

# The Ascension of Our Lord



**Siebert Chapel**  
**Thursday, June 15**  
**7:45 p.m.**

## ABOUT THE SERVICE

### Worship Focus

Forty days and forty nights, the rain poured down and the flood waters rose. God drowned the ancient world in a breath-taking act of liquid judgment. Forty days and forty nights, the Son of God presented himself to his disciples alive and exceedingly well after drowning sin in a flood of blood and swallowing up death in his resurrected body. Now the forty days were at an end. After promising his disciples a pouring-out of the Spirit and entrusting to them the keys to the Kingdom, Jesus—in one final, saving act of his earthly ministry—ascended into heaven. The clouds that hide Jesus from our sight cannot cast a shadow on our Ascension joy tonight: “God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets” (Psalm 47).

### Tonight’s Magnificat

Most scholars agree that Martin Luther created a setting of the Song of Mary (*Magnificat*) to be sung in the Vesper services of the Lutheran Church. The publication date is 1533, and the setting appeared in a hymnal published in Wittenberg. Luther modified a Gregorian chant known as the TONUS PEREGRINUS (the ninth or “wandering” tone) to accompany the text from Luke’s Gospel. The setting with its harmony (likely also by Luther) is preserved in *Luther’s Works*, American Edition, Vol. 53, pp. 178-179.

### Festival Song of Simeon

With a unique plan created by the service designer, the conference planning committee commissioned Dr. Kenneth T. Kosche to prepare a setting of the Song of Simeon (*Nunc Dimittis*), long associated with Vespers, which combined the *Christian Worship* setting of the canticle with Martin Schalling’s hymn text, “Lord, Let at Last Your Angels Come” and its tune, HERZLICH LIEB HAB ICH DICH.

### A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

In 2008 Jeffrey Blersch composed a setting of the Easter text, “Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds” with its tune, LASST UNS ERFREUEN (Concordia, 97-7293). Desiring an expanded setting of the concertato for the six stanzas of the Ascension hymn, “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing” (sung to the same tune), the conference planning committee commissioned Dr. Blersch to compose an additional stanza for treble choir which could be added to his 2008 setting.

### Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

The conference planning committee commissioned David Biedenbender to prepare harmonizations for Luther’s hymn and its tune, NUN FREUT EUCH, LIEBEN CHRISTEN.

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## PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

### Chorale preludes on ERSCHIENEN IST (see page 102)

Johann Walther  
*Sämtliche Orgelwerke: Band II*  
Edition Breitkopf 8679

Gottfried Homilius  
HoWV VIII.20  
Edition Breitkopf 8541

Ernst Pepping  
*Grosses Orgelbuch III*  
Schott ED3731

Johann Sebastian Bach  
*Orgelbüchlein*  
Concordia, 1984

Max Reger  
Op. 67, no. 8  
Bärenreiter Verlag BA.BA8249

# Order of Service

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*The flame of the Paschal Candle is carried to the assembly.*

*Stand at the sound of the bells.*

## SERVICE OF LIGHT

## Processional for Lucernarium

*Carl Crozier, 1987*

*Ionian Arts, CH-1002*

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

*Refrain*



Je - sus Christ is the light of the world,  
the light no dark - ness can o - ver - come.

*The choir sings the verses of the processional.*

You, O Lord, are my lamp; my God, you make my darkness bright.  
For with you is the well of life, and in your light we see light.

### *Refrain*

When your word goes forth it gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.  
Your word is a lantern to my feet and a light upon my path.

### *Refrain*

You wrap yourself with light as with a cloak and spread out the heavens like a curtain.  
Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me, and bring me to your holy  
hill and to your dwelling.

### *Refrain*

The night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike.  
From the rising of the sun to its going down let the Name of the Lord be praised.

### *Refrain*

Glory 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.

### *Refrain*

HYMN

We Thank You, Jesus, Dearest Friend

Nikolaus Herman, 1560

ERSCHIENEN IST

Intonation: Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

Setting: Michael Praetorius

Musae Sionae V:140

stanza 1 – Choir

stanza 2 – Women

stanza 3 – Men

stanzas 4-5 – All



1 We thank you Je - sus, dear - est friend, that in - to heav'n you  
 2 As - cend - ed to his throne on high, hid from our sight, yet  
 3 The one who trusts in him is blest and finds in him e -  
 4 With deep - est joy our voice we raise and sing our grate - ful  
 5 He soon will bring us near his throne; O broth - er Je - sus,



did as - cend. Em - man - u - el, in whom we live, your  
 al - ways nigh, he rules and reigns at God's right hand and  
 ter - nal rest. This world's al - lure - ments we de - spise; on  
 song of praise: Our broth - er, flesh and bone and blood, is  
 help your own to firm - ly trust that we will be your



strength to soul and bod - y give! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 has all pow'r at his com - mand. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Christ a - lone we fix our eyes. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Lord and King, our high - est good! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 own through all e - ter - ni - ty. Al - le - lu - ia!

**M:** Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who led your people Israel with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ. May his Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for you are merciful, and you love your whole creation. We, your creatures, glorify you: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen.

*Be seated.*

*Extinguish candles. Place candles in receptacles when leaving the chapel.*

**Cantor:**

An angel, holding a golden censer full of incense, stood before the altar. The smoke of the incense went up before God, mingled with the prayers of the people.

*The choir sings the refrain. All sing the refrains that follow.*

**Refrain**

Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense, the  
lift - ing of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

*The choir sings the verses of the psalm.*

I call to you, O LORD; come to me quickly;  
Hear my voice when I cry to you.  
Let my prayer rise before you as incense,  
The lifting of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

**Refrain**

Keep guard over my mouth, O LORD; watch the door of my lips;  
Keep my heart from slipping into evil.  
Let me not be busy with evildoers;  
Let me not be taken in by their sensuous foods.

**Refrain**

Should the righteous rebuke me, let me accept it as grace;  
But keep the oil of the unrighteous ever from touching my head.  
I continually pray against their wicked deeds;  
when they are judged, they will know the truth of your word.

**Refrain**

But my eyes are turned toward you, O LORD my God;  
In you I take refuge; do not deprive me of life.  
Keep me from the snare set for me by the evil.  
Let them be ensnared, but Lord grant me release.

**Refrain**

*Silence for meditation.*

**M:** Let our prayers be acceptable in your sight. Come and help us in time of need that we may sing your praise in holy joy now and forever; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C:** Amen.

## PSALM 47

Steven Rhode, 2016  
The Wittenberg Psalter  
Chorale-Tone XVII after MACH HOCH DIE TÜR  
Commission on Worship Web site

*The choir sings the refrain. All sing the refrains that follow.*

**Refrain**



Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy.

*The choir sings the verses of the psalm.*

How awesome is the LORD Most High,  
the great King over all the earth!  
God reigns over the nations;  
God is seated on his holy throne.

### **Refrain**

God has ascended amid shouts of joy,  
the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets.  
Sing praises to God, sing praises;  
sing praises to our King, sing praises.  
For God is the King of all the earth;  
Sing to him a psalm of praise.

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.

### **Refrain**

*Silence for meditation.*

**M:** Lord Jesus, your Father raised you on high, seated you at his right hand, and appointed you to be head over everything for the sake of the Church. Gather the elect from all nations into your Church and make them a holy people to praise and adore you, who lives and reigns with the Father and the holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

Sing alleluia, praise the Lord!  
 Sing praise on earth, alleluia.  
 Sing praise in heav'n, declare His pow'r.  
 Sing praise for all His mighty acts.

Sing alleluia, praise the Lord!  
 Sing praise with charming reed and flute.  
 Sing praise with dancing and with drums.  
 Sing praise with strings most delicate.

Sing alleluia, praise the Lord!  
 Sing alleluia, praise His worth.  
 Sing His achievements, strength supreme.  
 Sing praise for His transcendancy.

Sing alleluia, praise the Lord!  
 Sing alleluia, cymbals clash.  
 Sing alleluia, cymbals ring.  
 Sing all that breathe, alleluia!

Sing alleluia, praise the Lord!  
 Sing alleluia, praise with joy.  
 Sing praise with psaltery and harp.  
 Sing praise with trumpets blasting forth.

Sing alleluia, praise the Lord!  
 All ages glorify His name.  
 Father and Son and Spirit, one;  
 Now and forevermore. Amen

***Silence for meditation***

**M:** Lord God, unite our voices with the praise of all creation, that we may worthily magnify your excellent greatness; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**READING**

**The Ascension of Our Lord**

*A harmony based of the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke  
 and the Acts of the Apostles*

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

Soon after the resurrection, the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

On one occasion, Jesus said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

On another occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. And he sat at the right hand of God.

They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

## ACCLAMATION

## Christ Has Conquered (Christus Vincit)

Joseph Noyon

Arranged by Gerre Hancock

Oxford University Press, 1991 - OU.9780193858541

*After an introduction, all sing the refrain.*

### Refrain

Christ has con - quered, Christ, our sov - 'reign,  
Christ reigns for - ev - er - more.  
Christ has con - quered, Christ, our sov - 'reign,  
Christ reigns for - ev - er - more.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

### Refrain

As it was in the beginning, is now and forevermore, world without end. Amen.

### Refrain



Ascension Smashes Expectations

HYMN

Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

Martin Luther, 1524  
NUN FREUT EUCH, LIEBEN CHRISTEN  
Settings by David Biedenbender, 2017



1 Dear Chris - tians, one and all, re - joice, with  
9 "Now to my Fa - ther I de - part, the  
10 "What I on earth have lived and taught be



ex - ul - ta - tion spring - ing, and, with u - nit - ed  
Ho - ly Spir - it send - ing and, heav'n - ly wis - dom  
all your life and teach - ing; so shall my king - dom's



heart and voice and ho - ly rap - ture sing - ing,  
to im - part, my help to you ex - tend - ing.  
work be wrought and hon - ored in your preach - ing.



pro - claim the won - ders God has done, how his right arm the  
He will a source of com - fort be, teach you to know and  
Take care that no one's man - made laws should e'er de - stroy the



vic - t'ry won. How dear - ly it has cost him!  
fol - low me, and in all truth will guide you.  
gos - pel's cause. This fi - nal word I leave you."

Be seated.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart

Arranged by Sandra Eithun  
Concordia, 97-7677

**SONG OF MARY**

**Magnificat**

**Cantor and Choir:**

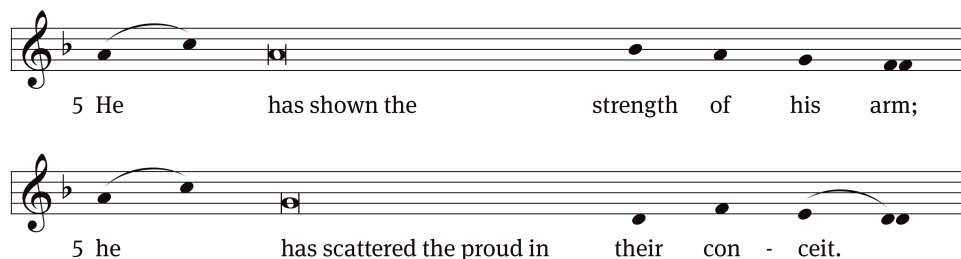
My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed.

The Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

He has mercy on those who fear him  
in every generation.

**All:**



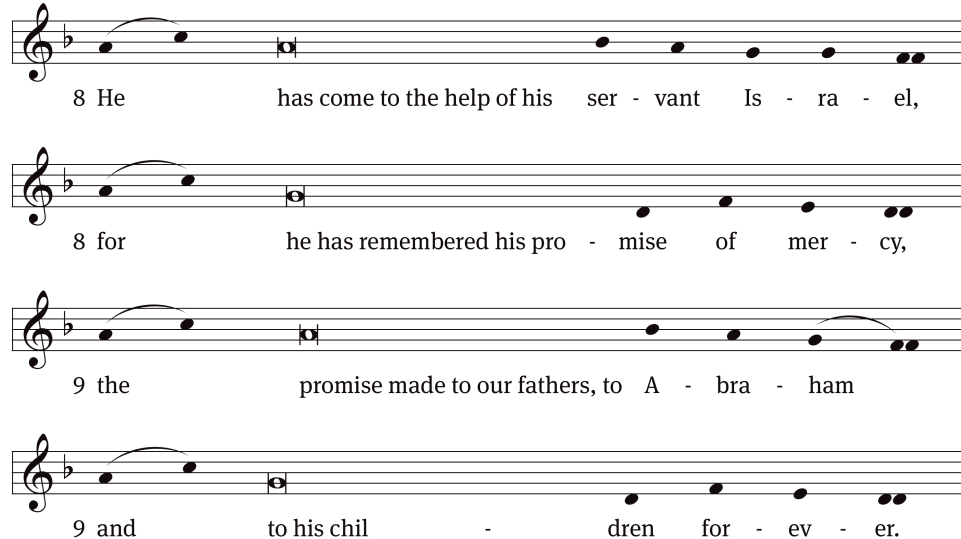
5 He has shown the strength of his arm;  
5 he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

**Cantor and Choir:**

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones  
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent away empty.

**All:**



8 He has come to the help of his ser - vant Is - ra - el,  
8 for he has remembered his pro - mise of mer - cy,  
9 the promise made to our fathers, to A - bra - ham  
9 and to his chil - dren for - ev - er.

**Stand.**

## LORD, HAVE MERCY

*Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.*

*Kyrie*

**M:** In peace let us pray to the Lord:

**C:** **Lord, have mercy.**

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

**C:** **Lord, have mercy.**

**M:** 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.**

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

**C:** **Lord, have mercy.**

**M:** For the leaders of our synod and district, for all pastors in Christ, for all who are servants of the Church, and for all the people of God, let us pray to the Lord:

**C:** **Lord, have mercy.**

**M:** For all who govern our nation and for all public servants, that they may be upheld and strengthened for every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

**C:** **Lord, have mercy.**

**M:** For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

**C:** **Lord, have mercy.**

**M:** For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this place, those who toil, those who sing, and all who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

**C:** **Lord, have mercy.**

**M:** For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

**C:** **Lord, have mercy.**

**M:** For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

**C:** **Lord, have mercy.**

**M:** For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

**M:** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

*Silence for individual prayer may follow.*

**M:** Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ our Lord:

**C:** **To you, O Lord.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

**C:** **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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**M:** Lord Jesus, King of glory, on this day you ascended far above the heavens and at God's right hand you rule the nations. Leave us not alone, we pray, but grant us the Spirit of truth that at your command and by your power we may be your witnesses in all the world; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** **Amen.**

## PRAYER FOR PEACE

**M:** Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** **Amen.**

## SONG OF SIMEON

*Nunc Dimittis*

## Festival Nunc Dimittis

*Arranged by Kenneth T. Kosche*

The musical score is written on three staves. The first staff is for 'Women' and the second for 'Men', both in treble clef. The third staff is for 'All'. The lyrics are: 'Lord, let at last your an - gels come; to A - bram's bos - om bear me home that I may die un - fear - ing. Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace, ac -'.

*Men*  
 cord-ing to your word. And in its nar - row cham-ber keep

*Women* *All*  
 my bod-y safe in peace-ful sleep un - til your re - ap - pear-ing.

For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre -  
 pared be - fore the face of all peo - ple.

*All*  
 And then from death a - wak-en me that my own eyes with joy may  
 see, O Son of God, your glo-rious face, my Sav - ior and my  
 fount of grace. a light to light - en the  
 Gen - tles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra-el.

Lord Je - sus Christ, my prayer at - tend,  
 my prayer at - tend, and I will praise you with - out end.

## BLESSING

**M:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ ✠ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** Amen.

HYMN

**A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing**

*The Venerable Bede (673-735)*

**LASST UNS ERFREUEN**

*Setting by Jeffery Blerch, 2008 & 2016*

**stanzas 1-2 – All**

**stanzas 3-4 – Choir**

**stanza 5 – All in harmony (following page)**

**stanza 6 – All**



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New songs through -  
 2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the  
 3 To them the shin - ing an - gels cry, “Why stand and  
 4 “You see him now, as - cend - ing high up to the  
 6 O ris - en Christ, as - cend - ed Lord, all praise to



out the world shall ring:  
 Mount of Ol - ives stand,  
 gaze up - on the sky?” Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 por - tals of the sky.”  
 you let earth ac - cord.



Christ, by a road be - fore un - trod, as - cends un - to the  
 and with his fol - low - ers they see their Lord as - cend in  
 “This is the Sav - ior,” thus they say. “This is his glo - rious  
 “Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall see re - turn - ing in great  
 You are, while end - less ag - es run, with Fa - ther and with



throne of God.  
 maj - es - ty.  
 tri - umph day.” Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 maj - es - ty.”  
 Spir - it one.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

5 Be now our joy on earth, O Lord, and be our fu-ture

great re - ward. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Then, throned with you for - ev - er, we shall praise your name

e - ter - nal - ly. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

**Following the hymn, be seated for the postlude.**

Based on a text long associated with the Te Deum Laudamus, *Salvum Fac Populum Tuum* was composed for a 1918 armistice service at the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris. It is a sonic portrayal of the horrors of war and the triumph of victory. So, too, Christ's cosmic struggle against sin, death, and devil was horribly real. His triumph is total.

O Lord, save your people and bless your heritage.  
Govern them and lift them up for ever.



At the Festival of the Ascension the Paschal Candle is carried from the chancel to symbolize that Jesus did not remain with his Church in bodily form but returned to his heavenly Father's right hand in glory. The recession of the Paschal Candle does not imply that Jesus is no longer present among us, for he promised, "Where two or three come together in my name, there am I among them" (Matthew 18:20). Wherever his Word and Sacraments are, there Jesus is truly present. The recession of the Paschal Candle helps us to remember that Jesus does not himself carry the gospel in Word and Sacraments to the world, but has appointed us to "go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:20). With Jesus' power and presence, we are indeed witnesses of grace.

## Service Participants

*This service was designed by Aaron Christie.*

### **Presiding Minister**

**John Bortulin**

*St. John, Mukwonago, WI*

### **Assisting Minister**

**John Boggs**

*Hope, West Palm Beach, FL*

### **Preacher**

**David Scharf**

*Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN*

### **Organist**

**Jacob Behnken**

*Good Shepherd, Midland, MI*

### **Choirs**

**Conference Choir**

**Jon Hermanson, director**

*Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School, New Ulm, MN*

**Conference Children's Choir**

**Kurt Cereske, director**

*Shepherd of the Plains, Lubbock, TX*

**Handbell Choir**

**Craig Hirschmann, director**

*Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN*



## Instrumentalists

### *Trumpet*

Nate Amundson, West Bend, WI  
Tom Bauer, Sturtevant, WI  
Jeff Dewey, Antigo WI  
Tim Moke, Chandler, AZ  
Kyle Riess, Bemidji, MN  
Adam Warnke, Appleton, WI

### *Horn*

Jared Natsis, Saline, MI  
Kimberly Schmill, Tomah, WI

### *Trombone*

Carl Boeder, New Ulm, MN  
James Hoogervorst, West Bend, WI  
Dan Hubert, West Bend, WI  
Eric Joslin, Muskegon, MI  
Jon Siegler, Yorktown, VA  
Joe Titus, Savanna, IL

### *Percussion*

Peter Buschkopf, Milwaukee, WI  
Brett Duwe, Johnson Creek, WI  
Zachary Scharlemann, Fairfax, MN

## Acknowledgments

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**We Thank You Jesus, Dearest Friend** – MUSAE SIONIAE Teil V. Nr. 140. Available online at [www.michael-praetorius.de](http://www.michael-praetorius.de)

**Psalm 47** – From *The Wittenberg Psalter* by Steven Rhode. Available online at [worship.welsrc.net](http://worship.welsrc.net)

**A Harmony of the Ascension Accounts** – Aaron Christie, Waukesha, WI. Available by request [achristie@trinitywels.com](mailto:achristie@trinitywels.com)

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**Psalm 150** – Text translation © GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Music: © 2000 MorningStar Music Publishers. All rights reserved.

**Christ Has Conquered (Christus Vincit)** – © Oxford University Press, Inc. 1991. Assigned to Oxford University Press 2010.

**Song of Mary** – *Canticle of Mary from Christian Worship: Occasional Services*, p. 222.

**A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing** – Setting: Reprinted from the *English Hymnal* by permission of Oxford University Press.

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**A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing** – Stanza for Treble Choir to match the concertato “Now All the Vault of Heav’n Resound” (CPH 97-7293). Used by permission with this text.

**NOTES**

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