



The 54th Convention

of the

Texas District

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Lubbock, Texas

Sent Forth By God's Blessing...

To God Be All Glory

The Opening Celebration of Praise

July 10, 1997 - 7:30 p.m.

The Pre-Service Music

Voluntary
Renaissance Dances
Duedici Mi Toni

Bach
Susato
Gabrieli

INTRODUCTION

Milton Bade, Houston Lutheran Chorale

He Is Jesus - Phil Barfoot, arr. Don Marsh
Houston Lutheran Chorale

The Invocation

The Rev. Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick, President
Texas District, LCMS

President:: We begin this service of worship and the 54th regular convention of the Texas District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

The Processional Hymn

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear Now to His temple draw near,
Joining in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen All that is needful has been
Sent by His gracious ordaining!

Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore Him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
Let the amen Sound from His people again.
Gladly forever adore Him!

arr. Rutter



Words of Confession and Forgiveness

The Rev. David Joeckel, Second Vice President

Pastor: Brothers and sisters in Christ, we come together in heart and mind, humbly standing at the foot of the Cross seeking forgiveness and mercy.

People: Lord God, Almighty King, You have done marvelous things in countless ways for every living thing. Especially you have called all people to Your grace. But we are slow to give thanks to You and reluctant to tell those who do not know You. Forgive our sluggishness to witness, our fear of rejection by others and our self-centeredness which muffles Your call to witness to others each day. We seek Your mercy for the sake of Jesus.

Pastor: God, because of the life, the death and the resurrection of Jesus, has had mercy on you and me. To all who believe in Jesus' name the Father gives power, by His Holy Spirit, to tell what they have now seen and heard that, "Jesus is Lord." Your sins are forgiven!

People: Thanks be to God.

I Pledge Allegiance to the Lamb - Ray Boltz Houston Lutheran Choral

Choir: I have heard how Christians long ago were brought before a tyrant's throne.
They were told that he would spare their lives
if they would renounce the name of Christ.
But one by one they chose to die, the Son of God they would not deny.
Like a great angelic choir sings I can almost hear their voices ring.
I pledge allegiance to the Lamb, with all my strength, with all I am.
I will seek to honor His commands. I pledge allegiance to the Lamb.

Now the years have come and the years have gone, and the cause of Jesus still goes on.
Now our time has come to count the cost, to reject this world, to embrace the cross.
And one by one let us live our lives for the One who died to give us life.
Till the trumpet sounds on the final day let us proudly stand and boldly say:

All: I pledge allegiance to the Lamb, with all my strength, with all I am.
I will seek to honor His commands. I pledge allegiance to the Lamb.

Choir: To the Lamb of God who bore my pain, who took my place, who wore the shame.
I will seek to honor His commands. I pledge allegiance to the Lamb.

All: I pledge allegiance to the Lamb, with all my strength, with all I am.
I will seek to honor His commands. I pledge allegiance to the Lamb.

Choir: to the Lamb.

The First Lesson

The Rev. Carroll Kohl, Fourth Vice President

Revelation 19:5-9

Then a voice came from the throne, saying: "Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, both small and great!"

Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)

Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'" And he added, "These are the true words of God."

Our Response

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Which wert and art and evermore shalt be.

Arr. Larsen



The Second Lesson

The Rev. Paul Hartfield, Third Vice President

Philippians 1:3-14

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ--to the glory and praise of God.

Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly.

Our Response

Now Thank We All Our God

Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, In whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms Has blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love And still is ours today.

All praise and thanks to God The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns With them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God, Whom earth and heav'n adore,
For thus it was, is now, And shall be evermore.

Arr. Rutter

The Holy Gospel

The Rev. Eugene Heckmann, First Vice President



Matthew 28:16-20

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."



The Sermon Hymn

Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus

Stand up, stand up for Jesus As soldiers of the cross.
Lift high His royal banner; It must not suffer loss.
From vict'ry unto vict'ry His army He shall lead
Till ev'ry foe is vanquished And Christ is Lord indeed.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus; The trumpet call obey;
Stand forth in mighty conflict In this His glorious day.
Let all His faithful serve Him Against unnumbered foes;
Let courage rise with danger And strength to strength oppose.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus; Stand in His strength alone;
The arm of flesh will fail you, You dare not trust your own.
Put on the Gospel armor; Each piece put on with prayer.
Where duty calls or danger, Be never wanting there.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus; The strife will not be long;
This day the din of battle, The next the victor's song.
The soldiers, overcoming, Their crown of life shall see
And with the King of glory Shall reign eternally.

Arr. Ramseth



The Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Alvin L. Barry, President
The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

The Hymn of Response

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

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.

Omer Westendorf



The Voluntary

Tonight's offering has been designated for the Texas District Mission Planting Fund

Lord of All - Walt Harrah
Houston Lutheran Chorale

All creation groans, 'til the promised day. When the Groom will take His bride away,
In the time it takes to blink an eye, we will rise to meet Him in the sky.
So we eagerly await the time, As we celebrate with bread and wine.
"Til we see the Savior face to face, To be lost in wonder, love and grace
For He's coming again, and He's coming with power!
Every knee shall bow, ev'ry tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord of all.
Jesus Christ is Lord of all.

All the dead in Christ will at last be free—Oh death, where is your victory?
Oh grave, where is the dreadful sting? Since Jesus conquered ev'rything.
So until we hear that trumpet call, When the earth will bow, before Him fall,
With our lamps all trimmed and burning bright, We will walk by faith, and not by sight.
For He's coming again, and He's coming with power!
Every knee shall bow, ev'ry tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord of all.
Jesus Christ is Lord of all.

The Recognition of Faithful Service

This portion of the service is a tribute to the professional church workers of the Texas District who are celebrating anniversaries in multiples of 5 years beginning with 25 years.

See page 9 for a listing of these workers.

Saints Bound for Heaven - Howard Helvey
Houston Lutheran Chorale

Staff of Faith - Craig Courtney

Choir:

Introduction

Congregation:

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled!

Throughout all their lifetime my people will prove
My sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love,
And then, when gray hairs will their temples adorn,
Like lambs they will still in my bosom be borne.

Choir:

Conclusion

Prayers



Hymn of Reflection

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah - Marshall Thomason
Houston Lutheran Chorale

The Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

Pastor: The blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you all, missionaries, every one.

People: We go forth in the peace of Christ to carry on His mission. Amen.

The Closing Hymn

Catch the Vision

O ev'ryone of eager heart, God's message to the world impart.
Catch the vision of His mission. Proclaim how Jesus lived and died
So man might be thus justified; Catch the vision of His mission,
Catch the vision of His mission, Alleluia!

All Christendom now hear His Word And let Your hearts within be stirred.
Catch the vision of His mission, To ev'ry nation, ev'ry place,
Be thou a vessel of His grace, Catch the vision of His mission,
Catch the vision of His mission, Alleluia!

Let Jesus' work your pleasure be, Say, "Here am I, send me, send me!"
Catch the vision of His mission, Let not the answer heard from you
Be, "There is nothing I can do." Catch the vision of His mission,
Catch the vision of His mission, Alleluia!

Sandy Knoernschild



The Postlude



Opening Worship Participants

The Preacher:
Worship Leaders:

The Rev. Dr. Alvin Barry, President, The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
The Rev. Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick, President, Texas District LCMS
The Rev. Eugene Heckmann, First Vice President, Texas District
The Rev. David Joeckel, Second Vice President, Texas District
The Rev. Paul Hartfield, Third Vice President, Texas District
The Rev. Carroll Kohl, Fourth Vice President, Texas District

The Choir:
Choir Director:
Accompanist:
Narrator:
Organist:

Houston Lutheran Chorale
Metford Mountford, St. Mark, Houston
Catherine Lysinger, Houston
Milton Bade, Gethsemane, Houston
Vincent S. Parks, III, Gloria Dei, Houston

Pastors' *Anniversaries*

65 years

R. J. Mueller (1929)

60 years

Francis Machina (1934)
Erich Brauer (1935)
Marcus Kluender (1935)
Albert Lindemann (1936)
Paul Tomasovic (1936)

55 years

Oscar Horn (1939)
Melvin Cordes (1939)
Louis Pabor (1940)
W. H. Wetzstein (1941)
Luther Koepke (1941)
Norbert Roschke (1941)
Donald Hafemann (1941)
Frederick Kuegele (1941)

50 years

Herman Schelter (1944)
William Schuster (1944)
Lou Konz (1944)
A. Fritze (1944)
William Wollenburg (1944)
Wilbert Stelzer (1944)
Arnold Mueller (1945)
Walter Huber (1945)
Harold Heckmann (1945)
Eldor Mickan (1945)
G. P. Dobberfuhr (1945)
Theodore Michalk (1945)
Robert Jaeger (1946)
Eugene Gruell (1946)
Melvin Boehlke (1946)

45 years

Harold Jacobsmeyer (1949)
Edward Schneider (1949)
Charles Born (1949)
Walter Fisher (1949)
Walter Harting (1949)
John Fritz (1949)
Jordan Arft (1949)
Albert Miller (1950)
Ervin Metz (1950)
E. George Becker (1950)
Alton Donsbach (1950)
Vernon Appel (1950)
Garland Gotoski (1951)
Monroe Husfeld (1951)
Guido Merkins (1951)
Clifford Larson (1951)
Richard Dinda (1951)
Marvin Koch (1951)
Virgil Meyer (1951)

40 years

James Bomba (1954)
Harold Schroeter (1954)
Ray Schkade (1954)
Robert Jones (1954)
Leonard Ristow (1954)
Wayne Dittloff (1954)
Roland Friedrichs (1954)
Richard Nelson (1954)
Robert Kamrath (1954)
Andrew Simcak (1955)
Otto Kretzmann (1955)
Eugene Oesch (1955)
Robert Deady (1955)
Walter Chelmo (1955)
Norbert Mueller (1955)
Ernest Schoenborn (1955)
Thomas Glammeyer (1955)
James Luecke (1955)
Herbert Graf (1956)
Roger Neeb (1956)
Varnes Stringer (1956)
Ray Martens (1956)
Frederick Riemer (1956)
Robert Wedergren (1956)
Thomas Petersen (1956)
John Ellwanger (1956)
William Johnson (1956)

35 years

John Allmann (1959)
John Freed (1959)
Walter Harms (1959)
Leopoldo Vigil (1959)
Gerald Thiele (1959)
James Shaw (1959)
Lewis Wunderlich (1959)
Waldemar Wehmeier (1959)
Robert Heidler (1959)
Wilbert Sohns (1959)
Gerald Nichols (1960)
Francis Mennenga (1960)
Victor Kilian (1960)
Douglas Robbins (1960)
Laverne Fitch (1960)
Henry Biar (1960)
Herbert Eifert (1960)
James Linderman (1960)
Francis Koessel (1961)
Victor Bohlmann (1961)
Robert Hill (1961)
John Feierabend (1961)
Gerald Discher (1961)
Mark Pepoon (1961)
Melvin Spann (1961)
Roger Grummer (1961)
Ronald Rodeck (1961)
Carroll Kohl (1961)
Raymond Kahle (1961)

30 years

Alston Kirk (1964)
David Jeske (1964)
Clifford Olsen (1964)
Otto Brillinger (1964)
Kenneth Holdorf (1964)
George Gibson, Jr. (1964)
Harold Fleischhauer (1964)
William Bredemeyer (1964)
Fred Neumann (1965)
Lawrence Kelm (1965)
A. Dean Kelm (1965)
Mel Symmank (1965)
Stanley Geisler (1965)
John Stelling (1965)
Albert Loeschman (1965)
J.W. Ristvedt (1965)
Donald Kaspar (1965)
Adrian Bacarisse (1966)
Martin Teske (1966)
Bruce Blakelock (1966)
Clyburn Duder (1966)
E. Paul Burow (1966)
Donald Kroll (1966)
Donald Zuhn (1966)
Ernesto Garcia (1966)
Daniel Canion (1966)

25 years

Roy Kieschnick (1969)
James Martin (1969)
Peter Diebenow (1969)
David Tessmann (1969)
Richard Mayerhoff (1969)
Michael Ramming (1969)
Donald Peymann (1969)
David Londenbergh (1969)
Chester McCown (1969)
Heriberto Huerta (1970)
Douglas Rathgeber (1970)
Scott Stallings (1970)
Bert Klein (1970)
Wayne Hegstrom (1970)
Gerald Kieschnick (1970)
John Kieschnick (1970)
Norbert Firmhaber (1970)
Marion Parker (1970)
Joseph Lowery (1970)
Richard Manus (1970)
George Ascher (1971)
Robert Myers (1971)
John Selle (1971)
Walter Albers (1971)
Wayne Schumpe (1971)
Kenneth Sinclair (1971)
Richard Kessler (1971)
Duane Florschuetz (1971)

Educators' Anniversaries

75 years

William Nielsen

65 years

Martin Schuetze
Rudolph Obermueller

55 years

Arthur Ahlschwede
Wilbur Schumann

50 years

Les Bayer
Ruth Doering
Ruby Mueller

45 years

Martin Eifert
Ray Petersen
Hal Rutz
Leroy Tschatschula

40 years

Katherine Bolland
Norman Clasen
Lil Deterling
Raymond Fricke
Brice Kuhlmann
Reynold Kunz
William Leimbach
Donald Rotermund
Walter Schramm
Norman Stuemke

35 years

Thomas Baden
Gerald Brunworth

Marilyn Comotto
Edward Gallmeier
Elizabeth Gallmeier
John Goeke
Cherry Hammon
Gary Hintz
David Koenig
Lois Lange
Merwyn Miessler
Pauline Miller
William Rutherford
Darrell Schepmann
William Wenthe
Carolyn Wilke

30 years

Richard Althage
Peggy Berry
Shirley Buser
Jeffrey Daley
Dorothea Eckert
Rodney Eckert
Patsy Feldman
Sharlyn Fritz
Trina Fischer
Marie Gerzevske
Lowell Goecker
Rose Ann Grissett
Mike Henke
Terry Hynous
Ronald Knapp
Janice Kueck
Eloise Kuhlmann
Walter Meyer
Thomas Mueller
Ruby St. Martin
Melvin Schiwart
David Sommermeyer
Donald Zielke

25 years

Kathleen Achterberg
Robert Achterberg
Steve Allmon
Bruce Baacke
Albert Bradley
Ruth Brunig
Barbara DeBrick
Sandra Doering
Timothy Dommer
Gary Frieling
Sue Fuessel
William Gumtow
Deborah Henry
Terry Hubbard
Sylvia Kokel
Wayne Kramer
Paul Krentz
David Kroft
Susan Kroft
Michael Linebrink
Gary Linkugel
Ellen Malzahn
Robert Malzahn
Jean Mersiovsky
Faith Morrison
Mary Mountford
Metford Mountford
Ted Nelson
Sandra Nun
Marilyn Petersen
Gerhardt Piphio
Stephane Putnam
Dennis Rogahn
Sally Rudy
Ardith Vandercook
James Vandercook
Diane Wallis
Katherine Wentland
Emilie Wienke

The Houston Lutheran Choral

Soprano

Arlene Baerenwald
Joan Beckmeier
Mary Behnken
Mary Jane Beisert
Carol Campbell
Bonita Carr
Clara Damerow
Linda Elmore
Patsy Feldman
Sheri Fryer
Evelyn Gamer
Vicki Heth
Susan Kaiser
Meda Kaspar
Maria Keeling
Judy Kueck
Quinta Loeschman
Marcia Lowe
Barbara Marchand

Mary Mountford
Penny Rhoads
Aileen Rutz
Barbara Sanders
Pam Schroeder
Viola Schultz
Kathleen Stelling
Margaret Wright

Alto

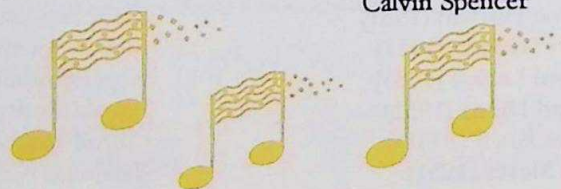
Viola Bade
Laraine Eggers
Irene Koepke
Beverly Kunkel
Shirley Milton
Lesley Paulus
Kathy Ridley
Ann Schulz
Laurie Sump
Jean Weber

Tenor

Tom Behnken
James Gersch
Earl Goodson
Bob Heth
Michael Kaspar
Wesley Krueger
William Loeschman
Jimmy Oberndorfer
Dan Page
JoAnn Park
Clarence Sanders
John Stelling

Bass

Milton Bade
Warren Baerenwald
Jeff Barckholtz
Ron Betterton
Don Cours
Ken Eggers
Clinton Heine, Jr.
J. C. Henning
Martin Mueller
Neal Prestidge
Kurt Rutz
Herb Schuett
Calvin Spencer



Closing Worship

July 13, 1997 - 10:30 a.m.

The Prelude

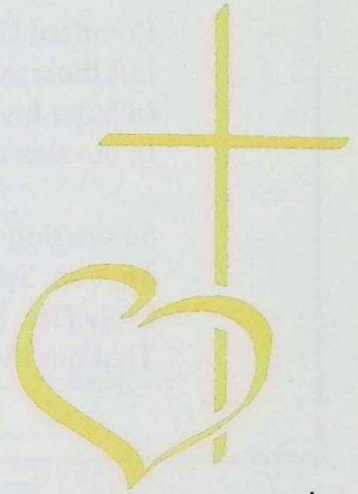
Festival Intrada - Richard Strauss, arr. Levick and Shaffer
Rigaudon - Andre' Campa

The Processional Hymn



Lift High the Cross

- All:* *Refrain:*
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.
- All:* Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
Our King victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *(refrain)*
- Choir:* Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. *(refrain)*
- Men:* All newborn soldiers of the crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. *(refrain)*
- Women:* O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
Raise us, and let your cross the magnet be. *(refrain)*
- All:* So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! *(refrain)*



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The Invocation

The Rev. Carroll Kohl

- L: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

The Invocation Hymn

Holy Spirit, Come to Bless Us

Holy Spirit, come to bless us. Fire of God, ignite each heart.
Come now, Breath of God, refresh us, Help us each to do our part
As Your people, here to praise You Gathered in our Savior's name.
Praising Father, Son and Spirit: Three in One, Our God we claim.

Promised Comforter, come near us As we seek our Father's will.
Lift those who have drooping spirits, Help them to find good from ill.
In Your love together bind us As a fam'ly sharing Christ.
In our worship now remind us Of our Lord who paid the price.

So we sing to God the Father And to Christ, the Savior Son,
To You, Spirit, for You gather All God's people into one.
Holy Fire, help us be burning With Your love to say and do
That our lives be always turning To Your love, promised anew.

Henry A. Simon



Words of Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: My brothers and sisters in Christ, all that we are and all that we do begins with the forgiveness of God. Our role as people sent on God's mission is no different. We tell the Good News and we witness in love because we are blessed with forgiveness through faith in Jesus Christ. Let us, therefore, once again be assured of God's grace. We confess our sins:

People: Eternal God, forgive our slowness to respond to your Gospel with the zeal of active missionaries. We have deferred our missionary task to others by speaking little of you even with those close to us. At times we have been silent, sometimes anonymous disciples of Christ, ignoring opportunities for genuine evangelism and service. By your spirit, send us on our way once more with your forgiveness so that the world around us may hear our voices raised in witness. We ask it for the sake of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: In the name of Christ, we are forgiven. Let us rejoice in that forgiveness and here take up once more our part in the missionary kingdom of our Lord.

People: Amen.

Hymn of Praise

This Is the Feast of Victory



- All: *Refrain:*
 This is the feast of victory for our God.
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
- Women: Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
 Whose blood set us free to be people of God. *(refrain)*
- Men: Power, riches, wisdom and strength,
 and honor, blessing, and glory are His. *(refrain)*
- Women: Sing with all the people of God,
 and join in the hymn of all creation:
 Blessing, honor, glory, and might
 be to God and the Lamb forever. *Amen. (refrain)*
- Men: For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. *Alleluia. (refrain)*



The Instruction in the Word

The Rev. David Rohde

The Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 6:1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."

Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"

And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

Our Response

Here I Am, Lord

Dan Schutte

Solo: I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard My people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin, My hand will save.
I who make the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear My light to them? Whom shall I send?

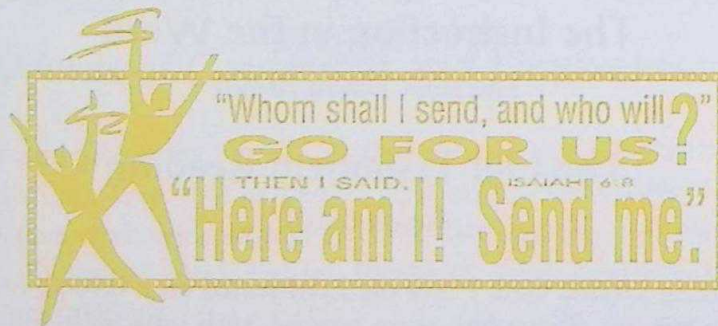
Choir: *Refrain:* Here I am, Lord, Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.

Solo: I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne My people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak My word to them. Whom shall I send?

All: *Refrain:*

Solo: I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give My life to them. Whom shall I send?

All: *Refrain:*



The Epistle Reading

Philippians 1:9-14

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ--to the glory and praise of God.

Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly.



Our Response

A Mighty Fortress

- All: A mighty fortress is our God, A sword and shield victorious,
He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod And wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe Has sworn to work us woe.
With craft and dreadful might He arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.
- Men: No strength of ours can match his might. We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight, Whom God himself elected.
You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is he,
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord, God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.
- All: God's Word forever shall abide, No thanks to foes, who fear it;
For God Himself fights by our side With weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house, Goods, honor, child, or spouse,
Though life be wrenched away, They cannot win the day.
The Kingdom's ours forever! *(please remain standing)*

The Holy Gospel

John 20:19-22

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.



The Sermon Hymn

On Galilee's High Mountain

On Galilee's high mountain Christ gave the great command
In words of strength and promise Which all can understand
"All pow'r to me is given To do what I shall choose;
Therefore I send my children, Their witness I will use."

His strength within my weakness Will make me bold to say
How His redeeming power Transforms my stubborn clay;
His touch of fire ignites me, With courage I am sent,
My tongue-tied silence broken, With grace made eloquent.

And not alone to nations In far away retreats,
But ev'rywhere I broadcast His love through crowded streets:
The lives that my life touches, However great or small—
Let them through me see Jesus, Who served and saved us all.

Henry L. Letterman

The Sermon

"Sent Forth - For What?"

John 20:19-22

The Rev. Eugene Heckmann, First Vice President

Choral Response

Credo - A. Gretchaninof

The Offering is Received

Declare His Glory - John F. Wilson

The Prayers

The Rev. Carroll Kohl

The Lord's Prayer

The Remembrance of the Faithful Departed

President Kieschnick

(This is a special thanksgiving to God for the professional church workers who have gone to heaven since the last district convention in 1994.)

For All the Saints

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
All who by faith before the world confessed,
Your Name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Rev. O. William Luecke, November 12, 1994; Rev. Carl A. Mutschink, February 19, 1994;
Rev. Victor Neeb, March 4, 1994; Rev. Armin H. Wagner, November 8, 1994

You were their rock, their fortress, and their might;
You, Lord, their captain in the well fought fight;
You, in the darkness drear, their one true light. Alleluia! Alleluia

Rev. T. H. Graalman, August 5, 1995; Edward W. Merz, June 8, 1995; Rev. Otto Naumann, April 7, 1995;
Rev. Roland P. Wiederaenders, Sr., February 23, 1995; Rev. George L. Winkler, August 10, 1995.

Oh, may your soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old
And win with them the victor's crown of gold. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Rev. Paul Burdorf, March 18, 1996; Rev. Carl Gaertner, March 16, 1996; Rev. William Geiger, August 22, 1996;
Rev. David Jentsch, May 19, 1996; Arthur R. Petersen, September 24, 1996; Rev. Walter Roehrs, February 29, 1996;
Rev. Erwin Henry Sanders, October 15, 1996; Rev. Felix Segovia, January 4, 1996

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Celebration of the Lord's Supper

The Rev. Jay Beyer

Oneness at communion demonstrates oneness in doctrine. For this reason the churches of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod and the Texas District practice close communion. Guests of this convention who are members of Synods in fellowship with us are invited to commune. We ask our guests who are not in fellowship with the L.C.M.S. to respect our position of love in this matter of pastoral care.

The Preface

P: The Lord be with you.

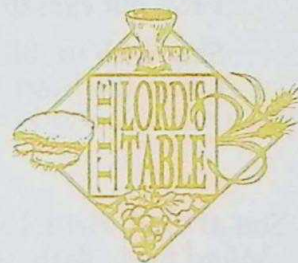
C: And also with you.

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, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who sends us into all the world as His witnesses to make disciples of all nations. Therefore, with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The Words of Institution

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The Greeting of Peace

The Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.



Distribution instructions:

Both common and individual cups will be offered at each of the stations around the auditorium.

Please follow the lead of the ushers.

Hymns for the Distribution

Stay With Us

- Choir: Stay with us, till night has come: our praise to You this day be sung.
Bless our bread, open our eyes: Jesus, be our great surprise.
- All: Walk with us, our spirits sigh: hear when our weary spirits cry
Feel again our loss, our pain: Jesus, take us to your side.
- All: Walk with us, the road will bend: make all our weeping, wailing end.
Wipe our tears, forgive our fears: Jesus, lift the heavy cross.
- All: Talk with us, till we behold a joyful life You will unfold:
Heal our eyes to see the prize: Jesus, take us to the light.
- All: Stay with us, till day is done: no tears nor dark shall dim the sun:
Cheer the heart Your grace impart. Jesus, bring eternal life.

Herbert F. Brokering

Son of God, Eternal Savior

Son of God, eternal Savior, Source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us Hallows all our human race,
You our head, who, throned in glory, For your own will ever plead:
Fill us with your love and pity, Heal our wrongs, and help our need.

As you, Lord, have lived for others, So may we for others live.
Freely have your gifts been granted, Freely may your servants give.
Yours the gold and yours the silver, Yours the wealth of land and sea;
We but stewards of your bounty Held in solemn trust will be.

Come, O Christ, and reign among us, King of love and Prince of Peace,
Hush the storm of strife and passion, Bid its cruel discords cease.
By your patient years of toiling, By your silent hours of pain,
Quench our fevered thirst of pleasure, Stem our selfish greed of gain.

Son of God, eternal Savior, Source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us Hallows all our human race:
By your praying, by your willing That your people should be one,
Grant, oh, grant our hope's fruition: Here on earth your will be done.

Somerset T. C. Lowry

Jesus Shall Reign

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun Does its successive journeys run,
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To Him shall endless prayer be made, And praises throng to crown His head,
His Name like sweet perfume shall rise With ev'ry morning sacrifice.

People and realms of ev'ry tongue Dwell on His love with sweetest song,
And infant voices shall proclaim Their early blessings on His Name.

Blessings abound where'er He reigns: The pris'ners leap to lose their chains,
The weary find eternal rest, And all who suffer want are blest.

Let ev'ry creature rise and bring Honors peculiar to our King,
Angels descend with songs again, And earth repeat the loud amen.

Isaac Watts



The Parting Words

May the eating of this body and the drinking of this blood strengthen and preserve you from this time forth and forever more. Amen.

The Benediction

- P: Go out into all the world with courage. Serve the Lord as He sends you to your mission field. In everything give thanks, and the almighty God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, will be with you.
- C: Amen.

The Closing of the Convention

President Kieschnick

- P: I now declare this convention adjourned, even as it was begun, in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen.

The Closing Hymn

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

Sent forth by God's blessing, Our true faith confessing,
The people of God from His dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended. Oh, 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.

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.

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The Postlude

Now Thank We All Our God - Karg-Elert

Closing Worship Participants

Host Congregation: Redeemer Lutheran Church, Lubbock
The Celebrant: The Rev. Jay Beyer, Redeemer, Lubbock
The Preacher: The Rev. Eugene Heckmann, First Vice President, Texas District
Worship Leaders: The Rev. Carroll Kohl, Fourth Vice President, Texas District
The Rev. David Rohde, St. Paul, Wilson
The Rev. Dr. Gerald Kieschnick, President, Texas District

Communion Assistants: The Rev. Fred Kelm, Trinity, Borger
The Rev. Robert Kuhlmann, Ereritus
The Rev. Mark Cattau, Trinity, Amarillo
The Rev. John Braunersreuther, Mission & Ministry Facilitator (Area A)
The Rev. Wayne J. Pafk, St. Paul, Canyon
The Rev. David G. Jeske, St. Paul, Plainview
The Rev. Peter E. Mills, Grace, Lames
The Rev. Mel Herring, St. Paul, Monahans
The Rev. Phil Konz, Holy Cross, Midland & Immanuel, Odessa
The Rev. Larry Krueger, Grace, Midland

Organist:: Vincent S. Parks, III, Gloria Dei, Houston
Choir: Lubbock Area Convention Choir
Choir Director: Mary Voigt, Gloria Dei, Houston

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Convention Worship Participants and Support

Song Leaders: Aaron Rohde, Sarah Poertner, Lisa Walorski
and Matt Stueber, St. Mark, Houston

Banners, Staging
& Decorations: Lisa Garza and JoAnn Lyons, St. Mark, Houston
Convention Logo Design: JoAnn Lyons, St. Mark, Houston
Worship Folder: Margaret Goodson, St. Mark, Houston
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Stained Glass Banners: IHS Studios, Fredericksburg, Texas; Dennis and Linda Roberts

Texas District Worship Committee
Metford Mountford, Chairman, St. Mark Houston
The Rev. Steven Misch, St. Mark Houston
Mary Voigt, Gloria Dei Houston
Richard Leslie, Salem Tomball
Liz Gallmeyer, Trinity Houston
Michael Held, Trinity Houston
The Rev. Doug Dommer, Salem Tomball
Dr. Keith Loomans, Texas District Board of Parish Services