

Celebration of Ministry for Pastor Thomas Kneser
Living Hope Lutheran Church, Woodlawn Campus
Sunday, March 12 – 10:30am



Opening Litany: Psalm 119:89-93

P: Your word, LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.

C: Your faithfulness continues through all generations; you established the earth, and it endures.

P: Your laws endure to this day, for all things serve you.

C: If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction.

P: I will never forget your precepts, for by them you have preserved my life.

Opening Hymn #897 - Lord Jesus, You Have Come

P: In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Confession

P: If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

P: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

C: 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.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

The Word

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.



Prayer of the Day *(Pastor)*

We pray: Lord Jesus, by your gracious coming into the world you destroyed death and made all things new. Grant that we may never tire of proclaiming your salvation to the ends of the earth; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Handbells – *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*

First Reading – Exodus 4:10-16

¹⁰ Moses said to the LORD, “Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue.”

¹¹ The LORD said to him, “Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the LORD? ¹² Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say.”

¹³ But Moses said, “Pardon your servant, Lord. Please send someone else.”

¹⁴ Then the LORD’s anger burned against Moses and he said, “What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak well. He is already on his way to meet you, and he will be glad to see you. ¹⁵ You shall speak to him and put words in his mouth; I will help both of you speak and will teach you what to do. ¹⁶ He will speak to the people for you, and it will be as if he were your mouth and as if you were God to him.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Choir – *Song of Faith*



Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 2:1-7

¹ And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. ² For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. ⁴ My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, ⁵ so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God’s power.

⁶ We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.

⁷ No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Verse of the Day

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up... (Ephesians 4:11,12)

Gospel – John 15:1-8

¹ "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day – For Builders Bold, Whose Vision Pure

For chosen men who lead our church

Who answered to God's call;

Who preach the Word that gives us faith

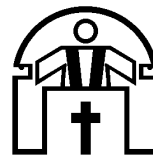
In Christ, the Lord of all.

From them we learn of saving grace,

We trust in God's strong word.

For faithful pastors teaching us

We give you thanks, O Lord.



**Here saints newborn you generate
Through water and the Word.
Through bread and cup communicate
The gift of Christ our Lord.
We gather, Christ's own family,
Christ's meal of love we share.
Come help us live in unity,
Each other's burdens bear.**



**We come, O Lord, inheritors
From those who now retire.
Lord, make us now contributors
To years beyond our time.
Let faith's enkindled flame not fail;
Let love's best gifts increase.
Let hope in Christ's sure Word prevail
'Til earth and time shall cease.**

Sermon – Genesis 32:9-12

⁹ Then Jacob prayed, "O God of my father Abraham, God of my father Isaac, LORD, you who said to me, 'Go back to your country and your relatives, and I will make you prosper,' ¹⁰ I am unworthy of all the kindness and faithfulness you have shown your servant. I had only my staff when I crossed this Jordan, but now I have become two camps. ¹¹ Save me, I pray, from the hand of my brother Esau, for I am afraid he will come and attack me, and also the mothers with their children. ¹² But you have said, 'I will surely make you prosper and will make your descendants like the sand of the sea, which cannot be counted.'"

A Celebration of Blessings

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 truly 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.

Retirement of Called Worker

Presentation of Our Offerings

Prayer of the Church

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.



The Sacrament

Words of Institution (Pastor)

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 (+) 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 (+) 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.

C: Amen.



O Christ, Lamb of God

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.

Distribution

Distribution Hymn #660 - Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face

P: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

C: his mercy endures forever.

P: Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

C: we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

P: 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.

C: Amen.



Blessing

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn #896 - Dear Lord, to Your True Servants Give



Serving Us Today

Liturgist: Pastor Benjamin Wessel

Preacher: Pastor Joel Leyrer

Organist: Dee Ann Techlin

Handbell Director: Tina Graham

Choir Director: Jean Kaldunski

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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