



Ordination of Coleman Geraci

July 7, 2019 + 5:00 pm

Immanuel Lutheran Church +
Seymour, IN

WELCOME to this service of worship on the occasion of the ordination to the Holy Ministry of candidate Coleman Geraci. Immanuel is honored to host this service for Coleman, who served as a vicar here from 2017-2018. A reception for the Geracis will follow the service in the Fellowship Hall.

+++ THE ORDER OF VESPERS INCLUDING ORDINATION +++

THE WELCOME

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN: "Thy Strong Word"

Hymn 578

- 1 Thy strong word did cleave the darkness; At Thy speaking it was done. For created light we thank Thee, While Thine ordered seasons run. Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send! Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!
- 2 Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness, Dark as night and deep as death, Broke the light of Thy salvation, Breathed Thine own life-breathing breath. Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send! Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!
- 3 Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous; Bright with Thine own holiness, Glorious now, we press toward glory, And our lives our hopes confess. Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send! Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!
- 4 From the cross Thy wisdom shining Breaketh forth in conqu'ring might; From the cross forever beameth All Thy bright redeeming light. Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send! Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!
- 5 Give us lips to sing Thy glory, Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim, Throats that shout the hope that fills us, Mouths to speak Thy holy name. Alleluia, alleluia! May the light which Thou dost send Fill our songs with alleluias, Alleluias without end!
- 6 God the Father, light-creator, To Thee laud and honor be. To Thee, Light of Light begotten, Praise be sung eternally. Holy Spirit, light-revealer, Glory, glory be to Thee. Mortals, angels, now and ever Praise the holy Trinity!

THE OPENING VERSICLES, PAGE 229

- L** O Lord, open my lips,
- G** and my mouth will declare Your praise.

- Ⓔ Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
- Ⓕ **make haste to help me, O Lord.**
- Ⓖ **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. Praise to You, O Christ. Alleluia. Praise to You, O Christ. Alleluia.**

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Ephesians 4:1-8, 11-16

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

L: O Lord, have mercy on us. C: Thanks be to God

1 Timothy 4:6-16

If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed. Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. Practice these things, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.

L: O Lord, have mercy on us. C: Thanks be to God

Luke 10:1-20

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say,

‘Peace be to this house!’ And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick in it and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, ‘Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.’ I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town. “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. But it will be more bearable in the judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You shall be brought down to Hades. “The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me.” The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!” And he said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

L: O Lord, have mercy on us. C: **Thanks be to God**

THE HYMN: “Sing My Tongue, the Glorious Battle”

Hymn 454

- 1 Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle; Sing the ending of the fray.
Now above the cross, the trophy, Sound the loud triumphant lay;
Tell how Christ, the world’s redeemer, As a victim won the day.
- 2 Tell how, when at length the fullness Of the appointed time was come,
He, the Word, was born of woman, Left for us His Father’s home,
Blazed the path of true obedience, Shone as light amidst the gloom.
- 3 Thus, with thirty years accomplished, He went forth from Nazareth,
Destined, dedicated, willing, Did His work, and met His death;
Like a lamb He humbly yielded On the cross His dying breath.
- 4 Faithful cross, true sign of triumph, Be for all the noblest tree;
None in foliage, none in blossom, None in fruit thine equal be;
Symbol of the world’s redemption, For the weight that hung on thee!
- 5 Unto God be praise and glory; To the Father and the Son,
To the eternal Spirit honor Now and evermore be done;
Praise and glory in the highest While the timeless ages run.

THE SERMON: Rev. Larry Peters, Grace Lutheran Church, Clarksville, Tennessee

THE RITE OF ORDINATION

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

C: Amen

P: Beloved in the Lord, Coleman Geraci has been called by the Lord of the Church into the Office of the Holy Ministry of the Word and Sacraments. He has been prepared for this ministry by careful study and prayer. He has been examined and declared ready and prepared to undertake this sacred responsibility, and by the guidance of God the Holy Spirit, he has in the church's usual order been called to be Pastor at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Milan, Michigan, and St. Thomas Lutheran Church, Ann Arbor, Michigan. According to apostolic practice, he is now presented to be ordained and consecrated to this office established by God.

Please kneel. We pray: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful people and kindle in them the fire of Your love. Through the diversity of tongues You gathered the nations in the unity of the faith. Alleluia, alleluia.

O Lord God, heavenly Father, by the blessed light of Your holy Word You have led us to the knowledge of Your Son. We humbly implore You to replenish us with the grace of Your Holy Spirit that we may ever walk in the light of Your truth and, rejoicing with sure confidence in Christ, our Savior, be brought to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

THE HYMN: "Come Holy Ghost, Creator Blest" Hymn 498

- 1 Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest, And make our hearts Your place of rest;
Come with Your grace and heav'nly aid, And fill the hearts which You have made.
- 2 To You, the Counselor, we cry, To You, the gift of God Most High;
The fount of life, the fire of love, The soul's anointing from above.
- 3 In You, with graces sevenfold, We God's almighty hand behold
While You with tongues of fire proclaim To all the world His holy name.
- 4 Your light to ev'ry thought impart, And shed Your love in ev'ry heart;
The weakness of our mortal state With deathless might invigorate.
- 5 Drive far away our wily foe, And Your abiding peace bestow;
With You as our protecting guide, No evil can with us abide.
- 6 Teach us to know the Father, Son, And You, from both, as Three in One
That we Your name may ever bless And in our lives the truth confess.
- 7 Praise we the Father and the Son And Holy Spirit, with them One,
And may the Son on us bestow The gifts that from the Spirit flow! Amen.

Dear friends in Christ, hear what Holy Scripture says concerning the Institution of the Office of the Holy Ministry: (**Scripture is read by attending pastors.**)

Hear what Holy Scripture says concerning the Responsibilities of the Office of the Holy Ministry: (**Scripture is read by attending pastors.**)

Hear what Holy Scripture says concerning the Strength and Promise in the Office of the Holy Ministry: (**Scripture is read by attending pastors.**)

P: Dear brother in Christ, may the Lord grant that you receive and keep these words in your heart so that you may be strengthened and encouraged in your labors.

God gathers His Church by and around His Holy Gospel and thereby also grants it growth and increase according to His good pleasure. That this may be done, He has established the Office of the Holy Ministry into which you have been called by the Church and are now to be ordained and consecrated by prayer and the laying on of hands.

P: In the presence of this congregation and before the Lord God to whom you must give an account now and at the Last Day, I now ask you:

Do you acknowledge that the Lord has called you through His Church into the ministry of Word and Sacrament?

R: *I do.*

P: Do you believe and confess the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice?

R: *Yes, I believe and confess the canonical Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice.*

P: Do you believe and confess the three Ecumenical Creeds, namely, the Apostles', the Nicene, and the Athanasian Creeds, as faithful testimonies to the truth of the Holy Scriptures, and do you reject all the errors they condemn?

R: *Yes I believe and confess the three Ecumenical Creeds because they are in accord with the Word of God. I also reject all errors they condemn.*

P: Do you confess the Unaltered Augsburg Confession to be a true exposition of Holy Scripture and a correct exhibition of the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church? And do you confess that the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Small and Large Catechisms of Martin Luther, the Smalcald Articles, the Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope, and the Formula of Concord – as these are contained in the Book of Concord – are also in agreement with this one scriptural faith?

R: *Yes, I make these Confessions my own because they are in accord with the Word of God.*

P: Do you promise that you will perform the duties of your office in accordance with these Confessions, and that all your preaching and teaching and your administration of the Sacraments will be in conformity with Holy Scripture and with these Confessions?

R: *Yes, I promise, with the help of God.*

P: Will you faithfully instruct both young and old in the chief articles of the Christian doctrine, will you forgive the sins of those who repent, and will you promise never to divulge the sins confessed to you? Will you minister faithfully to the sick and dying, and will you demonstrate to the Church a constant and ready ministry centered in the Gospel? Will you admonish and encourage people to a lively confidence in Christ and in holy living?

R: *Yes, I will, with the help of God.*

P: Finally, will you honor and adorn the Office of the Holy Ministry with a holy life? Will you be diligent in the study of Holy Scripture and the Confessions? And will you be constant in prayer for those under your pastoral care?

R: *I will, the Lord helping me through the power and grace of His Holy Spirit.*

P: [Jesus said:] “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” John 20:21-23

P: Coleman Geraci, I ordain and consecrate you to the Office of the Holy Ministry of the Word and Sacraments in the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: The Lord Jesus pour out on you His Holy Spirit for this office and work that you may faithfully preach the Gospel and administer the Sacraments. Amen.

The assisting pastors each in turn lay their hands on the newly ordained, adding an appropriate blessing or passage from the Word of God.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

P: Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray...

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.

THE VESTING (The red stole placed over Rev. Geraci symbolizes the yoke of service to Christ that he is to share with fellow pastors by the power of the Holy Spirit.)

THE PRESENTATION OF THE REVEREND COLEMAN GERACI

P: Beloved in the Lord, Holy Scripture says, “Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.”

Will you, the faithful, according to the Church's public confession, and speaking for the whole Church receive Coleman Geraci as a servant of Christ and minister of Word and Sacrament? If so, then answer: "We will."

C: We will.

Stand

P: Let us pray,

O Eternal, merciful God, You have spoken through Your own dear Son, saying that the harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few and that we should ask You, the Lord of the harvest, to send laborers into Your harvest. Hear now our prayer of behalf of Coleman, who this day is ordained and consecrated to be your minister in the Church. Strengthen him mightily to take up the Word of truth and to faithfully administer Your Holy Sacraments.

O Lord Jesus Christ, our great High Priest, You gave Your own life to be a holy and perfect sacrifice for us and for our salvation. Grant Coleman a heart zealous for Your people and boldness to guide, comfort, admonish, and serve Your congregation with gentleness and wisdom. Fill him, Your under-shepherd, with Your love that in Your name he will seek the straying and bear up the weak. Give him the heart never to grow weary in the service of Your flock.

O Holy Spirit, strengthen and keep Coleman in the word of truth and life, and support him in every time of trouble and distress. Make his labors fruitful and, when the day of labor is ended, grant him to come rejoicing before Your presence with all the saints his portion of eternal salvation.

To You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all glory and honor, both now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE BLESSING

P: Go, therefore, and be a shepherd of the Good Shepherd's flock. Preach the Word of God; administer the Sacraments; offer prayer for all the faithful; instruct, watch over, and guide the flock among which the Holy Spirit has placed you. Do it not for earthly gain but with great joy, for you have been called not to lordship but to serve his flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

C: Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR PEACE, Page 233

C: Amen

THE BENEDICAMUS AND BLESSING, Page 234

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

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

C: Amen.

THE RECESSIONAL HYMN: “We Praise You and Acknowledge You” Hymn 941

- 1 We praise You and acknowledge You, O God, to be the Lord, The Father everlasting, by all the earth adored. To You all angel powers cry aloud, the heavens sing, The cherubim and seraphim their praises to You bring: “O holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; Your majesty and glory fill the heavens and the earth!”
- 2 The band of the apostles in glory sing Your praise; The fellowship of prophets their deathless voices raise. The martyrs of Your kingdom, a great and noble throng, Sing with the holy Church throughout all the world this song: “O all-majestic Father, Your true and only Son, And Holy Spirit, Comforter – forever Three in One!”
- 3 You, Christ, are King of glory, the everlasting Son, Yet You, with boundless love, sought to rescue ev’ryone: You laid aside Your glory, were born of virgin’s womb, Were crucified for us and were placed into a tomb; Then by Your resurrection You won for us reprieve – You opened heaven’s kingdom to all who would believe.
- 4 You sit in splendid glory, enthroned at God’s right hand, Upholding earth and heaven by forces You command. We know that You will come as our Judge that final day, So help Your servants You have redeemed by blood, we pray; May we with saints be numbered where praises never end, In glory everlasting. Amen, O Lord, amen!

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Please join us for a reception in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the service.

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Serving in Worship

<i>Crucifer</i>	<i>Vicar Tyler Werner, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Seymour, IN</i>
<i>Liturgist</i>	<i>Rev. Philip E. Bloch, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Seymour, IN</i>
<i>Lector</i>	<i>Rev. James A. Rodriguez, Jr., Immanuel Lutheran Church, Seymour, IN</i>
<i>Preacher</i>	<i>Rev. Larry Peters, Grace Lutheran Church, Clarksville, TN</i>
<i>Officiant</i>	<i>Rev. Ralph Blumenberg, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Seymour, IN</i>
<i>Area Clergy</i>	<i>Reading of Scripture, Laying on of Hands</i>

About the Cover

The bulletin cover art work is a watercolor illustration by Patti Miller. The piece depicts the means by which God offers His gifts of grace and forgiveness to all people. These gifts, which are His Holy Word, depicted by the open book, His Holy Supper, depicted by the chalice and Chi Rho, which is a monogram of Christ, and the rolling waves, depicting Holy Baptism, are the gifts our Lord will entrust to Pastor-elect Geraci as He enters into the ministry as a Shepherd and overseer of God’s flock. The hands depict the laying on of hands in the ordination service. The golden stairway

leads up towards the gifts and also depict a pulpit from which the Gospel shall be preached. It rises up from the title of today's hymn, "Sing my Tongue." The piece is set within the framework of a cross draped with a stole, which reminds us and Pastor-elect Geraci that the work set before him is a call to take on the yoke of the cross, the yoke of service as a minister of God's Word.

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On behalf of Rachel, Ana, and myself, I would like to thank all of you who attended today's service and rite of Ordination. But more importantly, I want to thank you for the love and support you have given to my family and me throughout this adventure. What began as a thought and desire when I was a young boy, God has brought to fruition here. And God did it through His Means of Grace and through His people.

The journey from being a High School teacher, to Special Forces Medical Sergeant, to Seminarian, and continuing to ordination and installation has been a wonderful one. God has gifted me along the way with so many blessings: encouraging and supportive friends and family; wise and caring mentors; and, the two most important people in my life: my beautiful, intelligent, compassionate (and patient!) wife Rachel and our precious young daughter, Augustana Ruth.

Furthermore, this journey would not have been possible without the love and support of Christ's church. Specifically, the congregations of Grace Lutheran, Immanuel Lutheran, and Hope Lutheran (St. Louis) have been instrumental in forming me through the pastors faithfully delivering God's Word and gifts and the congregations' outpouring of love and support to my family and me. God has been, is, and always will be faithful to His people and He demonstrates that even now through the love of Christ shown through your lives.



Rachel, Ana, and I are excited to continue this journey in Milan, MI, where I will be installed as Pastor at St. Paul's Lutheran in Milan, MI, and St. Thomas Lutheran outside Ann Arbor, MI. Please pray for God's continued wisdom and guidance as I am charged with faithfully proclaiming God's Word and administering His gifts to His people in those congregations. May He continue to nurture the faith He has given to all of us and continue to bring forth His Kingdom through His Word and Sacraments.

— Rev. Coleman Geraci