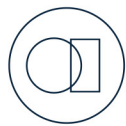




EMBRACE THE  
**CROSS** ANTICIPATE THE  
**CROWN**  
SYNOD CONVENTION 2023



## **CLOSING WORSHIP**

**AUGUST 3, 2023**

Michigan Lutheran Seminary  
Saginaw, Michigan





## Serving at worship

Presiding minister: Rev. Mark Luetzow, Michigan Lutheran Seminary president

Preacher: Rev. Joel Zank, WELS Northern Wisconsin District president

Organist: Prof. Joshua Wendt

Instrumentalists: Prof. Carl Boeder, Megan Buth, Kevin Needham, Garrett Robinson, Luke Robinson.

## Acknowledgments

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Psalm 119—NIV 1984.

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## 2023 synod convention offering

The special 2023 synod convention offering will be split between the two synods with which WELS is declaring or affirming fellowship: Obadiah Lutheran Synod in Uganda and *Iglesia Cristo WELS Internacional* of Latin America.

While this closing service does not receive an offering, you still can give online.



In consideration of those who desire to prepare for worship, please assemble in relative silence to maintain a meditative atmosphere. Please turn off or silence wireless devices.

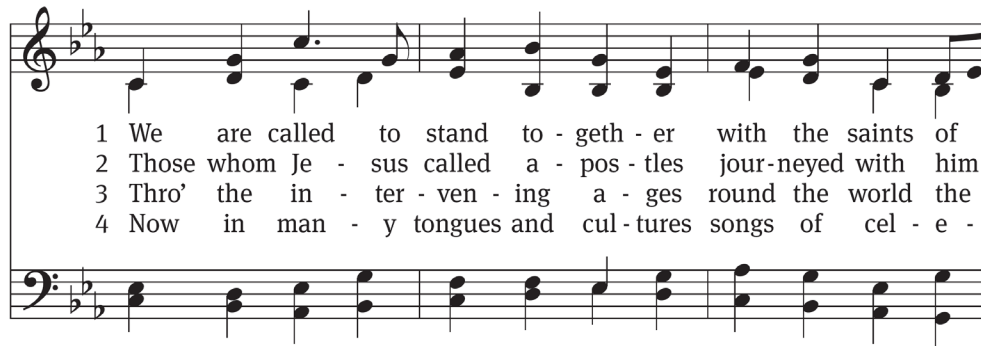
## Prelude

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, J.S. Bach

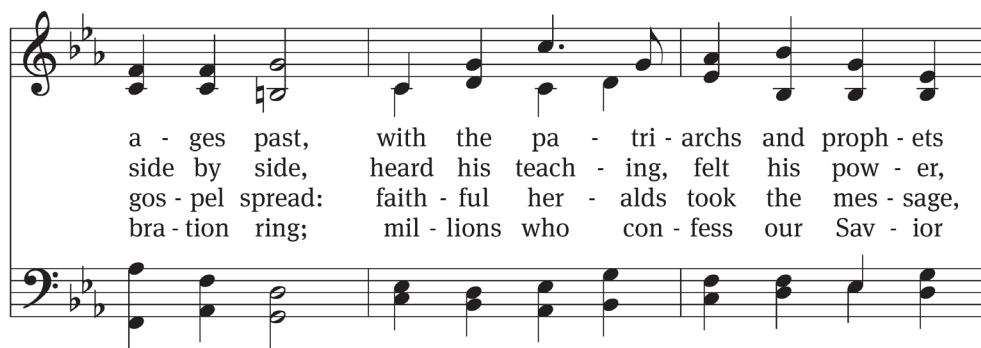
As the opening hymn is introduced, please stand and face the processional cross in the back of the chapel. Follow its path to the chancel, where it serves as a symbol of the theme and focus of Christian worship.

## We Are Called to Stand Together

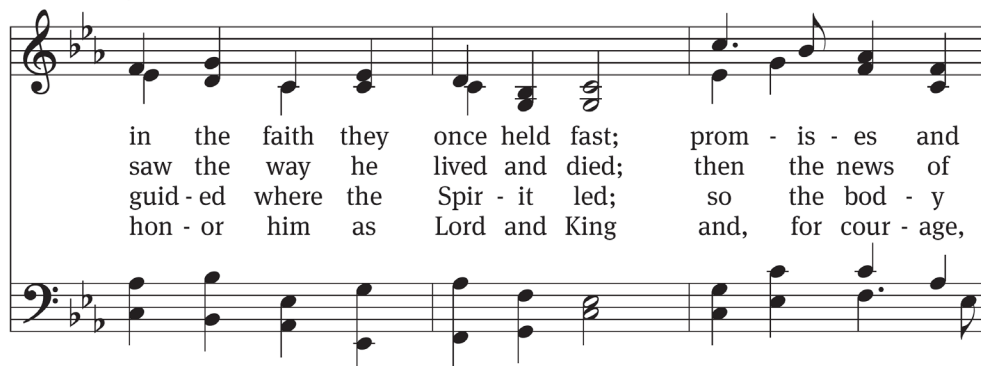
CW 903



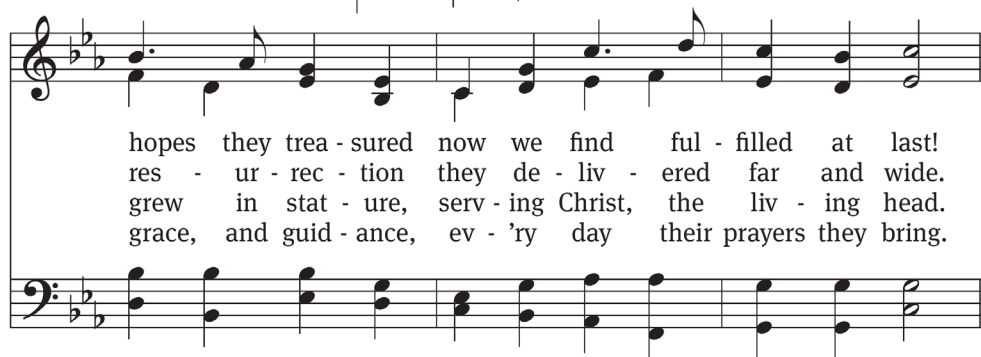
1 We are called to stand to - geth - er with the saints of  
2 Those whom Je - sus called a - pos - tles jour - neyed with him  
3 Thro' the in - ter - ven - ing a - ges round the world the  
4 Now in man - y tongues and cul - tures songs of cel - e -



a - ges past, with the pa - tri - archs and proph - ets  
side by side, heard his teach - ing, felt his pow - er,  
gos - pel spread: faith - ful her - alds took the mes - sage,  
bra - tion ring; mil - lions who con - fess our Sav - ior



in the faith they once held fast; prom - is - es and  
saw the way he lived and died; then the news of  
guid - ed where the Spir - it led; so the bod - y  
hon - or him as Lord and King and, for cour - age,



hopes they trea - sured now we find ful - filled at last!  
res - ur - rec - tion they de - liv - ered far and wide.  
grew in stat - ure, serv - ing Christ, the liv - ing head.  
grace, and guid - ance, ev - 'ry day their prayers they bring.

- 5 To each coming generation  
tell the truth, persuade, explain,  
till the time when time is ended,  
till the Savior comes again—  
till the saints are all united  
under Christ's eternal reign!

## Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## Dialogue on Christian Vocation

You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, *Galatians 3:26,27*  
**for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.**

There is one body and one Spirit—  
**just as you were called to one hope when you were called—**

one Lord, one faith, one baptism;  
**one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.** *Ephesians 4:4-6*

You are the salt of the earth;  
**you are the light of the world.**

Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds  
**and praise your Father in heaven.** *Matthew 5:13-16*

As we have opportunity, let us do good to all people,  
**especially to those who belong to the family of believers.** *Galatians 6:10*

Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus,  
**giving thanks to God the Father through him.** *Colossians 3:17*

## Prayer

Let us pray.

Merciful Father, your kindness caused the light of the gospel to shine among us. Use us now as instruments of your love to reach out with the message of salvation to all people. Bless those who labor in mission fields near and far, empower the witness of all believers, and grant success to your gospel that many may be freed from sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Be seated**

## Reading

Revelation 22:12–21

<sup>12</sup>“Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. <sup>13</sup>I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

<sup>14</sup>“Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. <sup>15</sup>Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

<sup>16</sup>“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.”

<sup>17</sup>The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let the one who hears say, “Come!” Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.

<sup>18</sup>I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll. <sup>19</sup>And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll.

<sup>20</sup>He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.”

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

<sup>21</sup>The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God’s people. Amen.

## Psalm

Psalm 119:41–48

*The psalm is read responsively.*

<sup>41</sup>May your unfailing love come to me, LORD,  
**your salvation, according to your promise;**

<sup>42</sup>then I can answer anyone who taunts me,  
**for I trust in your word.**

<sup>43</sup>Never take your word of truth from my mouth,  
**for I have put my hope in your laws.**

<sup>44</sup>I will always obey your law,  
**for ever and ever.**

<sup>45</sup>I will walk about in freedom,  
**for I have sought out your precepts.**

<sup>46</sup>I will speak of your statutes before kings  
**and will not be put to shame,**

<sup>47</sup>for I delight in your commands  
**because I love them.**

<sup>48</sup>I reach out for your commands, which I love,  
**that I may meditate on your decrees.**

# Christ, the Sure and Steady Anchor

CW 812



1 Christ, the sure and stead - y an - chor in the  
 2 Christ, the sure and stead - y an - chor while the  
 3 Christ, the sure and stead - y an - chor through the  
 4 Christ, the sure and stead - y an - chor as we



fu - ry of the storm— when the winds of doubt blow  
 tem - pest ra - ges on— when temp - ta - tion claims the  
 floods of un - be - lief— hope - less, some - how, O my  
 face the wave of death— when these trials give way to



through me and my sails have all been torn,  
 bat - tle and it seems the night has won,  
 soul now, lift your eyes to Cal - va - ry.  
 glo - ry and we draw our fi - nal breath,



in the suf - f'ring, in the sor - row, when my  
 deep - er still then goes the an - chor, though I  
 This my bal - last of as - sur - ance, see his  
 we will cross that great ho - ri - zon, clouds be -  
*Christ, the shore of our sal - va - tion, ev - er*



sink - ing hopes are few, I will hold fast to the  
 just - ly stand ac - cused; I will hold fast to the  
 love for - ev - er proved; I will hold fast to the  
 hind and life se - cure, and the calm will be the  
*faith - ful, ev - er true— we will hold fast to the*



an - chor; it shall nev - er be re - moved.  
 an - chor; it shall nev - er be re - moved.  
 an - chor; it shall nev - er be re - moved.  
 bet - ter, for the storms that we en - dure.  
*an - chor; it shall nev - er be re - moved.*

*4th stanza repeat italics*

Sermon

Revelation 22:12–21

Come!

**Stand**

## **Prayer**

Father in heaven, you sent your Son, our Lord Jesus, to bring peace and hope to our fallen world. Already in eternity you planned to overturn the tyranny of Satan and the ravages of sin and you kept your promises to restore the perfection of paradise.

**Lead us to cherish your great mercy and hold to it as our priceless treasure.**

Lord Jesus, Lamb of God, we praise and adore you for offering your perfect life and innocent death to redeem the world from death and hell. You proclaimed the good news that sins are forgiven and life with God is restored and you called your followers to share the gospel with all people.

**Make us bold and confident to be witnesses to family and friends we know and love.**

Holy Spirit, Lord, and giver of life, through Word and sacrament you create and strengthen faith that trusts the promise of the Father and the work of his Son. You break down the barriers of resistance and rejection and bring the lost into the family of God.

**Empower and encourage us to speak about Jesus to neighbors and acquaintances.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, move us by your great love to enter the mission fields near our homes and neighborhoods. Help us always to be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks us to give the reason for the hope that we have.

**Guide us, strengthen us, and bless us as we share the love of Jesus. Amen.**

**Be seated**

## **Rite of Installation**

***Those being installed stand before the assembly.***

The apostle Paul said: "There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. To each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good."

Dear *brother(s)*, in Christian freedom and in good order you have been elected and called to serve as [*called position(s)*] of our *district/synod*.

You have been called to a ministry of supervision, oversight, counsel, encouragement, and leadership, as defined in the constitution of the synod. You are charged with maintaining and strengthening unity in doctrine and practice and supervising and supporting the church's life, work, and mission. It is important for those in positions of leadership to speak the truth in love while also letting your gentleness be known to all.



In all your tasks and responsibilities, our Lord Jesus equips you with the gospel of the forgiveness of sins, the gift that makes you truly competent as a servant of Christ. St. Paul wrote: “Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God.” The Holy Spirit, who himself has called you to this office, will be with you.

***The minister addresses these questions to those being installed:***

In keeping with the Word and will of the Lord, I ask you before God and his people:

Do you believe that the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments are the inspired Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice?

*I do.*

Do you accept the three Ecumenical Creeds—the Apostles’, the Nicene, and the Athanasian—because they are faithful testimonies to the truth of the Holy Scriptures, and do you reject all the errors that they condemn?

*I do.*

Do you accept the Unaltered Augsburg Confession along with the other confessions in the Book of Concord: the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Small and Large Catechisms of Martin Luther, the Smalcald Articles, and the Formula of Concord, because they are true expositions of the Word of God and correct presentations of the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church?

*I do.*

Do you solemnly promise that you will strive to perform the duties of your office according to the guidance of our constitution and in conformity with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions?

*I do, and I ask God to help me.*

Will you endeavor to live a life that reflects the love God has for you so that all may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven?

*I will, and I ask God to help me.*

The almighty God, who has given you the desire to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

***The minister installs each officer individually:***

[Name], I install you as [called position] in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

***When all have been installed, the minister says:***

May the Lord pour out on you his Holy Spirit for the work committed to you, that you may faithfully proclaim the gospel as you serve God’s people.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we praise you for the gift of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. We thank you that you have kept your promises to be with us always and to provide leaders for your church on earth. Use the gifts and energy of *this/these brother(s)* to proclaim your Word faithfully, to serve others by *their* zeal for your kingdom, and to guide our ministry in the wisdom of the gospel. Safeguard our church in times of trouble from all error and division and by the example of our *brother(s)*, stimulate peace and harmony. Give *them* joy in *their* work among us and bless *their* families during *their* time of service. With *their* guidance and encouragement, produce fruit among us so that the cross of your Son is held up before the world and many hear the word of grace and peace that is ours through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Go, then, and take up the work you have been elected and called to do.

May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

*Those installed return to their places.*

*Remain seated*

## **Blessing**

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.

**Amen.**

*The closing hymn is on the next page.*

*This hymn concludes the convention's emphasis on cross and crown. While Satan's threats and crosses' burdens are terribly real, "against each foe you'll be victorious"—because of God's promises and power. The journey will not be easy as we "cast afar this world's vain pleasure," but finally "the crown of glory will be won."*

## **Postlude**

**Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, Johann Gottfried Walther**

# Rise! To Arms! With Prayer Employ You

CW 871



1 Rise! To arms! With prayer em - ploy you, O Chris-tians, lest the  
2 Cast a - far this world's vain plea - sure and bold - ly strive for  
3 Je - sus, all your chil - dren cher - ish, and keep them that they



foe de - stroy you, for Sa - tan has de - signed your fall.  
heav'n - ly trea - sure. Be stead - fast in the Sav - ior's might.  
nev - er per - ish whom you have pur - chased with your blood.



Wield God's Word, a weap - on glo - rious; a - gainst each foe you'll  
Trust the Lord, who stands be - side you, for Je - sus from all  
Let new life to us be giv - en that we may look to



be vic - to - rious, for God will set you o'er them all.  
harm will hide you. By faith you'll con - quer in the fight.  
you in heav - en when - ev - er fear - ful is our mood.



Fear not the prince of hell, here is Im - man - u - el!  
Take cour - age, wea - ry soul! Look for - ward to the goal!  
Your Spir - it on us pour that we may love you more,



Sing ho - san - na! The strong ones yield to Christ, our shield,  
Joy a - waits you. The race, then, run; your bat - tle done,  
hearts o'er - flow - ing; and then shall we, from sin set free,



and we as con - qu'rors hold the field.  
the crown of glo - ry will be won.  
sing praise through all e - ter - ni - ty.

**67<sup>TH</sup> BIENNIAL CONVENTION** *of the*  
**WISCONSIN EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN SYNOD**



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