

celebrating

50 YEARS OF
**Ordaining
Women** and the
Rev. Elizabeth Platz



**We Are Church,
We Are Called**

50•40•10



METRO D.C.
SYNOD



Delaware-Maryland Synod
Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod

CELEBRATION SERVICE

November 21 at 2:00 PM

Service of Celebration

50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women

November 21, 2020

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.

WELCOME/CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Southwestern PA Synod Bishop Kurt Kusserow

Welcome to worship through this recorded liturgy celebrating the 50th anniversary of the ordination of Pastor Beth Platz. Although this liturgy is in some sense a personal celebration of her five decades of service in the ministry of Word and Sacrament, this is also a celebration for our whole church as Pr. Platz was the first woman ordained in any of the Lutheran church bodies that together became the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

As bishop of Southwestern Pennsylvania, her first home synod, it is my joy to remember the ministry of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Carrick, where she was raised, and to thank God for the ministry of that congregation that sent two of its daughters into pastoral ministry. As a bishop of this whole church, it is also my joy to recall with you that our church's celebration of 50 years of women serving in pastoral ministry coincides with the 40th anniversary of the first woman of color ordained as a pastor in our church and the 10th anniversary of our decision to open the door more widely to people in same-gender relationships to serve as pastors in congregations of our church. We rejoice to mark these milestones together in this liturgy.

At the same time, in the very celebration of these historic moments that opened doors to public service in the church, we are mindful of how long the door to rostered ministry in our church has been closed to some who have heard God's call but have not been allowed to answer that call as they would have like.

To mark that hurt, and to enter into worship in humility and repentance as is our regular practice, let us begin with Confession and Absolution:

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

If we say we have no sin, that is, if we gather to join in celebration without recognizing the hurt that our actions have caused along the way, we deceive ourselves and miss the full truth of the Gospel. But if we name our sin, God who is faithful and just will lead us into genuine healing and reconciliation through the gift of repentance and forgiveness.

Let us pray:

Eternal God, we confess that we have sinned against you and against our neighbors in our thoughts and in our words and in our actions. We have not loved you as we ought; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves; we have not given full and faithful witness to the Gospel in our lives. **Have mercy on us.**

You have given us the good gift of creation, but we have plundered it for gain. **Have mercy on us.**

You have made us in your image, but we have divided ourselves against each other. **Have mercy on us.**

You have called many to labor in your vineyard, but we have looked with envy and disgust on your generosity and welcome.
Have mercy on us.

You have called your house a house of prayer for all people, but we have shut the door and told some, "You have no place here."
Have mercy on us.

You have made us stewards of your Gospel, but we have hidden your light of love and justice under a bushel basket. **Have mercy on us.**

Forgive us our sins, lead us into the pursuit of justice, truth and peace, and reconcile us to others and to yourself that we may live in the abundance of life you have provided for all the world through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord our God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. By grace we have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God reconcile us to each other by the power of the Holy Spirit and keep us one in faith and hope and love.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: “For All the Faithful Women” ELW 419



1 For all the faith - ful wom - en who served in days of old,
Insert one or more of stanzas 3–11 or this general stanza 2:
 2 O God, for saints and ser - vants, those named and those un - known,
Last All praise to God the Fa - ther! All praise to Christ the Son!



to you shall thanks be giv - en; to all, their stor - y told.
 in whom through all the a - ges your light of glo - ry shone,
 All praise to God the Spir - it, who binds the church as one!



They served with strength and glad - ness in tasks your wis - dom gave.
 we of - fer glad thanks-giv - ing and fer - vent prayer we raise
 With saints who went be - fore us, with saints who wit - ness still,



To you their lives bore wit - ness, pro - claimed your pow'r to save.
 that, faith - ful in your ser - vice, our lives may sing your praise.
 we sing glad al - le - lu - ias and strive to do your will.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923
 Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune
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GREETING

The Rev. Elizabeth Platz

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Most High God,
You know our whole truth, and you give us refuge in the shadow of your wings. Continue to raise up girls and women to serve Christ's church and strengthen all in the vocations to which you call us.
And at the last, gather us with Miriam and the saints to dance on the safe side of the sea, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, song, and prayers.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 42:5-9

Katie G.

“Thus says YHWH,
who created the heavens and spread them out,
who gave shape to the earth and what it produces,
who gave life to its peoples and spirit to its inhabitants;
I, YHWH, have called you to serve the cause of right;
I have taken you by the hand, and I watch over you.
I have appointed you to be a covenant people,
a light to the nations:
to open the eyes of the blind,
to free captives from prison,
and those who sit in darkness from the dungeon.
I am YHWH! This is my Name!
I will not yield my glory to another god
or my praise to idols!
See how former predictions have come true.
And now I declare new things!
Before they spring forth, I tell them to you.”

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:11-23

Alysa Cobb

Every other priest performs services every day and offers the same sacrifices many times; but these sacrifices can never take away sins. Christ, however, offered one sacrifice for sins, an offering that is effective forever. Then Christ sat down at the right hand of God, and now waits there until God puts all enemies in their rightful place. With one sacrifice then, Jesus has made perfect forever those who are being sanctified.

“The Holy Spirit also attests to this, first saying,

This is the Covenant I will make with them

When those days arrive,’ says our God:

‘I will put my laws into their hearts

And write them on their minds.’”

Then she adds,

“I will never again remember their sins or offenses.”

So when sins and evil deeds have been forgiven, an offering to take away sins is no longer needed.

Therefore, sisters and brothers, since the blood of Jesus makes us confident to enter the holy place by the new and living path opened for us through the veil – that is to say, the body of Jesus – and since we have the supreme high priest presiding over the house of God, let us enter it filled with faith and with sincerity in our hearts, our hearts sprinkled and cleared from any trace of bad conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us keep firm in the hope we profess, because the One who made the promise is faithful.

GOSPEL: John 21:1-19

The Rev. Franklin Morales/The Rev. Connie Miller

Later Jesus again was manifested to the disciples at Lake Tiberias. This is how the appearance took place. Assembled were Simon Peter, Thomas “the Twin,” Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, Zebedee’s children, and two other disciples. Simon Peter said to them, “I’m going out to fish.” “We’ll join you,” they replied, and went off to get into their boat.

All through the night they caught nothing. Just after daybreak, Jesus was standing on the shore, though none of the disciples knew it was Jesus. He said to them, “Have you caught anything, friends?”

“Not a thing,” they answered.

“Cast your net off to the starboard side,” Jesus suggested, and you’ll find something.” So they made a cast and caught so many fish that they couldn’t haul the net in. Then the disciple whom Jesus loved cried out to Peter, “It’s the Teacher!” Upon hearing this, Simon Peter threw on his cloak – he was naked – and jumped into the water.

Meanwhile, the other disciples brought the boat to shore, towing the net full of fish. They were not far from land – no more than a hundred yards. When they landed, they saw that a charcoal fire had been prepared, with fish and some bread already being grilled. “Bring some of the fish you just caught,” Jesus told them.

Simon Peter went aboard and hauled ashore the net, which was loaded with huge fish – one hundred fifty-three of them. In spite of the great number, the net was not torn.

“Come and eat your meal,” Jesus told them. None of the disciples dared to ask, “Who are you?” – they knew it was the Savior.

Jesus came over, took bread and gave it to them and did the same with the fish. This marked the third time that Jesus had appeared to the disciples after being raised from the dead.

When they had eaten their meal, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon ben-John, do you love me more than these?” Peter said, “Simon ben-John, do you love me more than these?” Peter said, “Yes, Rabbi, you know that I’m your friend.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

A second time Jesus put the question, “Simon ben-John, do you love me?” Peter said, “Yes, Rabbi, you know that I’m your friend.” Jesus replied, “Tend my sheep.”

A third time Jesus asked him, “Simon ben-John, do you love me as a friend would?” Peter was hurt because Jesus asked, “Do you love me?” a third time.

So he said, “You know everything, Rabbi. You know that I am your friend.”

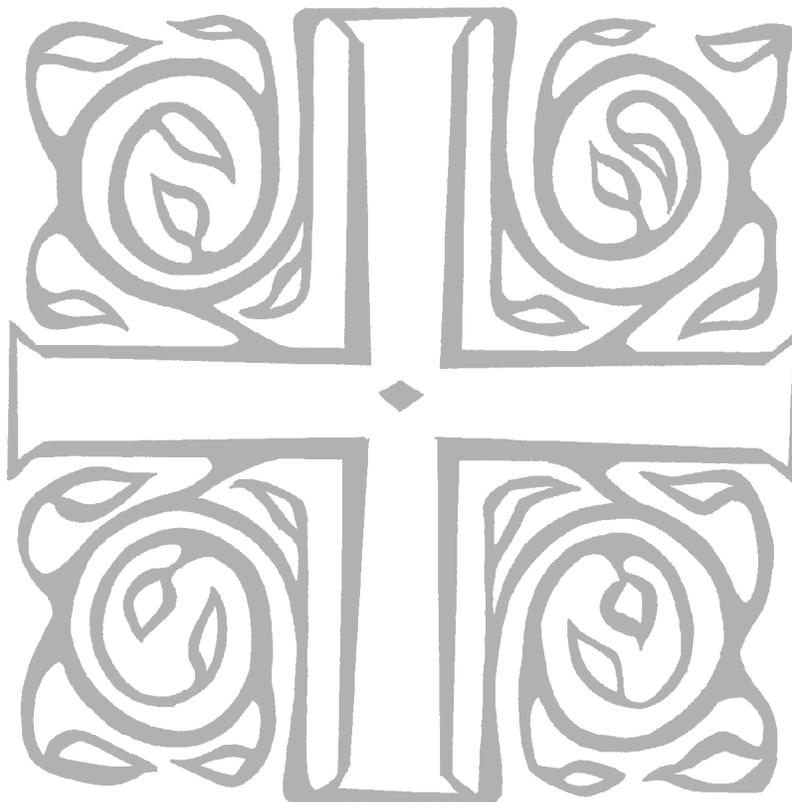
Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.
The truth of the matter is,
When you were young,
You put on your own belt
And walked where you liked;
But when you get old,
You will stretch out your hands
And someone else will put a belt around you
And take you where you don’t want to go”

With these words, Jesus indicated the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God.

Then the savior said, “Follow me.”

SERMON

ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton



HYMN OF THE DAY: "Lord Jesus You Shall Be My Song" ELW 808

1 *Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te;*
 1 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney;
 2 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
 3 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant,
 4 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my jour - ney;

Jé - sus, je vou - drais t'an - non - cer à mes voi - sins par - tout,
 I'll tell ev - 'ry - bod - y a - bout you wher - ev - er I go:
 May all of my joy be a faith - ful re - flec - tion of you.
 to car - ry your cross and to share all your bur - dens and tears.
 but cour - age will come with the sound of your steps by my side.

car toi seul es la vie et la paix et l'a - mour:
 you a - lone are our life and our peace and our love.
 May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
 For you saved me by giv - ing your bod - y and blood.
 And with all of the fam - 'ly you saved by your love,

Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te.
 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney.
 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant.
 we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our jour - ney.

Text: Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community; tr. Stephen Somerville, b. 1931
 Music: LES PETITES SOEURS, Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community
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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Secretary of the ELCA Deacon Sue Rothmeyer

*Following each petition, respond.... “Merciful God, **Receive our prayer**”*

OFFERING

The offering will go towards raising up new leaders in the Church by supporting the Elizabeth Platz Fund with Lutheran Campus Ministry at University of Maryland and the ELCA's Elizabeth Platz Fund For Leaders. Visit www.demdsynod.org/50th to donate. More details below.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. You have blessed us with our bodies, our minds, our hearts, our communities, and the resources of this earth. Lead us and guide us to use these gifts in accordance with your will, for the sake of the one who is with us to the end, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Holy One Jesus Christ,
We know that just as you are truly present in the sacrament of the Table so you are present as we reach out to one another in this time of separation. You are the center of all things and we long for you in our souls. As we cannot gather together at your table to receive you in the sacrament we pray, come and abide spiritually in our hearts. Grant that we may never fear that we are separated from you, from one another, from your creation, May we live in you and you in us so when the day comes when we may again come together at your table we come rejoicing.
In your Holy Name we pray. **Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in
heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the
time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom,
the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.
Amen.**

AFFIRMATION OF VOWS

DE/MD Synod Bishop Bill Gohl and Metro DC Synod Bishop Leila Ortiz

Siblings in Christ,
With bishops who shepherd, encourage, and support rostered ministers and congregations, with pastors who serve with faith to offer the hope of the sacraments and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, with deacons who faithfully engage our communities and connect the Church with the needs of the world, and with all who have been clothed with Christ in the waters of baptism, all baptized Christians are called to share in Christ's ministry of love and service in the world, to the glory of God and for the sake of the human family and the whole creation.

As we celebrate this 50th anniversary of the ordination of women, we invite all who wish to affirm their ordination and baptismal vows in the presence of God and the gathered Body of Christ.

Are you willing to be present, listen, pay attention and partner with others in the journey ahead? Are you willing to see Jesus in the other, to do justice, love mercy, walk humbly, and continue God's work of building community, making connections and deepening relationships?

Respond: **I am, and I ask God to help me.**

How God calls us may vary, but our faith roots us together by the gift of grace. This gift liberates us to not only share the Good News of Christ but to be a living witness of God's love in the world.

Affirmation of Ordination and Consecration

To those renewing your ordination and consecration vows,
The church in which you have been ordained confesses that the Holy Scriptures are the word of God and are the norm of its faith and life.

We accept, teach, and confess the Apostles', the Nicene, and the Athanasian Creeds.

We also acknowledge the Lutheran confessions as true witnesses and faithful expositions of the Holy Scriptures.

Do you affirm your call to preach and teach in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and these creeds and confessions? Do you affirm your diligence in your study of the Holy Scriptures and faithfulness in your use of the means of grace?

Respond: **I do, and I ask God to help me.**

Will you continue to pray for God's people, nourishing them with the word and sacraments, and lead them by your own example in faithful service and holy living?

Respond: **I will, and I ask God to help me.**

Do you affirm your faithful witness in the world, that God's love may be known in all that you do?

Respond: **I do, and I ask God to help me.**

Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the continued strength and compassion to perform them.

Affirmation of Baptism

To all who affirm your baptismal calls this day:

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word, God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response: **I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in
holy baptism:
to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?
Response: **I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

People of God,
Let us support one another as we live out our baptismal covenants,
encourage our rostered ministers in their ordination vows to serve
and feed, preach and teach, and pray for each other in the various
ways we have been called to serve in our life in Christ.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

SENDING HYMN: "You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore" ELW 817



1 Tú has ve - ni - do a la o - ri - lla, no has bus -
 1 You have come down to the lake - shore seek - ing
 2 You know full well what I have, Lord: nei - ther
 3 You need my hands, my ex - haus - tion, work - ing
 4 You who have fished oth - er wa - ters; you, the



ca - do ni a sa - bios ni a ri - cos; tan só - lo
 nei - ther the wise nor the wealth - y, but on - ly
 trea - sure nor wea - pons for con - quest, just these my
 love for the rest of the wea - ry— a love that's
 long - ing of souls that are yearn - ing: O lov - ing



quie - res que yo te si - ga.
 ask - ing for me to fol - low.
 fish nets and will for work - ing.
 will - ing to go on lov - ing.
 Friend, you have come to call me.

Refrain / Estribillo



Se - ñor, me has mi - ra - do a los o - jos; son - ri - en - do,
 Sweet Lord, you have looked in - to my eyes; kind - ly smil - ing,



has di - cho mi nom - bre. En la a - re - na he de - ja - do mi
 you've called out my name. . . . On the sand I have a - ban - doned my



bar - ca; jun - to a ti bus - ca - ré o - tro mar.
 small boat; now with you, I will seek oth - er seas.

Text: Cesáreo Gabaráin, 1936–1991; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946
 Music: PESCADOR DE HOMBRES, Cesáreo Gabaráin

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BLESSING

May the fire of God's love ignite our hearts.

May the courageous and visionary women whose shoulders we stand, continue to inspire us in our work.

May God draw us forth for justice and equality in our church and world.

May the love of Christ fill us and radiate through us forever.

In the name of the Divine Three-in-One+. **Amen.**

SENDING

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Amen.**

ADDITIONAL SERVICE MUSIC

Prelude/Postlude: *His Eye is on the Sparrow* arr. Mark Hayes

Offertory: *Untitled Hymn (Come to Jesus)* by Chris Rice

Krista Schumm, vocals

THE ELIZABETH PLATZ FUND FOR LEADERS

The offering today will go towards raising up new leaders in the church by supporting the Elizabeth Platz Fund with Lutheran Campus Ministry at University of Maryland and the ELCA's Elizabeth Platz Fund For Leaders.

Gifts can be made online through the Delaware/Maryland synod by visiting www.demdsynod.org/50th for more detailed instructions.

Gifts can be received through December 31, 2020.

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Acknowledgements

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Delaware/Maryland Synod Bishop Bill Gohl
Metropolitan D.C. Synod Bishop Leila Ortiz
The Rev. Elizabeth Platz
The Rev. Connie Miller
The Rev. Franklin Morales
Alysa Cobb, Reader
Katie G., Reader
Krista Schumm
Beth Cooler
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The Rev. Julie Bringman
The Rev. Richard Graham
The Rev. Ray Ranker
Dr. Nicole Roop
Deacon Kyle Warfield

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We also extend our thanks to:
UMD Lutheran Campus Ministry
DE/MD Synod
Metropolitan DC Synod

“CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF ORDAINING WOMEN”

Moderators and Panelists

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The Rev. Dr. Karis Graham
The Rev. Sarah Scherschligt
The Rev. Jeanette Surita
The Rev. Dr. Andrea Walker
Jennifer Slagle Peck, Moderator

WORD AND SERVICE PANELISTS

Deacon Nancy Gable
Deacon Deb Haynes
Deacon Kim Hintzman
Deacon Darcy Mittelstaedt
Deacon Sue Rothmeyer
Sister Anne Hall, Moderator

BISHOPS PANELISTS

Bishop Patricia Ann Curtis Davenport
Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton
The Rev. Dr. Guy Erwin
Bishop Bill Gohl
Bishop Leila Ortiz
The Hon. Yolanda Tanner, Moderator

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