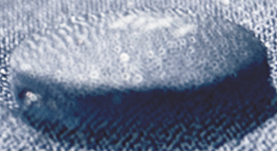


REDEEMER

LUTHERAN CHURCH

SENIOR SUNDAY



Sunday, May 21, 2023, 9:00am

Senior Sunday...Dreams

Graduation comes from the Latin word gradus which means, a step.

Graduation is indeed a big step that invites high emotion in the present and uncertainty in the future.

In our worship this morning, we give thanks for God's blessing upon the steps that brought Brooke, Blake, and Kaylee, to where they are today, and we pray that they seek Spiritual wisdom for the present, and commend them and their dreams for the future to God's will.

Prelude

#868, Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun

868 AWAKE, MY SOUL, AND WITH THE SUN

1 Awake, my soul, and with the sun Thy daily stage of duty run; Shake off dull sloth and joyful rise To pay thy morning sacrifice.

2 In conversation be sincere, Thy conscience as the noonday clear; Think how the _all-seeing God thy ways And all thy secret thoughts surveys.

3 All praise to Thee, who safe hast kept And hast refreshed me while I slept; Grant, Lord, when I from death shall wake, I may of endless light partake.

4 Lord, I my vows to Thee renew; Disperse my sins as morning dew; Guard my first springs of thought and will And with Thyself my spirit fill.

5 Direct, control, suggest this day All I design or do or say That all my pow'rs with all their might In Thy sole glory may unite.

6 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.

Text: Public domain

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

C: Amen.

P: We come before God today rejoicing in the achievement of our graduates,

C: but also acknowledging that, regardless of age, we are sinners in need of forgiveness.

P: He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

C: Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

P: Let us confess our sins before our Father in heaven and seek His pardon in the name of Jesus.

...Silence for reflection...

P: O most merciful God,

C: I confess that I am by nature sinful and unclean. I have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. My dreams and ambitions are often self-serving and contrary to Your will. Since You have given Jesus to die for me, have mercy on me, and for His sake grant me forgiveness of all my sins, and by Your Holy Spirit increase in me true knowledge of You and of Your will, and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace I may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. Thanks be to God!

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Together, we pray,

C: God, bless, guide, and govern these young people by Your Holy Spirit that they may grow in grace and in the knowledge of Your Word. Grant that they may serve You well and usefully, pursuing their dreams not for their own sakes but for Your glory and the welfare of their neighbor. Protect and defend them from all danger and harm, giving Your holy angels charge over them; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

Children's Time

Acts 2:17-18 [Read by Kaylee Weeks]

And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on My male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out My Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Philippians 3:7-16 [Read by Brooke and Blake Schroeder]

Brooke: Whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish,

C: that I may gain Christ and be found in Him,

Blake: not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ---the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.

C: I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Brooke: Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it.

Blake: But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

C: All of us who are mature should take such a view of things.

Brooke: And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you.

C: Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

Blake: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 7th Chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him! So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

***You Have a Special Place* [Tune: #912]**

1. You have a special place, a purpose and a plan, for me and everyone You love since life began. Dear loving God, work out Your plan, achieve Your goal fulfill Your dream.

2. I learned of You through Christ, I came to You through Christ, Your Spirit made me one with You and all in Christ. Great God of love, work out Your plan, achieve Your goal fulfill Your dream.

3. You wrote into my heart the pattern for my life, and parents, teachers, friends, all left Your mark on me. Great God of grace, work out Your plan achieve Your goal, fulfill Your dream.

4. How can I thank the ones to whom I owe so much? With Christ in me, may others, too, be drawn to You, As blest as I, Your plan worked out, Your goal assured, Your dream fulfilled.

The Sermon ??????????

The Gathering of our Gifts and Tithes

The Prayers of His Children

P: Lord, in Your mercy, C: Hear our prayer.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Holy Lord, Almighty Father, everlasting God; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who came to earth to be one of us, to live this life with all the joys, challenges, and trials of youth and yet live without sin. He then conquered all sin and death for us that we may be His own. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying,

C: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!

P: Together, we pray,

C: The Lord's Prayer

The Words of Jesus

The Distribution of Holy Communion

#617, O Lord, We Praise Thee

- 1 O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and adore Thee, In thanksgiving bow before Thee.
Thou with Thy body and Thy blood didst nourish Our weak souls that they may flourish:
O Lord, have mercy! May Thy body, Lord, born of Mary, That our sins and sorrows did
carry, And Thy blood for us plead In all trial, fear, and need: O Lord, have mercy!
- 2 Thy holy body into death was given, Life to win for us in heaven. No greater love than this to
Thee could bind us; May this feast thereof remind us! O Lord, have mercy! Lord, Thy
kindness did so constrain Thee That Thy blood should bless and sustain me.
All our debt Thou hast paid; Peace with God once more is made: O Lord, have mercy!
- 3 May God bestow on us His grace and favor That we follow Christ our Savior
And live together here in love and union Nor despise this blest Communion!
O Lord, have mercy! Let not Thy good Spirit forsake us;
Grant that heav'nly-minded He make us; Give Thy Church, Lord, to see
Days of peace and unity: O Lord, have mercy!

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; (st. 1): German, 14th cent.; (sts. 2–3): Martin Luther, 1483–1546

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#725, Children of the Heavenly Father

- 1 Children of the heav'nly Father Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven Such a refuge e'er was given.
- 2 God His own doth tend and nourish; In His holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things He spares them; In His mighty arms He bears them.
- 3 Neither life nor death shall ever From the Lord His children sever;
Unto them His grace He showeth, And their sorrows all He knoweth.
- 4 Though He giveth or He taketh, God His children ne'er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely To preserve them pure and holy.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958

Text: Public domain

#643, Sent Forth by God's Blessing

643 SENT FORTH BY GOD'S BLESSING

- 1 Sent forth by God's blessing, Our true faith confessing, The people of God from His dwelling
take leave. The Supper is ended. O now be extended The fruits of this service in all who
believe. The seed of His teaching, Receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all. His grace did invite us, His love shall unite us
To work for God's kingdom and answer His call.
- 2 With praise and thanksgiving To God ever-living, The tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, In love ever caring,
Embracing His children of each tribe and race. With Your feast You feed us,

With Your light now lead us; Unite us as one in this life that we share.

Then may all the living With praise and thanksgiving Give honor to Christ and His name that we bear.

Text: Omer E. Westendorf, 1916–97, alt.

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Recognition of our Seniors

God's Benediction

#918, Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer

1 Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer, Pilgrim through this barren land. I am weak, but Thou art mighty; Hold me with Thy pow'ful hand. Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more; Feed me till I want no more.

2 Open now the crystal fountain Whence the healing stream doth flow; Let the fiery, cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through. Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,
Be Thou still my strength and shield. Be Thou still my strength and shield.

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan, Bid my anxious fears subside; Death of death and hell's
destruction, Land me safe on Canaan's side. Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to Thee. I will ever give to Thee.

Text: William Williams, 1717–91, abr.; (st. 1): tr. Peter Williams, 1722–96, alt.; (sts. 2–3): tr. William Williams, 1717–91

Text: Public domain

Announcements

Postlude