention worship is planned to reflect themes covered in the convention essay—according to the following plan.

Opening	Here We Stand: with confidence from immersion in God’s Word and nurtured by the means of grace
Tuesday	Here We Stand: with humility in our vocations as we live for Christ
Wednesday	Here We Stand: with joy in all circumstances, even if in apparent defeat
Closing	Here We Stand: offering a bold confession both publicly and privately

ORDER OF SERVICE

The order of service that follows is the liturgical text for the communion service approved by the WELS Hymnal Project. See “A Liturgical Philosophy for *Christian Worship*” for additional information. This article, from the Spring 2021 *Wisconsin Lutheran Quarterly*, is also available at christianworship.com under Resources. The fonts used in this service folder are those used in the new hymnal.

Some hymns, both in the opening service and in later services, are slated for the new hymnal, which will be released this fall. Some hymns used for convention worship are new texts set to familiar tunes. Of course, the new hymnal also will feature many new tunes. But familiar **tunes** allow for a comfortable first experience for all worshippers, not only those who read music or who learn new tunes easily.

While this service includes many new items, it begins with something old (but new to our 1993 hymnal)—a hymn text written by someone who once taught on this campus (Northwestern College), set to music from 1969.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

Prelude and Fugue in g minor

Nicolaus Bruhns (1665-1697)

Two Variations on Thy Strong Word EBENEZER

Kevin Hildebrand and John Behnke

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God EIN' FESTE BURG

Flor Peeters (1903-1986)

PRESIDING MINISTER

Mark Schroeder
WELS President
Watertown, Wis.

CANTOR

James Huebner
WELS First Vice President
Milwaukee, Wis.

PREACHER

Joel Voss
WELS Second Vice President
Centerville, Ohio

ORGANIST

Randy Bode
Luther Preparatory School

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Ryan Stangl, director and percussion
Luther Preparatory School

Trumpet: Josiah Loersch, Josiah Winkel. Trombone: Linda Moeller, Marcus Winkel. Violin: Josiah Loersch.

As the opening hymn is introduced, please stand and face the processional cross in the back of the chapel. Follow its path to the chancel, where it serves as a symbol of the theme and focus of Christian worship.

HYMN

THY STRONG WORD

Stanzas 2 and 4 may be sung in harmony.

*Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1961
Tune: EBENEZER, Thomas J. Williams, 1890
Harmony below by Richard Hillert, 1969
Concertato setting by Carl Schalk, 1969*

An interlude precedes the final stanza.

1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; at thy
2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, dark as
3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us right - eous; bright with
4 From the cross thy wis - dom shin - ing break - eth
5 Give us lips to sing thy glo - ry, tongues thy

 speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed
 night and deep as death, broke the light of
 thine own ho - li - ness, glo - rious now, we
 forth in con - qu'ring might; from the cross for -
 mer - cy to pro - claim, throats to shout the

light we thank thee while thine or - dered sea - sons run.
thy sal - va - tion, breathed thine own life - giv - ing breath.
press toward glo - ry, and our lives our hopes con - fess.
ev - er beam - eth all thy bright re - deem - ing light.
hope that fills us, mouths to speak thy ho - ly name.

1-4 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
5 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! May the
thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
light which thou dost send fill our songs with
al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
al - le - lu - ias, al - le - lu - ias with - out end!

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.

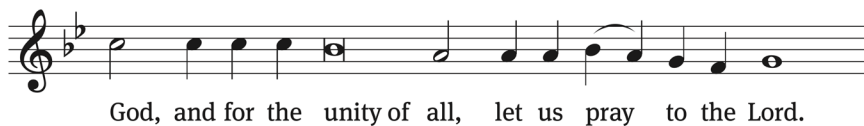
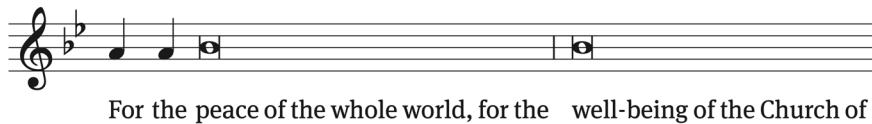
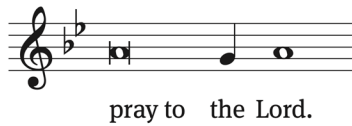
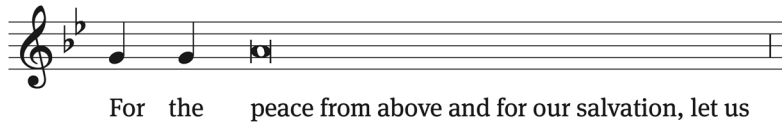
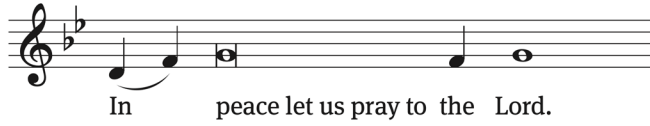
Silence for meditation and reflection.

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





For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, com - fort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

Gloria in Excelsis

The cantor sings the refrain. All repeat the refrain and sing it again as indicated.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and



peace to his peo - ple on earth.

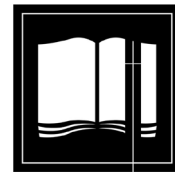
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. **Refrain.**

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. **Refrain.**

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. **Refrain.**

The Word



The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you gave your one and only Son to be the light of the world. Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and believed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated.

FIRST READING

After the reading:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

JEREMIAH 17:5-8

Blessed are those whose confidence is in the Lord.

PSALM OF THE DAY

PSALM 31

*Text: Adam Reusner; tr. Catherine Winkworth, sts. 1-4, alt.
tr. Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book, Pittsburgh, 1907, st. 5, alt.; public domain
Music: Michael D. Schultz, 2021*

The cantor sings verse 1. All sing verses 2-5.



1 I trust, O LORD, your ho - ly name; O let me
2 Bow down your gra - cious ear to me and hear my
3 You are my strength, my shield, my rock, my for - tress
4 With you, O LORD, I cast my lot; O faith - ful
5 All hon - or, praise, and maj - es - ty to Fa - ther,



not be put to shame nor let me
cry, my prayer, my plea; make haste for
strong a - gainst each shock, my help, my
God, for - sake me not, to you my
Son, and Spir - it be, our God for -



be con - found - ed. My faith, O LORD,
my pro - tec - tion, for woes and fear
life, my tow - er, my bat - tle sword,
soul com - mend - ing. LORD, be my stay,
ev - er glo - rious, in whose rich grace



be in your Word for - ev - er firm - ly ground-ed.
sur-round me here. Help me in my af - flic - tion.
al - might - y LORD— who can re - sist your pow - er?
and lead the way now and when life is end - ing.
we run our race till we de - part vic - to - rious.

SECOND READING

COLOSSIANS 3:15-17

With his peace in our hearts we confidently proclaim the message of Christ.

After the reading:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The cantor sings the alleluias. All repeat them before and after the verse.

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

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

Cantor: Surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

GOSPEL

LUKE 10:1-12, 16-20

Workers are empowered for harvest work.

After the reading:

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ.

Be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY

SPEAK, O LORD

Text and music: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend, 2006

1 Speak, O Lord, as we come to you to re - ceive the food
2 Teach us, Lord, full o - be - di - ence, ho - ly rev - er - ence,
3 Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds, help us grasp the heights
of your ho - ly Word; take your truth, plant it
true hu - mil - i - ty; test our thoughts and our
of your plans for us, truths un - changed from the
deep in us, shape and fash - ion us in your like - ness,
at - ti - tudes in the ra - di - ance of your pu - ri - ty.
dawn of time, that will ech - o down thro' e - ter - ni - ty.



that the light of Christ might be seen to-day in our acts of
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see your ma-jes-tic
And by grace we'll stand on your prom-is-es, and by faith we'll



love and our deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord, and ful-
love and au-thor-i-ty. Words of pow'r that can
walk as you walk with us. Speak, O Lord, till your



fill in us all your pur-poses for your glo-ry.
nev-er fail, let their truth pre-vail o-ver un-be-lief.
Church is built, and the earth is filled with your glo-ry.

SERMON

COLOSSIANS 3:15-17

By God's Grace, Here We Still Stand

Stand.

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Be seated.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Almighty God, with joy we give thanks for all your goodness. We bless you for the power by which you created us and by which you sustain us from day to day. We praise you for the gift of your Son, our Savior, through whom you have made known your love for all people. We thank you for the Holy Spirit, the Comforter; for your holy Church; for the means of grace; and for the hope of the life to come. Help us to treasure in our hearts all that you have done for us, and enable us to show our thankfulness with lives given to your service.

Hear us, good Lord.

Defend and empower your Church throughout the world. Give it pastors and teachers filled with your Spirit, and strengthen it through the Word and the holy sacraments, that it may bear witness to you, the Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier of all.

Hear us, good Lord.

Give your wisdom and heavenly grace to all who are leaders in your Church that, by their faithful service, faith may abound and your kingdom increase.

Hear us, good Lord.

Send the light of your truth into all the earth. Raise up faithful servants of Christ to labor in the gospel both at home and in distant lands.

Hear us, good Lord.

In your mercy strengthen the younger churches and support them in times of trial. Make them steadfast, and let their faith and zeal for the gospel refresh and renew the witness of your people everywhere.

Hear us, good Lord.

Preserve our nation in justice and honor, that we may lead peaceable lives of integrity. Grant health and favor to all who bear office in our land, to all those who make, administer, and judge our laws, and help them serve all citizens according to your holy will.

Hear us, good Lord.

Sanctify our homes with your presence and joy. Keep our children faithful to you, and enable their parents to train them in lives of faith and devotion.

Hear us, good Lord.

Let your blessing rest on seedtime and harvest, commerce and industry, leisure and rest, the arts and culture of our people. Take under your special protection those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

Hear us, good Lord.

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those to whom death draws near. Bring consolation to those in sorrow or mourning.

Hear us, good Lord.

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you in your Church, who now rest from their labors. Keep us loyal to their legacy, and bring us at last to the joy of your heavenly kingdom.

Hear us, good Lord.

Bless the deliberations and decisions of this convention. Bless all present with a spirit of unity, the bond of peace, and zeal for your kingdom.

Hear us, good Lord.

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

Amen.

OFFERING

Organ: The Gifts Christ Freely Gives DENBY

Kevin Hildebrand

The Sacrament

Stand.

PREFACE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

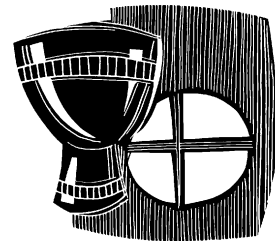
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Sanctus

Sing after a brief introduction.

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow-er, God of might:
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na
in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na
in the high-est. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin.

We remember and give you thanks

that your eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh and made his dwelling among us,
that he willingly placed himself under law to redeem those under law,
that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross,
that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast. Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God our Father, and to your Son, and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my \times body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my \times blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

Agnus Dei

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us your peace.

A - men. A - men.

Be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

At the direction of the ushers, approach the altar and receive the body of the Lord from the minister. You may extend your hand to receive the wafer. Proceed to the second minister to receive the blood of the Lord.

HYMN

THE GIFTS CHRIST FREELY GIVES

Text: Richard C. Resch, 2001

Tune: DENBY, Charles J. Dale, 1904



1 The gifts Christ free - ly gives he gives to you and me
2 The gifts flow from the font where he calls us his own;
3 The gifts of grace and peace from ab - so - lu - tion flow;
4 The gifts are there each day the ho - ly Word is read;
5 The gifts are in the feast, gifts far more than we see;
6 All glo - ry to the One who lav - ish - es such love;



to be his Church, his bride, his cho - sen, saved and free!
new life he gives that makes us his and his a - lone.
the pas - tor's words are Christ's for us to trust and know.
God's chil - dren lis - ten, hear, re - ceive, and they are fed.
be - neath the bread and wine is food from Cal - va - ry.
the tri - une God in love as - sures our life a - bove.



Saints blest with these rich gifts are chil - dren who pro - claim
Here he for - gives our sins with wa - ter and his Word;
For - give - ness that we need is grant - ed to us there;
Christ fills them with him - self, blest words that give them life,
The bod - y and the blood re - move our ev - 'ry sin;
His means of grace for us are gifts he loves to give;



that they were won by Christ and cling to his strong name.
the tri - une God him - self gives pow'r to call him Lord.
the Lord of mer - cy sends us forth in his blest care.
re - stor - ing and re - fresh - ing them for this world's strife.
we leave his pres - ence in his peace, re - newed a - gain.
all thanks and praise for his great love by which we live!

After the distribution the minister says:

The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting. Go ✠ in peace.
Amen.

Stand.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

His mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of 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.

Remain standing.

HYMN

See next page.

THY STRONG WORD

Stanza 6

6 God the Fa - ther, light - cre - at - or, to thee
 laud and hon - or be. To thee, Light from Light be -
 got - ten, praise be sung e - ter - nal - ly.
 Ho - ly Spir - it, light - re - veal - er, glo - ry,
 glo - ry be to thee. Mor - tals, an - gels,
 now and ev - er praise the ho - ly Trin - i - ty!

Be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Those wishing to remain for the postlude may do so. Please refrain from conversation during the postlude until outside the chapel.

POSTLUDE

Thy Strong Word EBENEZER

Kevin Hildebrand

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Service planning: Bryan Gerlach

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JULY 26 – 28, 2021

LUTHER PREPARATORY SCHOOL · WATERTOWN, WIS.



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