



**OUR SAVIOR'S MORAVIAN CHURCH
ALTURA, MINNESOTA**

website: oursaviorsmoravian.org 



March 20th, 2021

Consecration service for Rev. Gregory M Behrend

The Purpose of this Church shall be to glorify God in adoration, Love and service as God's missionary to our community, our nation, and our world, bearing witness to God's redeeming grace in Jesus Christ."

Watchword for the Week: By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. Ephesians 2:8

Prelude

Welcome Kay Ward, Bishop of the Unity

Greetings and Call to Worship Betsy Miller, PEC President

Responsive Prayer of Adoration

We praise you, O God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer; your saving work shines through all the ages.

You have never turned away from us, even when we have turned away from you; but in your covenant of salvation, you call us through the law and the prophets to be your holy people.

We thank you for fulfilling your covenant through the eternal ministry of Jesus Christ, our only Lord and Savior.

Christ freely accepted our human nature to live, teach, suffer, die and rise again for the forgiveness of sins, that we might share in eternal life.

We thank you for the ministry committed by Christ to the whole church to proclaim the gospel.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, you call each of us into the church and empower us to make the saving work of Christ visible on earth.

We thank you that you call individuals from among us to the ordained ministry of Word and Sacrament.

They serve us to lead, strengthen, challenge, and nourish our ministry together in Christ.

Especially on this day, we thank you for your call to Greg and for his dedication to serve your name.

To you be glory, praise, adoration, and thanksgiving, both now and forever. Amen

Reflective Hymn *Jesus Still Lead On* #799

Scripture Text Psalm 139:1-14

O LORD, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

O Lord, you have known us in the past but you also know us right now, this very minute. You know what we are doing - you know what we are thinking!

You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely.

You make a way for us to go – you make us lie down in green pastures. You know where we are going. You know what we are going to say.

You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

We are like toddlers who trust those who care for them. You set boundaries to keep us safe. It's hard for us to believe that you do this for us.

Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

How can we get away from you? Whether we are in heaven or hell, you are there with us.

If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.

Even if we try to fly away, you hold us. You do not let go. Each one of us matters to you.

If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night, even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

We know who we are and we are certain that we will fall into despair and darkness but you break through to us and become our light.

For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

You know us because you made us. You created us. Every moment of our life we should praise you for the people we are. We are wonderfully made. We are your beloveds! That we know very well. Amen.

Scripture Text

John 13:1-20

Sermon

Loving and Serving

The Consecration Service

The following hymn was written for the ordination of the first Moravian ministers in 1467.

*Come, let us all with gladness raise a joyous song of thanks and praise
To God who rules the heav'nly host, God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
God gave us faithful ones to lead and help us in our time of need, But Lord, all
pow'r is yours alone, and you the work must carry on. Father in heav'n, fulfill
your word; grant us the Spirit of our Lord, That through your truth which cannot
fail, we may o'er ev'ry ill prevail.*

**Representatives stand while the representative of the Provincial Elders'
Conference addresses the bishop.**

Bruce: On behalf of the Northern Province of the Moravian Church, the Provincial Elders' Conference requests that Greg Behrend be consecrated as Presbyter. We believe this deacon has shown himself to be sound in doctrine and faith and has

demonstrated a sincere intention to serve Christ and the Church through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Kay: In response to your request, it is my joy to carry out this ministry of consecration on behalf of the whole church.

The candidate reaffirms his ordination vows.

Greg, do you reaffirm the solemn promise, which you made at ordination as a deacon?

I do.

Do you trust that you have been brought by divine grace to know Jesus Christ as your Savior?

This is my humble trust.

Do you believe in the truth of the Old and New Testament, as inspired by the Holy Spirit?

I do.

Do you freely accept the obligations of an ordained minister to study, pray, care for souls, teach, preach and administer the sacraments in Christ's church?

I freely accept them.

Do you accept the commission to evangelize and give witness to the saving grace which is found in Jesus Christ?

I do.

Do you solemnly promise, as you serve in our Unity, to give obedience to the faith and order of the Moravian Church as these are formulated under scripture and the Holy Spirit by our Synods and constituted authorities?

I solemnly promise obedience to them.

The bishop addresses the congregation.

Brothers and sisters, as representatives of the Body of Christ, will you uphold, affirm, and encourage Greg in this ministry? If this is your desire, please answer and say, **"We will."**

Kay: In the presence of God and this congregation I acknowledge these testimonies with gratitude and praise to our Savior.

Prayer of Consecration

The following hymn has been used at ordinations in the Christian Church since the 9th century. Following the prayer of consecration, there will be a period of silence for you to offer your silent prayers for Greg and Amy and for this congregation.

In Our Worship Service Today

Presiding Bishop: Rt. Rev. Dr. Kay Ward
Pastor to be Consecrated: Rev. Gregory M Behrend
PEC President: Rev. Dr. Betsy Miller
PEC Representative and District President: Rev. Bruce Nelson
Clergy Representative: Rev. Jason Andersen
Laity Representative: Amy Behrend
Deacon Supervisor: Rev. Dr. Jenny Moran

*Come Holy Ghost, our souls inspire, and lighten with celestial fire;
Thou the anointing Spirit art, who doest Thy seven-fold gifts impart.
Thy blessed unction from above is comfort, life and fire of love.
Enable with perpetual light the dullness of our blinded sight.
Anoint our heart and cheer our face with the abundance of Thy grace.
Keep far our foes; give peace at home; where Thou art Guide no ill can come.
Teach us to know the Father, Son, and Thee, of Both, to be but one;
That through the ages all along, thy praise may be our endless song.*

Let us continue in prayer: Eternal God, in wisdom you govern all things, and from the beginning you have chosen faithful people to serve you in ministry, calling some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip all your people for the work of ministry and for the building up of the Body of Christ. Now bless and sanctify, by your Holy Spirit, your servant Greg, whom we, in your name and in obedience to your will, by prayer and with the blessing of my hands, consecrate for the ministry of the church.

Eternal God, through your son, Jesus Christ, pour out your Holy Spirit upon Greg: fill him with grace and power, and make him a presbyter in your church.

O Lord, give to this servant the grace and power needed to serve you in this ministry. Bless his proclamation of the word and administration of your sacraments so that your church may be gathered for praise and strengthened for service. Make him a wise pastor, a patient teacher, and a faithful witness. Grant that in all things he may serve without reproach, that your people may be renewed, and that your name may be glorified in the church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen

Silence

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you;
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.
In the name of Jesus. Amen

The officiating bishop offers a personal charge.

Reflective Hymn *Though I May Speak With Bravest Fire*

Benediction Gregory Behrend

Postlude

A Word of Thankfulness

Words cannot attest to the humility in which today brings for me. In some ways, today is a great milestone that marks a moment of affirmation for my life as a servant to others. At the same time, today is simply a turn of the page in the book of my life. As I reflect on the pages that have been written over the years, I find myself incredibly grateful for the many, many, many people who have journeyed with me over the years. Those who have stood with me through all the highs and the lows of life.
THANK YOU!

I especially want to thank my beloved partner Amy Behrend for her tender heart and constant love. I want to thank my family and loved ones who have helped shape me in wonderful ways. I also want to thank all of the members of Our Savior’s Moravian Church and friends that we have made in the Altura area community. You all have shown a great deal of love and support to a young pastor and his little family over these past 4 years. You have helped shape me in ways I could never have imagined. **THANK YOU!**

As I ponder the blank pages of the book of my life that are still to be written, I am filled with hope, and with joy. Holy God be near to me and give me the grace to walk with humility and love each day. Fill my heart with joy for the path that you have placed before me. Remind me daily that you are near to be always and forevermore. Amen.