**The Installation Service of**

**Pastor Joel Suckow**

*Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church Wausau, WI*

*Sunday, July 19, 2020 - 2:00 pm*

AS WE GATHER

*The Lord invites believers to take part in his kingdom work. What a joy and privilege it is for us to work in his harvest fields, to witness the power of the Spirit, and to support this ministry! And what a blessing the Lord gives us through the work of pastors, who have been rightly called by God through the Church into the office of the holy ministry.*

*Today we install Joel Suckow, a shepherd (the word pastor means “shepherd”) of the Good Shepherd, as the pastor of this congregation.*

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

*Merciful God, we humbly implore you to cast the bright beams of your light upon your Church that we, being instructed by the doctrine of the blessed apostles, may walk in the light of your truth and finally attain to the light of everlasting life. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

**ORDER OF SERVICE**

**RINGING OF THE BELLS AND PROCESSIONAL**

**GREETING**

**OPENING HYMN** **– CW 234**  *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!**

**INVOCATION**

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

**C: Amen.**

**DIALOGUE** *(Scripture selections in NIV)*

M: In Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith,

**C: For all of us who were baptized into Christ have clothed ourselves with Christ.** *(Galatians 3:26-27)*

M: Live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

**C:  We will make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.**

M: There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called;

**C: One Lord, one faith, one baptism;**

M: One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

**C: But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.**

M: So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service,

**C: So that the body of Christ may be built up**

M: Until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.  *(Ephesians 4:1-7,11-13)*

**C: How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!** *(Psalm 133:1)*

M: Praise the LORD, all you servants of the LORD who minister by night in the house of the LORD.

**C: Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and praise the LORD.** *(Psalm 134:1-2)*

**HYMN OF PRAISE – CW 559** *Lord of the Living Harvest*

**Lord of the living harvest That ripens o’er the plain,**

**Where angels soon will gather Their sheaves of golden grain,**

**Accept our hands to labor, Our hearts to trust and love,**

**And be with us to hasten Your kingdom from above.**

**Be with us, God the Father; Be with us, God the Son**

**And God the Holy Spirit, Most blessed Three in One.**

**Make us your faithful servants You rightly to adore,**

**And fill us with your blessing Both now and evermore.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

M: Almighty God, look with favor on those whom you have called to minister to your people. Fill them with faithfulness to your doctrines, and clothe them with holiness of life, that they may joyfully serve to the glory of your name and for the benefit of your Church; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**+ THE WORD +**

**First Lesson**                             *Jeremiah 1:4-10 (EHV)*

*God gives Jeremiah a call, a mission, and a promise.*

The word of the Lord came to me. 5 Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, and before you were born, I set you apart. I appointed you to be a prophet to the nations. 6 But I said, “Ah, Lord God! I really do not know how to speak! I am only a child!” 7 The Lord said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a child.’ You must go to everyone to whom I send you and say whatever I command you. 8 Do not be afraid of them, because I am with you, and I will rescue you, declares the Lord.” 9 Then the Lord stretched out his hand and touched my mouth. The Lord said to me: There! I have now placed my words in your mouth. 10 Look, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and to tear down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.

**Second Lesson** *1 Peter 5:1-4 (EHV)*

*An encouragement and promise to Christ’s under-shepherds*

Therefore, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and as one who also shares in the glory that is about to be revealed, I appeal to the elders among you: 2 Shepherd God’s flock that is among you, serving as overseers, not grudgingly but willingly, as God desires, not because you are greedy for money but because you are eager to do it. 3 Do not lord it over those entrusted to your care, but be examples for the flock. 4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive an unfading crown of glory.

**Holy Gospel** *Matthew 9:35-10:5a (EHV)*

*What is ministry? Who does it?*

*It is preaching the gospel, by Jesus, and by those he sends*

Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness. 36 When he saw the crowds, he was moved with compassion for them, because they were troubled and downcast, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. 38 Therefore pray that the Lord of the harvest will send out workers into his harvest.” **10:1** Jesus called his twelve disciples to himself and gave them authority to drive out unclean spirits and to heal every disease and every sickness. 2 These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James the son of Zebedee and his brother John; 3 Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; 4 Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. 5 Jesus sent these twelve out.

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

**Apostles’ Creed**

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**SERMON HYMN – CW 546** *Lord Jesus, You Have Come*

***Sing:* ♫ Lord Jesus, you have come**

**A teacher sent from heaven**

**And both word and deed**

**God’s truth to us have given.**

**You wisely have ordained**

**The holy ministry**

**That we, your flock, may know**

**The truth that sets us free.**

*Meditate:*

*O blessed ministry Of reconciliation,*

*That shows the way to God And brings to us salvation!*

*Lord, by your gospel pure, You bless and keep your fold;*

*You call, enlighten, keep; You comfort and uphold.*

***Sing:* ♫ Bring those into your fold**

**Who still to you are strangers;**

**Guard those who are within**

**Against offense and dangers.**

**Press onward with your Word**

**Till pastor and his fold**

**Through faith in you, O Christ,**

**Your glory shall behold.**

**SERMON** *Colossians 2:6-7 (EHV)*

Therefore, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to walk in him, 7 by being rooted and built up in him, and strengthened in the faith just as you were taught, while you overflow in faith with thanksgiving.

**“Continue to Walk in Christ”**

**HYMN – CW 544** *Preach You the Word*

*Meditate: Preach you the Word and plant it home*

*To those who like or like it not,*

*The Word that shall endure and stand*

*When flow’rs and mortals are forgot.*

*Though some be snatched and some be scorched*

*And some be choked and matted flat,*

*The sower sows; his heart cries out,*

*“Oh, what of that, and what of that?”*

***Sing:* ♫ Preach you the Word and plant it home**

**And never faint; the Harvest-Lord**

**Who gave the sower seed to sow**

**Will watch and tend his planted Word.**

**+ INSTALLATION +**

**INTRODUCTION**

*(Scripture selections taken from the Evangelical Heritage Version)*

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ said to his Church: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and gather disciples from all nations by baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and by teaching them to keep all the instructions I have given you. And surely I am with you always until the end of the age.” *(Matthew 28:18-20)*

Holy Scripture assures us that our risen and ascended Lord will always provide the Church with the gifts necessary to carry out this commission. The apostle Paul wrote to the Ephesians: He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things. He himself gave the apostles, as well as the prophets, as well as the evangelists, as well as the pastors and teachers, for the purpose of training the saints for the work of serving, in order to build up the body of Christ.”   *(Ephesians 4:10-12)*

**EXHORTATION TO THE PASTOR-ELECT**

Dear brother in Christ, this congregation has called you to serve in the office of the holy ministry. It is good that you should hear again what God in his Holy Word impresses on his pastors concerning this sacred office.

St. Paul states that a pastor “It is necessary, then, for the overseer to be above reproach, the husband of only one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not a violent man but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. It is necessary that he manage his own household well, with all dignity making sure that his children obey him…. In addition, he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he may not fall into disgrace and the Devil’s trap.” *(1 Timothy 3:2-4, 7)*

He urged Timothy to “be an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity. Until I come, devote yourself to the reading of Scripture, to encouraging, and to teaching. … Pay close attention to yourself and to the doctrine. Persevere in them, because by doing this you will save both yourself and those who listen to you.”  *(1 Timothy 4:12-13, 16)*

In the final chapter of his second letter to Timothy, the apostle gives additional words of encouragement: “Preach the word. Be ready whether it is convenient or not. Correct, rebuke, and encourage, with all patience and teaching. As for you, keep a clear head in every situation. Bear hardship. Do the work of an evangelist.” (*2 Timothy 4:2,5)*

As a minister of the gospel, you are Christ’s ambassador, commissioned by him to preach the Word and administer the sacraments. Our ascended Lord has given you as a gift to his body, the Church, and he has appointed you to love and serve it. You are called to offer prayers and intercessions for his people, to feed, to instruct, to watch over, and to guide the sheep and the lambs of God’s flock, remembering that Christ has bought each of them with his own blood. You are also called to protect the flock from savage wolves, who, as the Scriptures say, will try to scatter it. *(Acts 20:28, 29)*

For such a ministry you will gladly seek the strength which Christ alone can provide by devoting yourself to meditation and study of the Scriptures. Only by being nourished in the truths of the faith will you be able to carry out the duties of this office and to set an example in godliness and Christian living. *(2 Timothy 3:14-17)*

The ability to carry out this calling is not in us but comes alone from God, as St. Paul reminded the Corinthian Christians: “Not that we are competent by ourselves to claim that anything comes from us; rather, our competence is from God.” *(2 Corinthians 3:5)*

**PROMISES BY THE PASTOR-ELECT**

M:  In keeping with the Word and will of the Lord, you are to be the pastor at Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church, Wausau, Wisconsin. I ask you in the presence of God and this congregation:

Are you fully determined to carry out this work according to the grace which God will give?

*I am.*

M: Do you believe that the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments are the inspired Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice?

*I do*.

M: Do you accept the three ecumenical Creeds – the Apostles’, the Nicene, and the Athanasian – as faithful testimonies to the truth of the Holy Scriptures, and do you reject all the errors which they condemn?

*I do.*

M: Do you believe that the Unaltered Augsburg Confession is a true exposition of the Word of God and a correct presentation of the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and that the other confessions in the Book of Concord are also in agreement with this one scriptural faith: The Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Small and Large Catechisms of Martin Luther, the Smalcald Articles, and the Formula of Concord?

*I do.*

M: Do you solemnly promise that all your teaching and your administration of the sacraments will conform to the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions?

*I do.*

M: Will you give faithful witness to Christ in the world that God’s love may be known in all that you do and say?

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

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

**EXHORTATION TO THE CONGREGATION**

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ, you have heard the solemn promise given by the one you have called to be your pastor.  I urge you, therefore, to receive him as your pastor and to keep in mind always what the Word of God expects of you as members of his flock:

* Listen eagerly to the preaching of the Word, receiving it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the Word of God. *(1 Thessalonians 2:13)*
* Take to heart his scriptural words of warning and encouragement, humbly accepting the Word planted in you. *(James 1:21)*
* Work together with him for our Lord’s kingdom so that by your works of service the body of Christ might be built up. *(Ephesians 4:12)*
* Help him by your word and example in teaching the young, remembering how the Scriptures urge you to bring up your children in the training and instruction of the Lord. *(Ephesians 6:4)*
* Honor and love him, as the apostle Paul says: “Respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work.” *(1 Thessalonians 5:12-13)*
* Pray for him continually, that his ministry among you may be greatly blessed and that with all his responsibilities, he may continue to have a cheerful spirit. *(1 Thessalonians 5:17)*
* Provide also for his physical needs, for the Lord says, “The worker deserves his wages,” and the apostle Paul says, “Anyone who receives instruction in the Word must share all good things with his instructor.” *(Luke 10:7; Galatians 6:6)*
* Finally, remember what the Scriptures say: “Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls as men who will give an account. Obey them, so that they may do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no benefit to you.” *(Hebrews 13:17)*

**PROMISE BY THE CONGREGATION**

M: I now ask you in the presence of God: Are you willing to receive your pastor as a minister of God? Will you give him the love, honor, and obedience in the Lord, which you owe to a shepherd and overseer placed over you by the Lord Jesus Christ, the chief Shepherd and overseer of souls? If so, answer: We will, and we ask God to help us.

**C: We will, and we ask God to help us.**

M: The almighty and merciful God strengthen and assist you always.

**INSTALLATION**

M: Pastor Joel Suckow, I install you as pastor at Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord pour out on you his Holy Spirit for the work committed to you, that you may faithfully proclaim the gospel in Word and sacraments.

*The pastor-elect kneels*

**LAYING ON OF HANDS**

*Pastors in attendance may speak an appropriate Bible passage and blessing.*

*The newly installed pastor stands.*

**PRAYER**

M: Let us pray: O Lord God, heavenly Father, you are the one who sends out pastors to serve your holy Church; yet they will be unable to do this unless you give them power from on high. Fill your servant, Joel Suckow, with your Holy Spirit. Lead and guide him with your strong right hand, that he may faithfully carry out the ministry entrusted to him and so bring glory to your name and blessings to your people, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**BLESSING UPON PASTOR JOEL SUCKOW**

M: Go, then, take up the work to which you have been called.

The Lord bless you and make you a blessing to many, that you may bear fruit and that your fruit may remain to eternal life.

**HYMN – CW 542** *Dear Lord, To Your True Servants Give*

**Dear Lord, to your true servants give**

**The grace to you alone to live,**

**Set free from sin to serve you, Lord,**

**They go to share your living Word,**

**The gospel message to proclaim**

**That all may know your saving name.**

**+ SENDING +**

**PRAYER**

M: O Lord, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who has also taught us to pray:

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**C: 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

**BLESSING**

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

   The Lord bless you and keep you.

   The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

   The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN – CW 561** *Lord, Speak to Us that We May Speak*

***Sing:* ♫ Lord, speak to us that we may speak**

**In living echoes of your tone.**

**As you have sought, so let us seek**

**Your straying children, lost and lone.**

**♫ Oh, fill us with your fullness, Lord,**

**Until our very hearts o’erflow**

**In kindling thought and glowing word**

**Your love to tell, your praise to show.**

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**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Liturgist and Installer: Pastor Jon Hadler, St. Matthew, Marathon

Preacher: Pastor Glenn Seefeldt, Grace, Ringle

Organist: Mrs. Marie Kurth, Our Savior, Wausau

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A drawing of a face

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