



# SERVICE OF FAREWELL AND GODSPEED

WEEK OF EASTER 5

*United Lutheran Seminary*  
Gettysburg & Philadelphia

Thursday, May 14, 2020  
7:00 PM

*online due to the COVID-19 pandemic*

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## GATHERING

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*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

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Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

The Sun of righteousness shall rise with shining beams of healing. Let us gather under the wings of God's mercy.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Gracious God,

**we acknowledge that we are sinners and we confess our sins—those known to us that burden our hearts, and those unknown to us but seen by you. We know that before you nothing remains hidden, and in you everything is revealed. Free us from the slavery of sin; liberate us from the bondage of guilt; work in us that which is pleasing in your sight; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

From the house of David, God raised up a mighty Savior.

**Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who comes to set us free.**

Remembering the covenant, God delivered us from our enemies.

**Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who comes to set us free.**

Before God we are holy and righteous, free to worship without fear.

**Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who comes to set us free.**

With a heart full of mercy and compassion, God saves us and forgives us all our sins. Christ, the dawn from on high, shines upon us, and by the light of the Holy Spirit guides our feet into the way of peace.

**Amen**

## Gathering Song

### O God beyond All Praising

1 O God be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to-day  
2 The flow'r of earth-ly splen-dor in time must sure-ly die,  
3 Then hear, O gra-cious Sav-ior, ac-cept the love we bring,

and sing the love a-maz-ing that songs can-not re-pay;  
its frag-ile bloom sur-ren-der to you, the Lord most high;  
that we who know your fa-vor may serve you as our King;

for we can on-ly won-der at ev-'ry gift you send,  
but hid-den from all na-ture the e-ter-nal seed is sown-  
and wheth-er our to-mor-rows be filled with good or ill,

at bless-ings with-out num-ber and mer-cies with-out end;  
though small in mor-tal stat-ure, to heav-en's gar-den grown:  
we'll tri-umph through our sor-rows and rise to bless you still:

we lift our hearts be-fore you and wait up-on your word,  
for Christ, your gift from heav-en, from death has set us free,  
to mar-vel at your beau-ty and glo-ry in your ways,

we hon-or and a-dore you, our great and might-y Lord.  
and we through him are giv-en the fi-nal vic-to-ry.  
and make a joy-ful du-ty our sac-ri-fice of praise.

Text: Michael Perry, 1942–1996

Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

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## Call to Worship

Christ the Lord is risen.

**The stone is rolled away!**

Death has now been vanquished.

**The stone is rolled away!**

Come, bow down and worship.

**The stone is rolled away!**

Come, let us adore him.

**The stone is rolled away!**

Give God all the glory.

**The stone is rolled away!**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## WORD

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*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

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### Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

<sup>1</sup>In you, O LORD, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me.

<sup>2</sup>Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily. Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.

<sup>3</sup>You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me,

<sup>4</sup>take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge.

<sup>5</sup>Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

<sup>15</sup>My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

<sup>16</sup>Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love. (NRSV)

## Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia. I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. Alleluia.**

## Gospel

### John 14:1-14

*The scene is Jesus' last supper with his disciples. It started with him washing their feet as an example of the kind of love they should have for each other. Jesus also started talking about his 'glorification' and how he would be heading to a place where they could not come, but that by loving each other, they will fulfill the new command Jesus gives them and demonstrate that they*

*are his disciples. Peter wonders where Jesus is heading, and Jesus tells him that he will follow later... after he has denied him three times yet that night. But Jesus continues...*

<sup>1</sup> “Don’t let your heart(s) be troubled.

You (all) believe in God. Also believe in me!

<sup>2</sup> In my Father’s house there are many places to stay.

Now if it weren’t so, would I tell you that I am going to prepare a place for you?

<sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I come back!

And I will take you along with me, in order that where I AM, you also may be.

<sup>4</sup> And where I’m heading, you know the **way**.”

<sup>5</sup> Thomas says to him,

“Lord, we don’t know where you’re heading. How are we able to know the **way**?”

<sup>6</sup> Jesus says to him,

“I AM the **Way** and the Truth and the Life.

No one comes to the Father except through me.”

<sup>7</sup> If you have known me, you will also know my Father.

And from now on, you do know him.

You have even seen him!”

<sup>8</sup> Philip says to him,

“Lord, show us the Father, and that’s enough for us.”

<sup>9</sup> Jesus says to him,

“For such a long time I’m with you, and you don’t know me, Philip?

Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.

How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?

<sup>10</sup> You do believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in me, don’t you?

The words that I say to you I don’t speak on my own behalf,

but the Father who is dwelling in me is doing his works.

<sup>11</sup> Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father is in me!

But if you don’t, then because of the works themselves believe!

<sup>12</sup> This is most certainly the truth I’m telling you:

Anyone who believes in me—the works that I’m doing—they also will do them,

even greater works than these they’ll do,

because I’m going to the Father.

<sup>13</sup> And whatever you ask in my name, that’s what I will do,

in order that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

<sup>14</sup> If you ask for anything in my name, I will do it!” (MGVH translation)

Sermon

Professor Mark Vitalis Hoffman



# Hymn of the Day

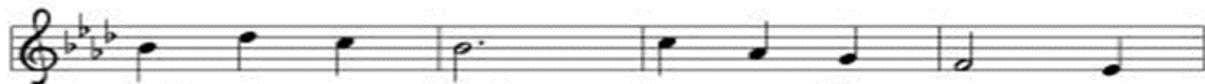
## Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!  
2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter  
3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;  
4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:  
5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!  
tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;  
life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;  
death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.  
gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!  
break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:  
heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,  
Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!  
riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!  
Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.  
gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to  
Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.  
sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

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Music: David N. Johnson, 1922-1987  
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# Prayers of Intercession

## 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.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## SENDING

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*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

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### Farewell and Godspeed

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Siblings in Christ, as you prepare to leave our seminary community, we wish to bid you farewell.

*A reading from John:* Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life" (*John 8:12*).

In holy baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you members of his church. When you came to this seminary community, we rejoiced to welcome you into the mission we share as the people of God. In this community of faith and formation you have come to know and to share in God's loving purpose for you and for all creation. God has blessed you in this community, and God has blessed us through you.

Let us pray.

Gracious God, we thank you for the work and witness of your servants here gathered, who have enriched this seminary community and shared their gifts with their colleagues, professors, and friends. Now bless and preserve them at this time of transition. Day by day, guide them and give them what is needed, friends to cheer their way, and a clear vision of that to which you are now calling them. By your Holy Spirit be present in their pilgrimage, that they may travel with the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Blessing of Graduates

All-wise and loving God, we give thanks for your gifts to us: for creating us, for saving us in Christ, for calling us in baptism as your people. Look with love on these graduates and bless them as they complete this season of their studies. By your Spirit, help them to use their gifts for

your glory and for the good of all people. In your lovingkindness, guide them in their journey.  
We ask these blessings through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Blessing of the Assembly

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead  
raise you to new life, fill you with hope,  
and turn your mourning into dancing.  
Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

### Dismissal

Christ is risen, just as he said.  
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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## WORSHIP LEADERS

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Presiders	Angela Zimmann <i>Interim President of United Lutheran Seminary</i> J. Jayakiran Sebastian <i>Dean of the Seminary</i> Charles Leonard <i>Dean of the Chapel (Philadelphia)</i> John Largen <i>Dean of the Chapel (Gettysburg)</i>
Preacher	Mark Vitalis Hoffman <i>Professor of Biblical Studies</i>
Intercessor	Darrell Tiller <i>(MDiv '20)</i>
Lectors	Marcia Williams <i>Student Body Vice President</i> Evan Christensen <i>Student Body President</i>
Technical Engineer & Editor	Don Redman <i>Director of IT Systems and Educational Technology</i>
Communications	Linda Fiore <i>Director of Communications</i> Grainne Davies <i>Communications Coordinator</i>

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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