

FROM
AGE TO AGE
THE SAME



2018 Lutherans For Life National Conference

Entrance Hymn: All People That on Earth Do Dwell (LSB 791)

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Confession and Absolution

- P** And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, on your sons and your daughters, your young men and old, even on my male servants and my female servants. And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.
- C** **Merciful Father and Maker of all, we confess that from youth until our last breath every intention of our hearts is evil. In sinfulness we were conceived, and apart from You we can do no good thing. We have turned aside from Your Word and Your grace to worship our own desires instead. We have not respected life as Your gift or treated our neighbors as treasures. We deserve the death we have brought upon us. In Your steadfast compassion, forgive our iniquity. Remember us as those for whom Your dear Son Jesus atoned. Bring forth in us repentance and trust that Your humble creatures may be saved, according to the favor of Your name. Amen.**
- P** I the Lord do not change says our God. Therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. He has given Himself in His Son Jesus, who became incarnate and was crucified, that in His resurrection all humankind would be redeemed. In the stead and by the command of this Lord Jesus Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Introit: Psalm 90:1-4, 12-17

- P** Lord, you have been our dwelling place
- C** **in all generations.**
- P** Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
- C** **from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**
- P** You return man to dust
- C** **and say, "Return, O children of man!"**
- P** For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past,
- C** **or as a watch in the night.**
- P** So teach us to number our days
- C** **that we may get a heart of wisdom.**
- P** Return, O Lord! How long?
- C** **Have pity on your servants!**
- P** Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
- C** **that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.**
- P** Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,
- C** **and for as many years as we have seen evil.**
- P** Let your work be shown to your servants,
- C** **and your glorious power to their children.**

- P** Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us;
C 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.

Hymn of Praise: Holy God, We Praise Thy Name (LSB 940)

Collect

- P** Gracious God, our heavenly Father, Your mercy attends us all our days. Be our strength and support amid the wearisome changes of this world, and at life's end grant us Your promised rest and the full joys of Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 46:3-4, 8-10

“Listen to me, O house of Jacob, all the remnant of the house of Israel, who have been borne by me from before your birth, carried from the womb; even to your old age I am he, and to gray hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save. Remember this and stand firm, recall it to mind, you transgressors, remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose.’”

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

Epistle Reading: James 1:17-27

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

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

Hymn of Acclamation: O Word of God Incarnate (LSB 523)

Gospel Reading: John 1:1-5, 9-14

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Apostles' Creed

Sermon Hymn: O God, Our Help in Ages Past (LSB 733)

Sermon: From Age to Age the Same (Isaiah 46:3-4)

Anthem: Christ Is with Me

Commissioning and Installation of Deaconesses

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Beloved in the Lord, according to the Church's usual order, Rachel Geraci and Christina Gillet have been called to the office of deaconess at Lutherans For Life. This office has been established in love by the Church to support the Office of the Holy Ministry and to assist the faithful in their God-given vocations. Rachel and Christina have been prepared for this office by prayer and study. They have been examined and declared ready to undertake this sacred responsibility and public trust. Let us hear the Word of God concerning this office.

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (*Colossians 3:12-17*)

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. (*Romans 12:3-8*)

Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus. (*1 Timothy 3:8-13*)

Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (*Matthew 20:25-28*)

- P** Rachel Geraci and Christina Gillet, do you believe and confess the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice?
- R** *Yes, I believe and confess the canonical Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice.*
- P** Do you believe and confess the three Ecumenical Creeds, namely, the Apostles’, the Nicene, and the Athanasian Creeds, as faithful testimonies to the truth of the Holy Scriptures, and do you reject all the errors which they condemn?
- R** *Yes, I believe and confess the three Ecumenical Creeds because they are in accord with the Word of God. I also reject all the errors they condemn.*
- P** Do you confess the Unaltered Augsburg Confession to be a true exposition of Holy Scripture and a correct exhibition of the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church? And do you confess that the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Small and Large Catechisms of Martin Luther, the Smalcald Articles, the Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope, and the Formula of Concord—as these are contained in the Book of Concord—are also in agreement with this one scriptural faith?
- R** *Yes, I make these Confessions my own because they are in accord with the Word of God.*
- P** Do you solemnly promise faithfully to serve God’s people in your office in accordance with the Holy Scripture and with these Confessions?
- R** *Yes, I promise, with the help of God.*
- P** Will you, trusting in God’s care, seek to grow in love for those you serve, strive for excellence in your skills, and adorn the Gospel of Jesus Christ with a godly life?
- R** *I will, with the help of God.*

P Brothers and sisters in Christ, you have heard the confession and solemn promise of Rachel Geraci and Christina Gillet who have been called to the office of deaconess in the Church. I ask you now, in the presence of God: Will you receive them, show them fitting love and honor, and support them by your gifts and fervent prayer? If so, then answer: We will, with the help of God.

C **We will, with the help of God.**

P The almighty and most merciful God strengthen and assist you always.

P Rachel and Christina, are you ready and willing to assume this office and work?

R *I am.*

P Rachel Geraci, I commission you to the office of deaconess and install you at Lutherans For Life in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Christina Gillet, I commission you to the office of deaconess and install you at Lutherans For Life in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Let us pray. Gracious and most merciful Lord, by Your Holy Spirit You have given Your people diverse and singular gifts. We thank You for providing faithful men and women in Your Church to assist the Office of the Holy Ministry and to support Christians in their vocations. Grant Your Holy Spirit to Rachel and Chrissie, and adorn them with wisdom and power from on high that they may serve faithfully in their work to the honor and glory of Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P Almighty and most merciful God, as You chose Phoebe, Dorcas, and other women to assist in the work of the apostles and to serve in works of love, so have You chosen Rachel and Chrissie to be deaconesses in Your Church. Grant them grace and strength that, in their labors of love and by their good example, they may serve you faithfully to the glory of Your holy name, to the help of those in need, and to the everlasting benefit of Your Church; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P Go in peace and joy. The almighty and most merciful God, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you, and bless and strengthen you for faithful service in His name.

C **Amen.**

Hymn: For All the Faithful Women (LSB 855, sts. 1, 7, 12, 3, 4)

Prayers

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P For all the children of God, born into His own household by baptismal grace to share in His Son's inheritance, that we may rejoice to speak His truth and delight to show His love, until every human being has life and has it to the full, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For women with child and the little ones they carry, for newborns and infants, that our Maker and Father lend us His courage, to protect them from every danger, and His compassion, to provide for all their needs, while gathering them into His family, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

- P** For those who grieve pregnancy loss or struggle under infertility, that our Savior comfort them with the peace of His forgiving care and the promise of resurrection and reward, and that the Body of Christ share their sorrows and their joys, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For children awaiting adoption, and for little ones held in laboratories or scheduled for abortion, that Almighty God spare their lives, and that the Holy Spirit move us to open our ears and our mouths, our hearts and hands and homes, to embrace them, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For parents and other authorities, that in our homes and communities they gently and relentlessly safeguard the sacredness with which our Creator has invested every human life, and that they uphold especially the least of these even as He enfolds each of us in His grace, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the aged and the infirm (especially...), for the abandoned and the bereaved (especially...), and for those beset with the guilt of taking part in ending life, that our Lord deliver them out of their sufferings and heal them with forgiveness for their sins and everlasting restoration for their bodies, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those celebrating the blessings of abundant life, including birthdays (especially...) and anniversaries (especially...), that we give thanks and praise with them to God who has affirmed how precious they are by granting length of days and rich mercies, and that together we commit ourselves evermore into His goodness, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor ✠ and give you peace.
- C Amen.**

Recessional Hymn: Abide with Me (LSB 878)

Postlude

Pinning of Deaconesses

Greeting of Dignitaries

Announcements

Organist: Mr. Paul Snyder, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Olivette, Missouri

Choir: Concentus, Lutheran High School North, Jennings, Missouri; Mrs. Carolyn Rusnak, Director

Liturgist: Rev. Rory Karg, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Olivette, Missouri

Homilist: Rev. Michael Salemink, Lutherans For Life

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