

# Closing Service

The National Conference

## High School Honor Choir

Jonathan Laabs

*Director*

*with the*

## Conference Children's Choir

Kurt Cereske

*Director*

*and*

## Conference Orchestra

Jason Snodie

*Organist*

Zachary Unke

*Pianist*

Siebert Chapel  
Friday, June 16,  
11:30 a.m.



*Be seated.*

**MASS IN G MAJOR (D167)**

*Franz Schubert (1797-1828)  
Stuttgarter Schubert-Ausgaben  
Carus, 40.675*

**I. Kyrie**

Kyrie eleison.  
Christe eleison.  
Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.

**II. Gloria**

Gloria in excelsis Deo:  
Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.  
Laudamus te, benedicimus te, adoramus te,  
glorificamus te, gratias agimus tibi  
propter magnam gloriam tuam.  
Domine Deus, Rex caelestis,  
Deus Pater omnipotens.  
Domine Fili unigenite, Iesu Christe;  
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris,  
qui tollis peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis.  
Qui tollis peccata mundi,  
suscipe deprecationem nostram.  
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,  
miserere nobis.  
Quoniam tu solus Sanctus. Tu solus Dominus.  
Tu solus Altissimus, Iesu Christe.  
cum Sancto Spiritu,  
in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

Glory to God in the highest:  
and on earth peace to all those of good will.  
We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee,  
we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee  
for thy great glory.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
God the Father almighty.  
Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son;  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
thou who takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.  
Thou who takest away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer.  
Thou who sittest at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy upon us.  
For Thou alone art holy. Thou alone art the Lord.  
Thou alone art the most high, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

**EXSULTATE JUSTI**

*Lodovico Grossi da Viadana  
Edition by Simon Biazeck  
Choral Public Domain Library - cpdl.org*

Exsultate justi in Domino:  
rectos decet collaudatio.  
Confitemini Domino in cithara,  
in psalterio decem chordarum psallite illi.  
Cantate ei canticum novum,  
bene psallite ei in vociferatione.

*Rejoice in the Lord, O ye just:  
Praise is fitting for the upright.  
Give praise to God upon the harp,  
Play upon the ten-stringed psaltery.  
Sing to him a new song,  
Sing skillfully with a strong voice.*

## PSALM 8 (ADONAI, ADONENU)

*Psalm 8:1, 3-4*

*Music by Dan Forrest*

*Hal Leonard*

*Henry Leck Choral Series, 08752512*

Adonai, Adonenu.  
O Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!  
When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and stars, that you have set in place.  
What is man that you care for him, O Lord?

## FROM HEAVEN ABOVE

*Martin Luther*

*VOM HIMMEL HOCH*

*Arranged by Kevin Hildebrand, 2017*

*Commissioned for this conference*

### Commentary

*from The Martin Luther Christmas Book*

*Roland H. Bainton*

*Fortress Press, 1948*

- 1 *Choir*  
“From heav’n above to earth I come  
To bear good news to ev’ry home;  
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,  
Whereof I now will say and sing:
- 2 *Choir*  
“To you this night is born a child  
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;  
This little child of lowly birth  
Shall be the joy of all the earth.
- 3 **All**  
**“This is the Christ, our God most high,**  
**Who hears your sad and bitter cry;**  
**He will himself your Savior be**  
**From all your sins to set you free.**
- 4 *Choir*  
“He will on you the gifts bestow  
Prepared by God for all below,  
That in his kingdom, bright and fair,  
You may with us his glory share.
- 5 **All**  
**“These are the signs which you shall mark:**  
**The swaddling clothes and manger dark.**  
**There you will find the infant laid**  
**By whom the heav’ns and earth were made.”**

### Commentary

- 6 *Choir*  
How glad we’ll be to find it so!  
Then with the shepherds let us go  
To see what God for us has done  
In sending us his own dear Son.
- 7 **All**  
**Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,**  
**And see what in the manger lies.**  
**Who is this child, so young and fair?**  
**It is the Christchild lying there.**

### Commentary

Intonation

- 8 **All**  
**Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,**  
**Through whom the sinful world is blest!**  
**You came to share my misery**  
**That you might share your joy with me.**
- 9 *Choir*  
Ah, Lord, though you created all,  
How weak you are, so poor and small,  
That you should choose to lay your head  
Where lowly cattle lately fed!

10 All

**Were earth a thousand times as fair  
And set with gold and jewels rare,  
It would be far too poor and small  
A cradle for the Lord of all.**

11 *Choir*

Instead of soft and silken stuff  
You have but hay and straw so rough  
On which as King, so rich and great,  
To be enthroned in royal state.

12 All

**And so it pleases you to see  
This simple truth revealed to me:  
That worldly honor, wealth, and might  
Are weak and worthless in your sight.**

## Commentary

13 *Choir*

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,  
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled  
Within my heart, made clean and new,  
A quiet chamber kept for you.

14 All

**My heart for very joy must leap;  
My lips no more can silence keep.  
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue  
That sweetest ancient cradle song:**

15 All

**Glory to God in highest heaven,  
Who unto us his Son has given!  
While angels sing with pious mirth  
A glad new year to all the earth.**

## OFFERING

*A generous offering assists in funding the High School Honor Choir and Conference Children's Choir.  
Please remain quiet during the interlude.*

## THE GIFT

*Steven Amundson, 2008  
Rental materials available from  
Tempo Music Resource  
312 El Capitan Loop  
Stevensville, MT 59870  
[www.tempomusicresource.org](http://www.tempomusicresource.org)*

## LEAD, KINDLY LIGHT

*John Henry Newman (1801-1890)  
and Edward Henry Bickersteth (1825-1906)  
Music by Dan Forrest, 2013  
Hinshaw Music, HMC2354*

Lead, kindly Light, amidst th'encircling gloom,  
Lead thou me on!  
The night is dark, and I am far from home,  
Lead thou me on!  
Keep thou my feet; I do not ask to see  
The distant scene; one step enough for me.

So long thy power hath blest me,  
Sure it still will lead me on.  
O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent,  
Till the night is gone,  
And with the morn those angel faces smile,  
Which I have loved long since, and lost awhile.

Meanwhile, along the narrow, rugged path,  
Thyself hast trod,  
Lead, Saviour, lead me home in childlike faith,  
Home to my God.  
To rest forever after earthly strife  
In the calm light of everlasting life.

## **BACH AGAIN**

*Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)  
and Edwin London (1929-2013)  
Based on Komm, süsßer Tod  
Arranged by Rhonda Sandberg and Edwin London  
Colla Voce Music, 45-21064*

Come, sweet death! Come, soothing rest.  
Come and lead me homeward.  
I am weary of life and longing.  
Come, I am waiting for thee,  
Come now and set me free!  
My eyes at last are gently closing now.  
Come, blessed rest!

## **CREDO: I BELIEVE IN GOD**

*from Gospel Mass  
Music by Robert Ray  
Jenson Publications, 447-07014*

I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only son our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
On the third day he arose.  
He ascended to heaven;  
from death he was set free.  
Now he sits at the right hand and he's waitin' for you and me.  
He will judge all the world; he will judge you and me.

I believe in the Holy Spirit  
and the holy catholic church.  
I believe, Lord, in one baptism for the remission of sin and rebirth.  
I believe in the resurrection and the communion of saints in this world.  
I believe when my life is over I'm going home to just live with my God.  
I believe in God and in the Holy Ghost.  
I believe in God.

# NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)  
from Gott der Herr ist Sohn und Schild (BWV 79), 1725

Composed in Leipzig for Reformation Sunday, 1725.

Stand and sing with the choir.

7 2

Now thank we all our God With hearts and

7 2

Detailed description: This system contains the first two staves of music. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both are in 4/4 time. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The music consists of chords and simple melodic lines. Above the first staff, there are fermatas over the first and fifth measures, with the number '7' above the first and '2' above the fifth. The lyrics 'Now thank we all our God With hearts and' are written below the staves.

3 2

hands and voices, Who wondrous things has done,

3 2

Detailed description: This system contains the third and fourth staves of music. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The music continues with chords and simple melodic lines. Above the first staff, there are fermatas over the third and seventh measures, with the number '3' above the third and '2' above the seventh. The lyrics 'hands and voices, Who wondrous things has done,' are written below the staves.

4

In whom his world rejoices, Who from our

4

Detailed description: This system contains the fifth and sixth staves of music. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The music continues with chords and simple melodic lines. Above the first staff, there is a fermata over the fourth measure, with the number '4' above it. The lyrics 'In whom his world rejoices, Who from our' are written below the staves.

3 4

mothers' arms Has blessed us on our way

3 4

Detailed description: This system contains the seventh and eighth staves of music. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The music continues with chords and simple melodic lines. Above the first staff, there are fermatas over the third and seventh measures, with the number '3' above the third and '4' above the seventh. The lyrics 'mothers' arms Has blessed us on our way' are written below the staves.

3 7

With countless gifts of love And still is ours today.

3 8 7

Detailed description: This system contains the ninth and tenth staves of music. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The music continues with chords and simple melodic lines. Above the first staff, there are fermatas over the third and seventh measures, with the number '3' above the third and '7' above the seventh. The lyrics 'With countless gifts of love And still is ours today.' are written below the staves. At the end of the bottom staff, there are fermatas over the eighth and ninth measures, with the number '8' above the eighth and '7' above the ninth.

All praise and thanks to God The Fa - ther now be giv - en,

The Son, and him who reigns With them in high - est heav - en,

The one e - ter - nal God, Whom earth and heav'n a - dore!

For thus it was is now, And shall be ev - er - more.





## A LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

**M:** O God our Father, we give thanks for the multitude of blessings you shower on us day by day. At this conference your message of salvation in Christ Jesus has been proclaimed with clarity and comfort. We thank you for the pastors who herald your grace here and in every place. As they preside at worship, enable them to bring the light of truth to your people and the grace of your sacraments for the strengthening of faith.

### *Brief silence*

**M:** Let everything that lives praise the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God!**

**M:** We thank you for music and for all the gifted persons who set forth your truth in poetry and compose melodies that touch our hearts. They wonderfully enrich our lives and exalt you in our worship. We praise you for all faithful singers of your song. We especially express our gratitude for today's choirs of young Christians who have come from near and far to glorify your holy name.

### *Brief silence*

**M:** Let everything that lives praise the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God!**

**M:** We thank you for all who teach sacred music in our schools, interpreting music born in the souls of others and bringing gifts to fruition in many generations of students. We thank you for those who enable us to sing your song in many ways and many places, accompanying it with instruments, leading it with the beauty of the solo voice, enriching it with new forms of music. We praise you for their ministry and gratefully ask your blessing on it.

### *Brief silence*

**M:** Let everything that lives praise the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God!**

**M:** We thank you for creative minds and gifted hands that imitate the beauty of your creation in what they craft and mold and draw and sew. By their talents we are enabled to find delight in the symbols of your love, and our faith is deepened as their lovely art touches our hearts and impresses our emotions. We thank you that you have not bound us to the artistic patterns of past generations but have given us freedom in the gospel to explore the vastness of your creation.

### *Brief silence*

**M:** Let everything that lives praise the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God!**

**M:** We thank you for the opportunity we have had at this conference to be spiritually enriched, to gain new and useful insights, and to share with one another what we have learned in our own experience. We praise you for those who planned and prepared this conference with all its many details. As we return to the place where we live and serve, inspire us to give our best as we serve your people with the gospel of your Son, so that, in song and symbol, we may proclaim your love.

***Brief silence***

**M:** Let everything that lives praise the Lord.

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

**BLESSING**

**M:** Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.**

***Be seated.***



# JERUSALEM THE GOLDEN

Bernard of Cluny, 12<sup>th</sup> century

THAXTED

Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

Setting by Dale Witte, 2014

“Jerusalem the Golden,” sung to the tune THAXTED, was the closing hymn at the first national worship conference in 1996 and has been the finale at all subsequent conferences.

The choir sings stanza 2.



1 Je - ru - sa - lem the gold - en, with milk and hon - ey blest—  
2 O sweet and bless-ed coun - try, the home of God's e - lect!  
3 The Christ is ev - er with them; the day-light is se - rene.



the sight of it re - fresh-es the wea-ry and op - pressed:  
O sweet and bless-ed coun-try that ea-ger hearts ex - pect,  
The pas - tures of the bless-ed are ev - er rich and green.



I know not, oh, I know not what joys a - wait us there,  
where they who with their lead - er have con - quered in the fight  
There is the throne of Da - vid; and there from care re - leased,



what ra - dian-cy of glo - ry, what bliss be-yond com - pare:  
for - ev - er and for - ev - er are clad in robes of white.  
the shout of them that tri - umph, the song of them that feast.



to sing the hymn un - end - ing with all the mar - tyr throng,  
O Christ, in mer - cy bring us to that dear land of rest  
To God en-throned in glo - ry the Church's voic - es blend,



a - midst the halls of Zi - on re - sound-ing full with song,  
where sings the host of heav-en your glo - rious name to bless.  
the Lamb for - ev - er bless-ed, the Light that knows no end.

## SOLI DEO GLORIA



## Participants

### **Pastor Mark Schroeder**

### **Presiding Minister**

Pastor Mark Schroeder has served as the President of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod since 2007. A 1981 graduate of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, he served Faith Congregation in Fond du Lac, WI, and King of Kings Congregation in Maitland, FL, before accepting the call to serve as president of Luther Preparatory School in Watertown, WI.

### **Jonathan Laabs**

### **High School Honor Choir Director**

Jonathan Laabs is a 2008 graduate of Martin Luther College with a degree in elementary education with an emphasis in music. He recently earned a Master of Music degree in choral conducting from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee. He is the director of choral arts at his home church, Trinity, Waukesha, WI, and serves as the artistic director of Canticum Novum. In July he will assume a new position on the faculty of Martin Luther College where he will direct the College Chorale and teach courses in conducting and vocal music.

### **Kurt Cereske**

### **Conference Children’s Choir Director**

Kurt Cereske is currently an adjunct professor of elementary music education at Wayland Baptist University in Plainview, TX, as well as assistant choir director at Lubbock High School. He is a graduate of Dr. Martin Luther College in New Ulm, MN, and also Michigan State University. He is in the final stages of the PhD program in music education at Texas Tech University in Lubbock. Kurt specializes in early childhood and elementary music education with an emphasis in Kodály pedagogy. He is a member of Shepherd of the Plains in Lubbock.

### **Jason Snodie**

### **Organist**

Jason Snodie is the director of music at Faith Lutheran in Antioch, IL, as well as a teacher in the parish school. He is a 2001 graduate of Martin Luther College having earned a degree in elementary education with an emphasis in parish music. He also holds a Master of Church Music degree from Concordia University–Wisconsin where he studied organ with Dr. John Behnke and conducting with Dr. Kenneth Kosche.

### **Zachary Unke**

### **Honor Choir Accompanist**

Zach Unke was graduated from Martin Luther College in 2016 with a degree in music education. He has studied piano under Dr. Arthur Johnson and Dr. Bethel Balge. He is also a composer and arranger, having recently had works published by Lorenz and Augsburg Fortress. Zach is currently living in Las Vegas, NV, playing for worship and serving as the choir director at his home church, Shepherd of the Hills. He is also working as a preschool teacher at Water of Life Lutheran School.

### **Ryan Henning**

### **Children’s Choir Accompanist**

Ryan Henning is a student at Martin Luther College who has completed his degree in education with a music emphasis and plans to enter the seminary certification program at MLC in the fall with the goal of becoming a pastor. He has studied both piano and organ and has regularly played for worship in various WELS churches as well as accompanied choirs. His home church is St. Paul in New Ulm, MN.

## CONFERENCE ORCHESTRA

### *Violin 1*

Rachel Dankert, Arlington, VA  
Maria Gines, Monroe, MI  
Timothy Kriewall, Issaquah, WA  
Lydia Metzger, Lake Geneva, WI  
Abigail Peterson, West Milwaukee, WI  
Anne Steeves, Milwaukee, WI

### *Violin 2*

Cassidy Avery, Kenosha, WI  
Josephine Avery, Kenosha, WI  
Janet Cox, Sparks, NV  
Mike Husby, Duluth, MN  
Margaret McKinlay, Mannassas, VA  
Kathy Winghart, Brookings, SD

### *Viola*

Christine Batzer, Menomonie, WI  
Elizabeth Dankert, Scottsdale, AZ  
Rachel Gries, Greenwood, IN  
Austin Wagenknecht, Milwaukee, WI

### *Cello*

Betsy Husby, Duluth, MN  
Nathan Husby, Duluth, MN  
Sadie Malmberg, Delta, BC  
Linda Martin, Punta Gorda, FL  
Linda Moeller, Watertown, WI

### *Double Bass*

Charles Ledvina, Third Lake, IL  
David Urness, Mankato, MN

### *Flute/Piccolo*

Deanna Martens, Watertown, SD  
Stacy Vance, Panama City, FL  
Amanda Wenzel, Winona, MN

### *Oboe*

Jacob Haag, Ann Arbor, MI  
Elizabeth Jewell, Ann Arbor, MI  
Debora Tong, Ottawa, ON

### *Clarinet*

Rachel Tolkinen, Horicon, WI  
Susan Shepherd, Ripon, WI

### *Bassoon*

Jennifer Heisinger, Merrill, WI  
Mary Kluetzman, Columbus, WI

### *Trumpet*

Nathan Amundson, West Bend, WI  
Tom Bauer, Sturtevant, WI  
Jeff Dewey, Antigo, WI  
Tim Moke, Chandler, AZ  
Kyle Riess, Bemidji, MN  
Joel Thiesfeldt, Virginia Beach, VA

### *Horn*

Martha Johnson, Hubertus, WI  
Brian Kent, Milwaukee, WI  
Jared Natsis, Saline, MI  
Kimberly Schmill, Tomah, WI

### *Trombone*

James Hoogervorst, West Bend, WI  
Dan Hubert, West Bend, WI  
Eric Joslin, Muskegon, MI

### *Tuba*

Joshua Wilsmann, Fond du Lac, WI

### *Electric Bass*

Sam Jeske, Milwaukee, WI

### *Percussion*

Peter Buschkopf, Milwaukee, WI  
Brett Duwe, Johnson Creek, WI  
Daniel Hafenstein, Lake Mills, WI  
Zachary Scharlemann, Fairfax, MN

**See pages 183-184 for rosters of Children's Choir and Honor Choir.**

### **Acknowledgments**

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## NOTES

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