



FAREWELL AND GODSPEED TO A LUTHERAN TEACHER

A 1985 graduate of Concordia University Chicago (at that time Concordia College, River Forest) Jan Werth has served as a commissioned teacher in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod for thirty-six years. For the last twenty-four years she has served here at St. John. While we acknowledge her retirement today with the rite of “Farewell and Godspeed”, we look forward to her continuing service to our school in new ways in the years to come.

The anthem sung before the reading of the Holy Gospel, “Your kingdom, O God, is my glorious treasure” was commissioned by Jan’s family on the occasion of her 25th anniversary in the teaching ministry. It is perhaps by Divine Providence that the reference to the “mustard seed” in the anthem would be included in the appointed reading for the Holy Gospel today.

BLESSING OF NEW HYMNALS

In honor of Jan’s service to the St. John, her family and friends have donated the new children’s hymnal, “One and All Rejoice” for use in our school chapel services. The rite of blessing for these hymnals will be included in our service today.

175TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR SCHOOL

Our school was established in 1846 as a branch school of Holy Ghost Lutheran Church. Today we also celebrate 175 years of Lutheran, Christian education at this place as well as our school’s current standing as the highest ranked private elementary school in all of Western New York. To mark this occasion and achievement, Jan and her husband, David, have commissioned an anthem based on a new hymn in the “One and All Rejoice” hymnal, “One in Christ and One in Spirit”. The anthem will be presented after the rite of blessing.

PRELUDE

Canon
Beautiful Savior
Amazing Grace
Go My Children with My Blessing
Seek Ye First
God Is So Good

John Perno
Natalie Wroblewski
Addie Christ
Anna Keleher
Tori Augustine
Tori Augustine

Stand

WELCOME

INVOCATION *Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

HYMN *LSB 804 sts. 1-2, 5-6*

1 O wor - ship the King, all - glo - rious a - bove.
2 O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,
5 Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,
6 O mea - sure - less Might, in - ef - fa - ble Love,

O grate - ful - ly sing His pow'r and His love;
Whose robe is the light, whose can - o - py space;
In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail.
While an - gels de - light to hymn Thee a - bove,

Our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,
His char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form,
Thy mer - cies, how ten - der, how firm to the end,
Thy hum - bler cre - a - tion, though fee - ble their lays,

Pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor and gird - ed with praise.
And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.
Our mak - er, de - fend - er, re - deem - er, and friend!
With true ad - o - ra - tion shall sing to Thy praise.

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OPENING VERSICLES

- L** This is the day which the Lord has made;
C let us rejoice and be glad in it.
L From the rising of the sun to its setting,
C the name of the Lord is to be praised.
- L** Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;
C I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.
- L** Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.
C Teach me Your paths.

L Sanctify us in Your truth.

C Your Word is truth.

L From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C the name of the Lord is to be praised.

C 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.

Blessing of New Hymnals

P Beloved in the Lord, Moses was commanded by the Lord to receive gifts from the people for the beautification of the sanctuary. Everyone whose heart was stirred and whose spirit was moved supplied an offering to be used to the praise and glory of the Lord.

Since the Lord has taught us in His Holy Word that everything is sanctified by the Word of God and prayer, it is fitting that we seek God's blessing on these hymnals for use in our school chapel services in His holy house.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P The Lord be with you..

C And also with you.

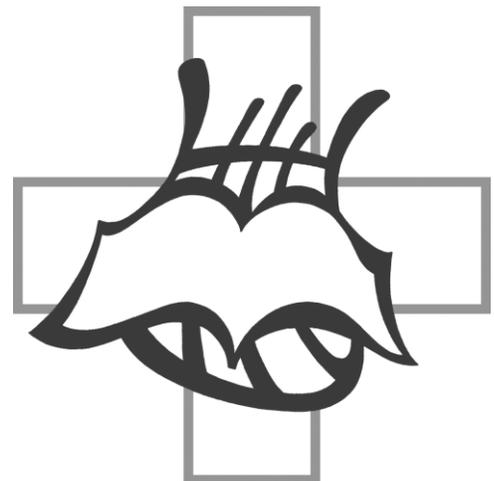
P Let us pray. Almighty God, everlasting Father, You created Your people to offer thanks and praise to You. Grant Your blessing upon these copies of *One and All Rejoice*, that they may be for us instruments of praise by which we may worthily magnify Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P The Lord Almighty, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless these hymnals for use in His holy Church.

C Amen.

Sit



ANTHEM

One in Christ and one in Spirit,
One in Christian unity.
From our Father, we inherit
Life with Him eternally.
Made anew in Word and water,
Freed from death and cleansed from sin.
Perfect son and holy daughter
Hearts made pure and whole within.

Christian sisters, Christian brothers,
Reaching out to those in need,
We proclaim Good News to others,
As we boldly share our creed.
In our learning and our growing,
We are strengthened in the Word.
In our coming and our going,
We live out what we have heard.

One in Christ, now and forever,
With one voice we gladly sing.
Neither life nor death can sever
Christians from their loving King.
As we learn of His salvation,
May we tell of Jesus' grace
To each future generation,
At all times, in ev'ry place.

One in Christ, now and forever,
With one voice we gladly sing.

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OLD TESTAMENT *Ezekiel 17:22–24*

Thus says the Lord GOD: “I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of the cedar and will set it out. I will break off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the mountain height of Israel will I plant it, that it may bear branches and produce fruit and become a noble cedar. And under it will dwell every kind of bird; in the shade of its branches birds of every sort will nest. And all the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD; I bring low the high tree, and make high the low tree, dry up the green tree, and make the dry tree flourish. I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *2 Corinthians 5:1–10*

We know that if the tent, which is our earthly home, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Your kingdom, O God, is my glorious treasure,
My pearl of incomp'rabable worth.
Its value exceeds ev'ry standard of measure,
Surpassing the wealth of the earth.
Lord, give me Your grace and the pow'r of the Spirit
To value this treasure aright
That, never allured by the world, I inherit
Your kingdom of glory and light.

Your kingdom, O God, is alive with the power
Your Word and Your Spirit bestow.
Like yeast, they affect the whole measure of flour,
Enabling Your kingdom to grow.
Empower me, Lord, as I live Your commission,
Though humble my service may be,
And bring ev'ry planting to perfect fruition,
A mustard seed grown to a tree.

Your kingdom, O God, is a field for the growing
Of seeds that Your mercy has sown;
But still in our midst is the enemy sowing
The weeds that imperil Your own.
Sustain me, O Lord, till Your day of returning
And harvest me homeward at last,
To shine in the homeland that quiets all yearning,
Where sorrow and danger are past.

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Stand for the Holy Gospel



HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 4:26-34*

[Jesus] said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You O Christ.

RESPONSORY

L Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.

C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

L Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.

C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

L Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

APOSTLES' CREED

C 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 Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy Christian Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life † everlasting. Amen.

Sit

SERMON

HYMN LSB 894



1 For the fruits of His cre - a - tion, Thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
 3 For the har-vests of the Spir - it, Thanks be to God.



For His gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, Thanks be to God. For the
 In the help we give our neigh-bor, God's will is done. In our
 For the good we all in - her - it, Thanks be to God. For the



plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, Si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
 world - wide task of car - ing For the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
 won - ders that as - tound us, For the truths that still con - found us,



Fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, Thanks be to God.
 In the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
 Most of all, that love has found us, Thanks be to God.

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MUSIC DURING THE OFFERING

What a Friend we have in Jesus | *played by Katie Dena*



Farewell and Godspeed to a Lutheran Teacher Entering Retirement

The honoree is presented before the altar. The presiding minister addresses the congregation:

P Beloved in the Lord, Jan Werth is retiring as Middle School Teacher. At this time of farewell and Godspeed, let us hear the Word of the Lord.

A *Thanksgiving and Prayer*

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.

P Commit your way to the LORD;
trust in him, and he will act.

C **I lift up my eyes to the hills.**
From where does my help come?
My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.

P Lord, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations.
Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

C **Blessèd shall you be in the city,**
and blessèd shall you be in the field.
Blessèd shall you be when you come in,
and blessèd shall you be when you go out.

P Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

C **Let your work be shown to your servants,**
and your glorious power to their children.

P Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
and establish the work of our hands upon us;
yes, establish the work of our hands!

- C** **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.**

The congregation stands | The retiring worker may kneel.

- P** Lord God, heavenly Father, we give thanks for all the blessings You have bestowed on this congregation through the faithful service of Jan Werth. Grant that her example of faithful devotion to Your Word and loving service to others may, by Your grace, be a blessing and encouragement to many. In Your mercy support and strengthen her in her retirement, and grant her Your peace and blessedness now and forever; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

- P** Go in peace and joy. The almighty and most merciful God, the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you, and bless and strengthen you both now and forevermore.

C **Amen.**

LITANY FOR THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR SCHOOL

- P** Lord God, heavenly Father,
For calling us to faith through your Word
and bringing us together in the body of Christ;
For awakening us to the urgency of your mission;
For the privilege of teaching your Word
to children throughout Western New York;

C **We give you humble thanks and praise.**

- P** This day, O Lord, we remember the past:
We remember the vision of those Prussian Lutherans
who fled from religious persecution in Germany
and settled here in the nineteenth century;
We remember their determination to show their children and others
how beautiful it is to live with Jesus
by establishing our school here in 1846.

C **Give us, we pray, that same vision and determination.**

- P** This day, O Lord, we reflect on the task:
We reflect on being equipped with the power of your Word;
We reflect on being entrusted with your message of reconciliation;

C **Cause our reflection to lead us to action.**

- P** This day, O Lord, we look forward to rejoicing that will last;
To the rejoicing that will be ours in heaven;
To the rejoicing others will experience through our ministry.
- C** **May that future joy be ours now and always. Amen.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

- P** O God, you have promised to be with your Church forever. We thank you for those who founded this community of believers and for the signs of your favor over these past years. Increase our faith, knit us together in the bonds of love, and make our fellowship an example to all people; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR THE WORD

- P** Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

- C** **Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.

C Amen.

HYMN *LSB 921*



1 On what has now been sown Thy bless - ing, Lord, be - stow;
2 To Thee our wants are known, From Thee are all our pow'rs;
3 O grant that each of us, Now met be - fore Thee here,



The pow'r is Thine a - lone To make it sprout and grow. Do Thou
Ac - cept what is Thine own And par - don what is ours. Our prais -
May meet to - geth - er thus When Thou and Thine ap - pear And fol -



in grace the har - vest raise, And Thou a - lone shalt have the praise!
es, Lord, and prayers re - ceive, And to Thy Word a bless - ing give.
low Thee to heav'n, our home. E'en so, a - men, Lord Je - sus, come!

Text and tune: Public domain

POSTLUDE

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Pastor	<i>The Rev. Michael Borgstede</i>	
Principal	<i>Katie Gundell</i>	
Organist	<i>Doreen Werth Sutherland</i>	
Flute	<i>Michele Schaffer Steiner</i>	
Trumpet	<i>Luke Sutherland</i>	
Choir Director	<i>David Werth</i>	
Choir	<i>Sara Borgstede</i>	<i>Cheryl Oliver</i>
	<i>Julia Cordani</i>	<i>Diane Werth Stoelting</i>
	<i>Katie Gundell</i>	<i>Kaitlin Werth</i>

Service of Prayer and Preaching from Lutheran Service Book
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Reflection by Jan on her teaching ministry:

“Thirty-six years ago, Trinity Lutheran Church in Niagara Falls called me to be their first and second grade teacher. Some of my students there began to teach me how to teach. They helped me build the first bridges. From them I learned true teaching is a special partnership. It only works when the teacher can see through the outer image, into the heart, and can understand and respect what they see. The student's role is to allow themselves to be seen, not just for who they are, or have been, but also for who they could be.

Lutheran school teachers really take Proverbs 22:6 to heart, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Looking back on thirty-six years of serving as a Lutheran school teacher, first at Trinity, then at St. Matthew and finally here at St. John, this verse was always at the forefront of my teaching. Yes, reading, writing, and arithmetic are of great importance, but knowing my students have a firm foundation in Christ is of highest importance. Having "Jesus Time" with my first and second graders, daily morning devotions with my 8th graders, mentoring my students to be leaders in chapel worship and "integrating the faith" into all classes has been a privilege that I would not have had in a public school. My heartfelt thanks to my family and friends at St. John for allowing me to partner with you and your ministry for these past twenty-four years.”