

Opening Divine Service Outline

of the
65th Regular Convention
of
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



America's Center
St. Louis, Missouri

Eve of Pentecost IX, A.D. 2013
Saturday, July 20, 2013
7:30 p.m.

About This Evening's Service

Baptized for this moment! That is, *now is the acceptable time and now is the day of salvation* (Epistle). The 3,000 on Pentecost (First Reading) took that message to heart, and so took the plunge and received in Holy Baptism the promise of forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Joined now to Christ in the waters they became *a new creation* and joined in proclaiming to the whole world the gift of reconciliation in Christ. This is the self-same gift that our Lord speaks of to Nicodemus (Holy Gospel), for He would be *lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life*, and He invites all to be *born again* that they might *see the kingdom of God* present for all the world in His flesh, the gift from the heart of the Father so that we might live in Him forevermore. Baptism gives you more life than you can hold! It spills over to eternity.

Regarding Participation in the Sacrament

Today we receive the Sacrament of the Altar as guests of our host congregation, Christ Lutheran Church, Freeburg, Illinois, and its Pastor, Rev. Bruce Keseman. We thank them for this service on our behalf.

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this altar in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust in His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor of the host congregation. For further study, see Matthew 5:23ff; 10:32ff; 18:15–35; 26:26–29; 1 Corinthians 11:17–34.

Prayer before Communing

Almighty Lord Jesus Christ, as often as I shall come to Your holy table to refresh my spirit, I pray You to make me, unworthy as I am, worthy through Your grace; impure as I am, to make me clean; naked as I am, to clothe me, so that Your body, so full of divine power, and Your most precious blood may not become for me, Your servant, the occasion for judgment or punishment, but a memorial of the death You underwent for me, a strengthening of my faith, a proof of the taking away of my sins, a bond of closer union with You, an increase of holiness, the basis of a glad resurrection, and a pledge of everlasting life. Amen. (By David Hollaz, 1648–1713)

Communion Ware

The beautiful communion ware that we will use this evening was crafted by Lutheran artist Zach Schnare, a teacher at Metro East Lutheran High School in Edwardsville. After use in the convention, these communion sets will be given to mission congregations or sent to mission partners overseas.

Convention Hymn

LCMS Pastor and hymnwriter Stephen Starke composed the hymn for this year's convention, built around the solid joy of Baptism's ongoing significance for our lives and reflecting the readings for this Divine Service. It breathes the freedom and peace that come to the child of God as he or she recalls the unfailing promises of God in Holy Baptism which send us forth to announce "His great good news for all the earth." The tune by K. Lee Scott (also used for the hymn "Joy to the Heart") matches the text well with its confident exuberance in the promises of God.

Choir and Instrumentalists

This evening's choir is made up of choir members from local LCMS congregations who have rehearsed separately and together over the last few months in preparation. The instrumentalists and choir are under the direction of Dr. Mark Bender, assisted by Miss Melissa Niemeyer, organist, and Mrs. Carol Petering, handbell choir director, from St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Des Peres, Mo. We thank all of our musicians for their dedicated service.

This Evening's Offering

This triennium's LCMS National Offering supports the proclamation of Christ's forgiveness, the tangible delivery of His mercy both at home and abroad, and the affirmation of our commitment to a life together as the world's leading confessional Lutheran body. The five National Offering gift designations cover a strategic range of Witness, Mercy, Life Together efforts, all of which can happen only with broad support from LCMS congregations and households. Baptized for this moment, we are free to join with fellow brothers and sisters to carry the Good News into a world desperately in need of it. Thank you for supporting the 2013–16 LCMS National Offering with your gifts.

Iesu, iuva.

Pre-service Music

“O Day Full of Grace” Walter L. Pelz

Three Hymn Settings The Erin Bode Group
“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”
“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”
“In Christ There Is No East or West”

Erin Bode, solo; Adam Maness, piano
Melissa Brooks, cello; Sydney Rodway, double bass

“Come Down, O Love Divine” Walter L. Pelz

“God’s Own Child, I Gladly Say It” Lauran Delancy

“Christ Be My Leader” Wayne Oquin
Melissa Niemeyer, piano

“My Heart Ever Faithful” (BWV 68) J. S. Bach
Jean Baue, soprano

“Now Thank We All Our God” (BWV 79) J. S. Bach

“Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord” Walter L. Pelz

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Invocation	LSB 151
Confession and Absolution	LSB 151

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Entrance Hymn	“Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord” LSB 497 with Sequence Hymn <i>Veni, Sancte Spiritus</i> Setting by Carl Schalk
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Kyrie	LSB 152-153
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Hymn of Praise	“This Is the Feast” LSB 155
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Salutation and Collect of the Day	LSB 156
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First Reading	<i>Acts 2:37–41</i>
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Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

Psalms 46	“God Is Our Refuge and Strength” Setting by John A. Behnke
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Second Reading	<i>2 Corinthians 5:17–6:2</i>
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Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For he says,

“In a favorable time I listened to you,
and in a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

Alleluia and Verse	“Festival Alleluia” Ps. 119:105; John 17:17 Setting by James Chepponis
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Holy Gospel	<i>John 3:1-17</i>
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Hymn of the Day	“Baptized into Christ Jesus’ Death” Tune and setting by K. Lee Scott
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Sermon	
Nicene Creed	<i>LSB 158</i>
Prayer of the Church	<i>LSB 159</i>
Offering	
Choral Voluntary	“God So Loved the World” Music by John Stainer
Offertory	“O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright” <i>LSB 395</i>

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Preface	<i>LSB 160</i>
Sanctus	<i>LSB 161</i>
Prayer of Thanksgiving	<i>LSB 161</i>
The Words of Our Lord	<i>LSB 162</i>
Proclamation of Christ	<i>LSB 162</i>
Lord’s Prayer	<i>LSB 162</i>
Pax Domini	<i>LSB 163</i>
Agnus Dei	<i>LSB 163</i>
Distribution	“God’s Own Child, I Gladly Say It” (<i>LSB 594</i>) “Eat This Bread” (<i>LSB 638</i>) “All Christians Who Have Been Baptized” (<i>LSB 596</i>) “O Lord, We Praise Thee” (<i>LSB 617</i>) “At the Lamb’s High Feast we Sing” (<i>LSB 633</i>) “Lord Jesus Christ, the Church’s Head” (<i>LSB 647</i>)
Dismissal	<i>LSB 164</i>
Post-Communion Collect	<i>LSB 166</i>
Benediction	<i>LSB 166</i>
Hymn	“We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God” <i>LSB 941</i> Setting by Mark Bender

Postlude

“March” (BWV 207a) — J.S. Bach

Soli Deo Gloria!

In the Lord’s Service

Presiding Minister

Rev. Bruce Keseman
Pastor, Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church
Freeburg, Illinois

Preacher

Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison
President
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Assisting Ministers

Rev. William Weedon
Director of Worship/International Center Chaplain
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Rev. Benjamin Ball
Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran Church
Hamel, Illinois

Crucifer

Seminarian James Stefanic
Concordia Seminary—St. Louis, Missouri

Book Bearer

Seminarian Thomas Schlund
Concordia Seminary—St. Louis, Missouri

Distribution of the Sacrament

Council of Presidents
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Presidents and Bishops of LCMS Partner Churches

Interpreters for the Deaf

Rev. William Wrede
Admissions Officer
Concordia Seminary—St. Louis, Missouri

Rev. Steven Schlund
Pastor, Peace Lutheran Church
Great Falls, Montana

Instrumentalists

Megan Glass, Anna Price, flute
Joanna Bender, Cathy Paul, oboe
Carolyn Mulcahy, Beth Perez, bassoon
Matthew Janssen, Sarah Luehrs, Aaron Mahnken, trumpet
Heather Groerich, french horn
Derek Hotzel, trombone
Troy Marble, tuba
Jake Rhodes, timpani
Karen Olson, chimes
Michael Van Genderen, percussion
Anna Britton, Bill Courtney, Holly Eickmann, John McCain, Kathryn Muskopf, Karen Popp, Meridith Van Genderen, Tom Winter, violin
Charles Brookman, Jacquie Sheehan, Debby Wagman, viola
Amanda Jakle, Patrick Merritt, cello
Ann Muehlmann, Sydney Rodway, double bass

Handbell Choir

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Des Peres, Missouri
Carol Petering, Director

Choir

Congregation Choirs from Greater St. Louis Area
LCMS Parishes

Conductor

Dr. Mark Bender
Minister of Music
St. Paul’s Lutheran Church
Des Peres, Missouri

Organist

Melissa Niemeyer
Music Ministry Assistant
St. Paul’s Lutheran Church
Des Peres, Missouri

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from *Lutheran Service Book*.
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