

Texas Lutheran University

Baccalaureate Service
Chapel of the Abiding Presence
May 8, 2021
2:00 pm

Prelude Variations on “Thy Strong Word”
John Behnke
Gayle Morris
Chapel Organist

Opening Hymn

“Here I Am, Lord”

"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 made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"

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.

"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?" *Refrain*

"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?" *Refrain*

Apostolic Greeting Katy Miles-Wallace, M.Div
Interim Campus Pastor

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

Call to Worship Audrey Wren West
Reader, Graduating Senior

Melissa Faith Cruz
Guitarist & Vocalist, Graduating Senior

“Build My Life”

Worthy of every song we could ever sing. Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring.
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe. We live for You.
Jesus, the name above every other name. Jesus, the only one who could ever save
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe. We live for You.

Chorus Holy, there is no one like You. There is none beside You.
Open up my eyes in wonder. Show me who You are.
And fill me with Your heart. And lead me in Your love to those around me.

Worthy of every song we could ever sing. Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring.
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe. We live for You.
Jesus, the name above every other name Jesus, the only one who could ever save
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe We live for You. *Chorus. Chorus.*

I will build my life upon Your love. It is a firm foundation.
I will put my trust in You alone. And I will not be shaken.
I will build my life upon Your love. It is a firm foundation.
I will put my trust in You alone. And I will not be shaken. *Chorus. Chorus.*

I will build my life upon Your love. It is a firm foundation.
I will put my trust in You alone. And I will not be shaken.
It is a firm foundation. I will put my trust in You alone.
And I will not be shaken. I will build my life upon Your love.
It is a firm foundation. I will put my trust in You alone. And I will not be shaken.

Distributed Readings

“It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.”
Deuteronomy 31:8

“Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.”
1 Timothy 4:12

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”
Jeremiah 29:11

Songs of PraiseMelissa Faith Cruz
Guitarist & Vocalist, Graduating Senior

“See a Victory”

The weapon may be formed but it won't prosper. When the darkness falls it won't prevail
Cause the God I serve knows only how to triumph, My God will never fail, My God will never fail

Chorus I'm gonna see a victory, I'm gonna see a victory, For the battle belongs to You Lord
I'm gonna see a victory, I'm gonna see a victory, For the battle belongs to You Lord

There's power in the mighty name of Jesus, Every war He wages He will win
I'm not backing down from any giant, I know how this story ends, I know how this story ends. *Chorus*

You take what the enemy meant for evil, And You turn it for good, You turn it for good

“Raise a Hallelujah”

I raise a hallelujah, in the presence of my enemies, I raise a hallelujah, louder than the unbelief
I raise a hallelujah, my weapon is a melody, I raise a hallelujah, Heaven comes to fight for me

Chorus I'm gonna sing, in the middle of the storm, Louder and louder, you're gonna hear my praises roar
Up from the ashes, hope will arise, Death is defeated, the King is alive

I raise a hallelujah, with everything inside of me, I raise a hallelujah, I will watch the darkness flee
I raise a hallelujah, in the middle of the mystery, I raise a hallelujah, fear you lost your hold on me. *Chorus*

Sing a little louder, In the presence of my enemies, Sing a little louder, Louder than the unbelief
Sing a little louder, My weapon is a melody, Sing a little louder, Heaven comes to fight for me

Welcome Dr. Debbie M. Cottrell
President

ReadingA Paraphrased Selection from *Chapter 32, Revelations of Divine Love* by Julian of Norwich

Thalia Rocha Sanchez

Graduating Senior

A reading from the writings of Julian of Norwich:

One time our good Lord said: All things shall be well; and another time he said: You shall see yourself that all MANNER of things shall be well; and in these two the soul took several understandings. One was that He wishes us to know that not only does He consider noble things and great, but also little and small, low and simple, one and other. And so He means what He says: ALL MANNER OF THINGS shall be well. For He wishes us to know that the least thing shall not be forgotten.

Another understanding is this, that there are evil deeds done in our sight, and so great harms taken, that it seems to us that it is impossible that ever it should come to a good end. And upon this we look, sorrowing and mourning, so that we cannot give ourselves to the blissful beholding of God as we should do. And the cause of this is that the use of our reason is now so blind, so low, and so simple, that we cannot know that high marvelous Wisdom, the Might and the Goodness of the blissful Trinity. And this is what he means when he says: YOU SHALL SEE YOURSELF if all manner of things shall be well. As if He said: Take now heed faithfully and trustingly, and at the last end you shall truly see it in fullness of joy.

For like as the blissful Trinity made all things of nothing, right so the same blessed Trinity shall make well all that is not well.

.... And all this standing, I thought it was impossible that all manner of things should be well, as our Lord showed in the same time.

And as to this I had no other answer in Showing of our Lord God but this: That which is impossible to you is not impossible to me: I shall save my word in all things and I shall make all things well. Thus I was taught, by the grace of God, that I should steadfastly hold myself in the Faith as I had previously understood, therewith that I should firmly believe that all things shall be well, as our Lord showed in the same time.

For this is the Great Deed that our Lord shall do, in which Deed He shall save His word and He shall make all well that is not well. How it shall be done there is no creature beneath Christ that knows it, nor shall know it till it is done; according to the understanding that I took of our Lord's meaning in this time.

For the word of God in Scripture,

For the word of God among us,

For the word of God within us,

Thanks be to God.

Gloria

“Gospel Acclamation (Celtic)”

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Gospel John 15:9-17

Thalia Rocha Sanchez

Graduating Senior

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

MessageElise Nicole Gray
Graduating Senior

Katy Miles-Wallace, M.Div
Interim Campus Pastor

Hymn of the Day

“Mothering God” - Based on the words of Julian of Norwich

Mothering God, you gave me birth in the bright morning of this world.
Creator, source of ev'ry breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.

Mothering Christ, you took my form, offering me your food of light,
grain of life, and grape of love, your very body for my peace.

Mothering Spirit, nurt'ring one, in arms of patience hold me close,
so that in faith I root and grow until I flow'r, until I know.

PrayersAudrey Wren West
Graduating Senior

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

For the church throughout the world, for all inspired and led by the Holy Spirit, and for all who proclaim the wondrous deeds of God.

For the live oak trees and the squirrels, the citrus trees and the hawks, the rivers, the hill country and the coastal plains; we pray for all of God's creation, that we might see God revealed in everything.

For the nations and all who govern, for law enforcement and first responders, social workers and lawyers; we pray that God gives and uplifts their hearts to work for peace and justice.

Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

For the outcast, the bereaved, the ill, and those in danger, that they experience Christ in those who offer them care. We pray especially for essential workers, for all who work in healthcare, the food supply chain, and teaching.

For those who are traveling and those absent from this gathering, for those serving in the military, for those beginning journeys of faith, and for Texas Lutheran University; that in all we do we praise and glorify God.

In thanksgiving for those bright lives that we have lost this year, that their memories burn brightly and that they be examples for our living. We pray especially for the families of Dr. Layne Hoppe, Lewis Westerman, and Rev. Walter Lentz and for Erica Miller, Cathy Beicker, Daniel Chapa, Drew Pullin, Bill Miller, Donna Kubena, Richard Milk, Violet Glover, Mario Soto and their families following the loss of loved ones this year.

Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

Parting Litany..... Dean Kristi Gold Quiros
Vice President & Dean of Student Life and Learning

Dr. Liliana Guerrero
Director of Vocal Studies, TLU School of Music

Leader: Lord of moments to come and memories past, bless these graduates as they continue their journey. May they never forget the people they have encountered at Texas Lutheran University and the experiences that have molded them. May we acknowledge the past with praise and thanksgiving, and the future filled with hope.

Graduates: Oh God, our paths have intertwined here at Texas Lutheran. The journey has not always been easy, yet you have blessed us with family and friends who have supported and loved us. God, you are forever our link to the past and present. We pray that you take our hands and forever guide us through life's journey, for all our days are in your hands.

Faculty & Congregation: Lord God, may these graduates go forward with your guidance and blessing, for when they have come to the edge of all the light they know, and are about to step off into the darkness unknown; remind them that faith is knowing one of two things will happen: there will be something solid to stand on, or they will be taught how to fly.

Leader: Graduates as you go your way, may God go with you. May God go before you to encourage you, beside you to befriend you, above you to watch over you, and within you to give you peace.

All: Praise and thanks be to God.

Choral Benediction TLU School of Music

Benediction..... Katy Miles-Wallace, M.Div
Interim Campus Pastor

Closing Hymn

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

Go, My children, with My blessing, Never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are my own.
In My love's baptismal river, I have made you Mine forever.
Go, My children, with My blessing - You are My own.

Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure.
Here you heard My dear Son's story; Here you touched Him, saw His glory,
Go My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.

Go, My children, fed and nourished, Closer to Me;
Grow in love and love by serving, Joyful and free.
Here My Spirit's power filled you;
Here His tender comfort stilled you.
Go, My children, fed and nourished, Joyful and free.

Postlude..... In Thee Is Gladness
J. S. Bach

Gayle Morris
Chapel Organist

Congratulations Graduates!

Participants

Dr. Debbie M. Cottrell University President

Dean Kristi Gold Quiros Vice President and Dean of Student Life & Learning

Dr. Liliana Guerrero..... Vocalist, Director of Vocal Studies

Audrey Wren West Graduating Senior

Elise Nicole Gray Graduating Senior

Melissa Faith Cruz Graduating Senior

Thalia Rocha Sanchez Graduating Senior

Brooke Kalinec Chapel Technician

Madie LakeChapel Technician

Miranda Miguel Chapel Technician

Gayle Morris Chapel Organist

Jonathan Zitelman Director of Event Services

Katy Miles-Wallace, M. DivInterim Campus Pastor