



# Opening Service

August 18, 2025 | Mankato, Minnesota



# Opening of the Academic Year

*\*Indicates all may stand*

## **Prelude**

**\*Procession of the Faculty and Opening Hymn** (*PLEASE STAND*)

**(ALL)** Come Holy Ghost, God and Lord – ELH 2 (Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary)

### **1. Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord!**

Be all Thy graces now outpoured  
On each believer's mind and heart;  
Thy fervent love to them impart.  
Lord, by the brightness of Thy light  
Thou in the faith dost men unite  
Of ev'ry land and ev'ry tongue;  
This to Thy praise, O Lord, our God, be sung.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

### **2. Thou holy Light, Guide Divine,**

Oh, cause the Word of life to shine.  
Teach us to know our God aright  
And call Him Father with delight.  
From ev'ry error keep us free;  
Let none but Christ our Master be  
That we in living faith abide,  
In Him, our Lord, with all our might confide.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

### **3. Thou holy Fire, Comfort true,**

Grant us the will Thy work to do  
And in Thy service to abide;  
Let trials turn us not aside.  
Lord, by Thy power prepare each heart,  
And to our weakness strength impart  
That bravely here we may contend,  
Through life and death to Thee,  
our Lord, ascend.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

**\*Versicles (Psalm 51:15 and Psalm 70:1) and Gloria Patri**

P: O Lord, o - pen my lips. C: And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

P: Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me. C: Make haste to help me, O Lord.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ev - er shall be: for - ev - er more. A - men. Al - le - lu - ia!

**Hymn (Choir): O God Beyond All Praising** *Words: Michael Perry. Music: Gustav Holst*

*Choir will sing stanzas 1 and 2. The congregation is invited to sing stanza 3 (next page).*

1. O God beyond all praising,  
We worship You today  
And sing the love amazing  
That songs cannot repay;  
For we can only wonder  
At every gift You send,  
At blessings without number  
And mercies without end:  
We lift our hearts before You  
And wait upon Your word,  
We honor and adore You,  
Our great and mighty Lord.

2. The flow'r of earthly splendor  
In time must surely die,  
Its fragile bloom surrender  
To You, the Lord most high;  
But hidden from all nature  
The eternal seed is sown,  
Though small in mortal stature,  
To heaven's garden grown:  
For Christ Your gift from heaven  
From death has set us free,  
And we through Him are given  
The final victory.

The congregation is invited to sing stanza 3.



### Lesson: Colossians 2:6-10

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

**Hymn:** Lord, Open Thou My Heart – ELH 24

**1. Lord, open Thou my heart to hear  
And through Thy Word to me draw near;  
Let me Thy Word e'er pure retain;  
Let me Thy child and heir remain.**

*Choir: High Amid... (words on top of page 5)*

**2. Thy Word doth deeply move the heart,  
Thy Word doth perfect health impart,**

**Thy Word my soul with joy doth bless,  
The Word brings peace and happiness.**

*Choir: When we leave...*

**3. To God the Father, God the Son,  
And God the Spirit, Three in One,  
Shall glory, praise, and honor be  
Now and throughout eternity.**

*Choir: The Bethany Song by S.C. Ylvisaker*

High amid the trees you stand,  
Bethany, O guide of youth,  
Pointing up with kindly hand,  
Filling heart and mind with truth.

When we leave your sheltered side,  
May we all your hopes fulfill  
May your lessons e'er abide,  
May your hand point upward still.

**President's Address:** Dr. Gene Pfeifer, *President*

**Installation of New Faculty and Staff:** Rev. Don Moldstad, *Director of Campus Spiritual Life*

Brandon Heinze – Assistant Professor, Mathematics

Isaiah Koepsell – Assistant Professor, Business Administration

Dominic Santana – Head Coach, Track & Field / Cross Country

**Presentation of Scholarships:** Dr. Jason Lowrey, *Vice President of Academic Affairs*

**Marvin G. Meyer and S. C. Ylvisaker Scholarship Recipients:**

Campbell Amundson – Duluth, Minn.

Lydia Bursch – Saint Michael, Minn.

Davina Krueger – Altoona, Wisc.

Greyson Leins – Clear Lake, So. Dak.

Micah Piller – Farmington, Minn.

Nika Pittenger – Port Orchard, Wash.

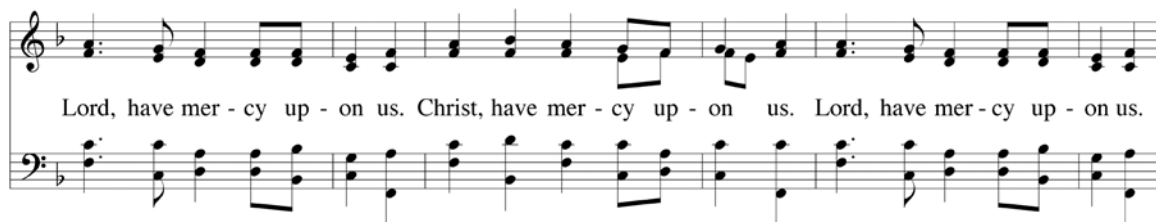
Sarah Smith – Rogers, Minn.

**\*Canticle:** All Glory Be to God on High – ELH 35:1

**1. All glory be to God on high,  
Who hath our race befriended!  
To us no harm shall now come nigh,  
The strife at last is ended.**

**God showeth His good will to men,  
And peace shall reign on earth again;  
O thank Him for His goodness!**

**\*Kyrie Eleison**



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

## \*Lord's Prayer

Our Fa-ther who art in heav-en; Hal-low-ed be Thy name; Thy king-dom come  
Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heav-en; Give us this day our dai-ly bread;  
and for-give us our tres-pass-es, as we for-give those who tres-pass a-gainst us;  
And lead us not in-to temp-ta-tion; But de-liv-er us from e-vil;  
For Thine is the king-dom, and the pow-er and the glo-ry for-ev-er and ev-er.  
A - - - - - men.

## \*Collect for the Opening of the Academic Year

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, We thank you that by Your grace You have given us Your holy and blessed Word, by which You also among us gather Your Holy Christian Church.

We humbly thank You for providing us with an institution of higher learning, where the precious knowledge of Christ our Savior can be confessed and taught. As we begin this academic year, we ask that Your hand of blessing would rest upon teacher and student, that all learning may give glory to Your name, for the edification of Your people and the welfare of our fellow man.

Help us, O God, by Your Holy Spirit, to keep Your Word in pure hearts, that we may be strengthened in Christian faith, perfected in holiness, and comforted in life and in death.

All: Amen.

### \*Opening of the Academic Year

P: I now declare the Bethany Lutheran College Academic year of 2025–2026 to be in session, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

### \*Benedicamus and Benediction

The musical score is written for two voices, Soprano (P) and Alto (C), on a grand staff. The first system contains the lyrics: "P: Let us bless the Lord. C: Thanks be to God." The second system contains the lyrics: "P: The grace of our Lord Je - sus Christ and the love of God and the com-mun-ion of the Ho - ly Spir - it be with you all. C: A - men." The score includes various musical notations such as treble and bass clefs, notes, rests, and a repeat sign. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 8/8.

P: Let us bless the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

P: The grace of our Lord Je - sus Christ and the love of God and the com-mun-ion of the Ho - ly Spir - it be with you all. C: A - men.

### \*Hymn of Departure: With the Lord Begin Thy Task – ELH 82

1. With the Lord begin thy task;  
Jesus will direct it.  
For His aid and counsel ask;  
Jesus will perfect it.  
Ev'ry morn with Jesus rise,  
And when day is ended,  
In His name then close thine eyes;  
Be to Him commended.

2. Let each day begin with prayer,  
Praise and adoration.  
On the Lord cast ev'ry care;  
He is thy salvation.  
Morning, evening, and at night  
Jesus will be near thee,  
Save thee from the Tempters might,  
With His presence cheer thee.

3. With the Savior at thy side  
Foes need not alarm thee;  
In His promises confide,  
And no ill can harm thee.  
All thy trust do thou repose  
In the mighty Master,  
Who in wisdom truly knows  
How to stem disaster.

4. If thy task be thus begun  
With the Savior's blessing,  
Safely then thy course will run,  
Naught thy soul distressing.  
Good will follow everywhere  
While thou here must wander.  
Thou at last the joy wilt share  
In the mansions yonder.

5. Thus, Lord Jesus, ev'ry task  
Be to Thee commended;  
May Thy will be done, I ask,  
Until life is ended.  
Jesus, in Thy name begun  
Be the day's endeavor.  
Grant that it may well be done  
To Thy praise forever.

**\*The Postlude** *(all may remain standing as the faculty process)*

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### **Participants**

Liturgist: Chaplain Don Moldstad

Choir Director: Prof. David Paulson

Organists: Rev. Prof. Mark DeGarreaux, Hannah Caauwe

Crucifer: Xavier Palmer