



Ordained to Serve

COLTER ADAM KNIPPA
JULY 1, 2018

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 15:5-6

THE WELCOME

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Stand

THE GATHERING HYMN

“Thy Strong Word”

#578, vv. 1-2, 4-6

Thy strong Word did cleave the darkness;
At Thy speaking it was done.
For created light we thank Thee,
While Thine ordered seasons run.

Refrain

Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia without end!

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. *Refrain*

From the cross Thy wisdom shining,
Breaketh forth in conqu'ring might;
From the cross forever beameth
All Thy bright redeeming light. *Refrain*

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. *Refrain*

God the Father, light-creator,
To Thee laud and honor be.
To Thee, Light of Light begotten,
Praise be sung eternally.
(refrain) Holy Spirit, light-revealer,
Glory, glory be to Thee.
Mortals, angels, now and ever
Praise the holy Trinity!

THE ANNOUNCEMENT AND INVOCATION

ASSISTING MINISTER (A): Friends in Christ, Colter Adam Knippa has been called by Jesus Christ, the Lord of the Church, into the Office of the Holy Ministry. 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 of Zion Lutheran Church in North Highlands, California. We are all gathered here on behalf of the whole Church around the world to give our blessing in presenting him, according to the apostolic practice, to be ordained and consecrated to this office that has been established by God. It is the Lord who gathers us here under the name in which He received us into His Church through the waters of baptism, in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

CHURCH (C): Amen.

THE RESPONSIVE PRAYER

A: We pray:

Lord Jesus Christ, You became human in order to give your life so that we now live through faith,

C: and You defeated death for us by rising from the dead.

A: Thank You for calling us to trust in You through Your life-giving Word.

C: Thank You for calling us to be Your people, the Church gathered around Your promises.

A: Thank You for assuring us with Your gifts of Word and Sacraments.

C: Thank You for giving us pastors to deliver those gifts and to lead us in faith.

A: Bless all pastors such that they faithfully build up Your Church in truth,

C: and embolden all believers to serve others and to proclaim Your good news as You send us out into the world. *Sit*

SERVICE OF THE WORD

GOSPEL HYMN

“Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen” #474, vv. 1-3

Alleluia! Jesus is risen!
Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever!
Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

Refrain:

Jesus is risen and we shall arise:
give God the glory! Alleluia!

Walking the way, Christ in the center,
telling the story to open our eyes;
breaking our bread, giving us glory:
Jesus, our blessing, our constant surprise. *Refrain*

Jesus the vine, we are the branches;
life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;
heaven to earth, Christ to the people,
gift of the future now flowing to me. *Refrain*

HOLY SCRIPTURE

Romans 15:5-6

⁵ May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶ that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

SERMON HYMN “Christ the Eternal Lord” #829, vv. 1, 3, 5

Christ the eternal Lord,
whose promise here we claim,
whose gifts of grace are freely poured
on all who name your Name;
with thankfulness and praise
we stand before your throne,
intent to serve you all our days
and make your glory known.

Christ the redeeming Son
who shares our human birth,
and by his death salvation won
for every child of earth;
inspire our hearts, we pray,
to tell your love abroad,
that all may honor Christ today
and follow him as Lord.

Christ the ascended King
exalted high above,
whose praise unending ages sing,
whom yet unseen we love;
when mortal life is past
your voice from heaven's throne

shall call your children home at last
to know as we are known.

SERMON

RITE OF ORDINATION

NICENE CREED *Stand*

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

ORDINATOR (O): The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

O: Let us pray.

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.

C: Amen.

SCRIPTURAL INSTRUCTION REGARDING THE OFFICE OF THE HOLY MINISTRY

O: Hear what Holy Scripture says concerning the institution of the Office of the

Holy Ministry.

Ephesians 4: 11-13 - ¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ 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.

John 20:21-23 - ²¹ Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

O: Hear what Holy Scripture says concerning the responsibilities of the Holy Ministry.

1 Peter 5:2-4 - ² Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; ³ not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

1 Corinthians 4:1-2 - This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed. ² Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

1 Timothy 3:1-7 - Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task. ² Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³ not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. ⁴ He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect. ⁵ (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God’s church?) ⁶ He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. ⁷ He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil’s trap.

1 Timothy 4:1-5 - The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. ² Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. ³ They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. ⁴ For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, ⁵ because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.

O: Hear what Holy Scripture says concerning the strength and promise God gives to those in the Office of the Holy Ministry.

2 Timothy 3: 14-17 - ¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for

salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Acts 20:32 - ³² “Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

VOWS & ORDINATION

O: Dear brother in Christ, 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.

In the presence of this congregation and before our 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?

Colter: I do.

O: 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?

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

O: 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 which they condemn?

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

O: Do you confess the Unaltered Augsburg Confession to be the 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 Concord¹— are also in agreement with this one scriptural faith?

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

¹ The documents listed above were written by leaders of the Lutheran Reformation during the 16th century. They summarize the Christian faith as it is taught by the Scriptures and the early Church. We name these writings in this service because we believe they remain helpful as we hold that same Christian faith today. They guide pastors in their preaching and teaching, and help all Christians understand the heart of the Gospel. The commitment made here unites us with all other Christians who believe, teach, and confess this same apostolic faith. These documents are published together in one volume known as the Book of Concord.

O: 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?

Colter: Yes, I promise with the help of God.

O: Will you faithfully instruct both young and old in the chief articles of 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 the people to a lively confidence in Christ and in holy living?

Colter: Yes, I will, with the help of God.

O: 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?

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

O: Jesus said: "Peace be to 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."

Colter Adam Knippa, I ordain and consecrate you to the Office of the Holy Ministry of the Word and Sacraments in the one, holy, Christian, and apostolic Church, in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

O: 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.

LORD'S PRAYER *Stand*

O: Please stand as you are able. Everyone is invited to extend your hands outward in blessing toward Colter as we all pray the prayer our Lord taught us.

C: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

RESPONSIBILITY & BLESSING OF THE CHURCH

O: 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 Colter as a servant of Christ and minister of Word and Sacrament? If so, then answer: We will.

C: We will. We give thanks to God for raising up this servant for Christ’s people, and we commend him to the whole Church to support and to heed as one authorized in Jesus’ name to publicly proclaim God’s Word and to administer Christ’s sacraments. May the Word of Law from his mouth convict all souls toward repentance, and may the Word of Good News from his mouth assure all souls of reconciliation with the Father through the blood of Christ. May he know the Holy Spirit’s strength and blessing on his ministry wherever he goes.

PRAYER FOR THE PASTOR

O: O eternal, merciful God. You have spoken through Your own dear Son, saying that the harvest is plentiful but the laborers few and that we should ask You, the Lord of the harvest, to send laborers into Your harvest. Hear now our prayer on behalf of Colter, 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 faithfully to 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 Colter a heart zealous for Your people and boldness to guide, comfort, admonish, and serve Your congregation with gentleness and wisdom. Fill him, Your undershepherd, 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 Colter 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 with rejoicing before Your presence to receive with all the saints his portion in eternal salvation.

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

C: Amen.

Sit

ORDINATION HYMN “Send, O Lord, Your Holy Spirit”

#681

Send, O Lord, Your Holy Spirit
On Your servant now, we pray;
Let him prove a faithful shepherd
That no lamb be led astray.
Your pure teaching to proclaim,

To extol Your holy name,
And to feed Your lambs, dear Savior,
Make his aim and sole endeavor.

You, O Lord, Yourself have called him
For Your precious lambs to care;
But to prosper in his calling,
He the Spirit's gifts must share.
Give him wisdom from above,
Fill his heart with holy love;
In his weakness, Lord, be near him,
In his prayers, Good Shepherd, hear him.

Help, Lord Jesus, help him nourish
All our children with Your Word
That in fervent love they serve You
Till in heav'n their song is heard.
Boundless blessings, Lord, bestow
On his faithful toil below
Till by grace to him is given
His reward, the crown of heaven.

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Each petition will conclude with “let us pray to the Lord.”

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

SENDING THE CHURCH

BLESSING

Dear brothers and sisters, we are God’s people. His Son Jesus has purchased us with the blood He shed at the cross, He has called us through His Word to trust in His promises, He has secured new life for us by rising from the dead, and He promises to return on the last day to completely restore us with the rest of His creation. As we wait for Christ to return, He sends us out into the world to serve the people around us, particularly by telling them what good things God in Christ has done for them, and He sustains us with the life-giving gifts that Jesus gives when His people gather together. As we together launch into the mission on which Christ is sending us, please join hands, as is the custom of Bethany Lutheran Church, and hear the blessing that God first gave to Aaron with which to bless you, His people:

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN:

“O Church Arise”

O church, arise, and put your armor on;
Hear the call of Christ our captain.
For now the weak can say that they are strong
In the strength that God has given.
With shield of faith and belt of truth,
We'll stand against the devil's lies.
An army bold, whose battle cry is love,
Reaching out to those in darkness.

Our call to war, to love the captive soul,
But to rage against the captor;
And with the sword that makes the wounded whole,
We will fight with faith and valor.
When faced with trials on every side,
We know the outcome is secure.
And Christ will have the prize for which He died:
An inheritance of nations.

Come, see the cross, where love and mercy meet,
As the Son of God is stricken;
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet,
For the Conqueror has risen!
And as the stone is rolled away,
And Christ emerges from the grave,
This victory march continues till the day
Ev'ry eye and heart shall see Him.

So Spirit, come, put strength in every stride;
Give grace for every hurdle.
That we may run with faith to win the prize
Of a servant good and faithful.
As saints of old, still line the way,
Retelling triumphs of His grace,
We hear their calls, and hunger for the day
When with Christ we stand in Glory.

You are invited to join Colter and his family in the lobby for a time of fellowship and refreshment.

Serving Today

Assisting Ministers: Reverends Martin Danner and Todd Liefer, Bethany Austin

Reverend Matt Behrens, Cornerstone Church, Buda

Reverend Pete Mueller, ACTS Church Lakeway

Reverend Ted Doering, Narrative Church, Round Rock

Proclaimer: Rev. Dr. Peter Nafzger, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri

Ordinator: Rev. Dr. William Knippa, Bethany Austin

Musicians: David Angerman, Minister of Music, Bethany Austin

Kimberly Angerman, Minister of Music, Bethany Austin

Trumpet—Daniel Najera, Jay Marshall

Trombone—Derek Woods, Glen Alexander

Timpani—Mike Ingber

The Journey To Ministry

Colter was born on February 18, 1985 to Gary and Carroll Knippa, who raised him the middle of three sons here in Austin. Then, on March 24, 1985, the most defining event in Colter's life happened when he was baptized in the name of Jesus. In those waters, Jesus delivered the forgiveness of sins, gave His Holy Spirit, and adopted Colter into God's royal family (Acts 2:38; Galatians 3:26-27).

Growing up, he enjoyed tennis, exploring the outdoors, Boy Scouts (ultimately attaining the rank of Eagle), and was well connected with the life of Bethany Lutheran Church. In fact, Colter first expressed interest in being a pastor in ninth grade shortly after beginning Bethany's confirmation program (an intensive two-year training in Christian doctrine and life). Since then, the repeated and unsolicited affirmations from other Christians toward pastoral ministry have meant a great deal to him.

Therefore, after graduating from Westlake High School in 2004, Colter moved to Orange County, California to pursue pre-seminary studies at Concordia University in Irvine. He soon added the Director of Christian Education program to his course load, seeing its value for congregational ministry. In these college years, he also orchestrated a new small group ministry at Concordia, served four summers on staff at Camp Lone Star (the Church camp outside La Grange, Texas that also played a formative role in his childhood and youth), took an exchange semester at Concordia University in Chicago, and spent a summer alongside missionaries in Kazakhstan. Colter then wrapped up his university career in a yearlong youth ministry internship with a church plant, Light of Life Lutheran Church in Indio, California starting in 2009. There he encountered valuable paradigms of mission and ministry, particularly for churches that operate without their own building.

The Church called Colter to serve for a longer term in Kazakhstan, and so hundreds of stateside partners sent him with their prayers and other support in 2010. For three years, he taught English at beginner as well as university levels and served to build up Christians in the Faith. He savored Kazakh hospitality, delighted in exploring local culture, helped raise up a handful of Church leaders, and enjoyed meaningful conversations with countless treasured friends. A couple families even asked Colter to serve as godfather to three children and as bellybutton father (a special part of Kazakh family life) to one.

As he saw doors closing in Kazakhstan, he prepared to continue his formal training through Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri, starting Fall 2013. After two years of study, the Seminary assigned him a vicarage (a pastoral internship) with Woodbury Lutheran Church in Woodbury, Minnesota for one phenomenal year of deeper ministry exposure. He then accepted an invitation to study with Westfield House in Cambridge, England for a blessed year of academic and cultural enrichment. Finally, Colter returned to St. Louis for his concluding year of Seminary, during which he headed up the Students in Mission organization on campus.

Along the way, God also provided Colter adventures in Mexico, El Salvador, Manitoba, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, India, Kashmir, Morocco, France, Scotland, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Czech Republic, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Israel, and Palestine.

Now Colter would greatly appreciate your prayers as he eagerly looks forward to the new adventure of mission and ministry with Zion Lutheran Church in North Highlands, California (Sacramento area). If you are interested in receiving occasional prayer updates from Colter, send an email with subject line "Praying for Colter" to knippac@zionlutherannh.org. You may also reach him at:

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