

Sunday, April 26, 2026

Installation Service

Service of Holy Communion
United in Faith Lutheran Church



INTRODUCTION

Installation is a meaningful rite in the life of the church in which a pastor is publicly called and placed into their role within a specific congregation or ministry setting. In the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, installation reflects the shared understanding that ministry is rooted in both God's call and the mutual relationship between the pastor and the people they serve. This rite marks the beginning of a new chapter of partnership in the gospel, emphasizing support, accountability, and shared mission.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

The minister begins at their seat.

WELCOME

The minister moves to the font.

UIF Member:

Welcome to United in Faith! Whoever you are, wherever you come from, whatever you believe or doubt, you are welcome here. Your presence strengthens the presence of Christ among us and we're glad to have you with us today. I am _____ and I am _____ here at United in Faith. Rev. Dr. Wyvetta Bullock will be presiding over worship this afternoon and Rev. Sunitha Mortha will be leading the Rite of Installation.

In 1998, eight congregations, Gladstone Park, Holy Communion, Medill, Nebo, Our Lord's, Our Savior, Peace, and St. Andrew's, took a leap of faith and merged into one new community.

Now, more than 25 years later, we welcome a pastor whose own journey has been equally bold: from advertising and communications to Lutheran Disaster Response to seminary, following a call that came through the laying on of hands by women of color who saw in her the gift of pastoral ministry. Pastor Sharei brings her gifts as an author and chaplain to a congregation that has always been willing to take risks for the sake of the gospel.

Please rise in body or spirit and let us begin by acknowledging the land on which we gather.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As we begin our worship, we are mindful that as we gather here, we are on the historic lands of the Ojibwe, Odawa, Peoria, Potawatomi, Myaamia, Hoocak, Menominee, Kickapoo, Meskwaki, Sauk, Iowa, Otoe, Inoka, Missouriia and Sakawir peoples.

May we honor the people of this land. May we remember that the oppression of Native people is not a relic of the past but continues today.

Through God's Spirit, we repent and walk forward together, changing systems that discriminate as we live into authentic diversity and healing.

GATHERING HYMN – All Are Welcome (ELW 641)

GREETING

Presiding minister:

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

Presiding minister:

Let us pray.

God of bended knee, we kneel before you. We thank you for showing us what it means to live out our vocation not for recognition or personal gain, but out of deep humanity. Grant us compassion for all who suffer, that our callings would affirm the dignity of the excluded and oppressed. Keep us from shallow, self-centered callings, and as we discern our vocation, give us awareness of the weeping of our neighbor and the groans of creation, that we may understand our calling in relationship to others and their needs. Protect those called to serve, that they retain empathy without being overwhelmed, and teach us to care for ourselves as we care for those in our midst.

Amen.

*Prayer adapted from
Black Liturgies by Cole Arthur Riley*

WORD

FIRST READING – Isaiah 42:5-9

The assembly may be seated

Reader:

A reading from Isaiah.

⁵ Thus says God, the Lord,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:

⁶ I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness;

I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
⁷ to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
⁸ I am the Lord; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.
⁹ See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING – 2 Timothy 4:1–5

Reader:

A reading from 2 Timothy.

¹ In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ² proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching. ³ For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound teaching, but, having their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. ⁵ As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly may rise in body or in spirit.



GOSPEL – Mark 10:35-45

Preacher:

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁵ James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." ³⁶ And he said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?" ³⁷ And they said to him, "Appoint us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." ³⁸ But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" ³⁹ They replied, "We are able." Then Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized you will be baptized, ⁴⁰ but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to appoint, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

⁴¹ When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. ⁴² So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. ⁴³ But it is not so among you; instead, whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON – Rev. Wyvetta Bullock

The assembly may be seated.

A brief silence for reflection following the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY – Here I Am, Lord (ELW 574)

The assembly may rise in body or spirit to sing.

RITE OF INSTALLATION

PRESENTATION

The assembly may rise in body or spirit. Pastor Sharei and a representative of the Church Council come before Pastor Sunitha Mortha.

Pastor Sunitha Mortha:

Having been authorized by the church to install Sharei Green, our co-worker in the gospel, as Pastor of United in Faith Lutheran Church, I now ask for certification of this call.

Council Representative:

After prayerful deliberation, we, of United in Faith Lutheran Church, have called Sharei Green to serve as a minister of word and sacrament in the position of Pastor. I present her and this letter certifying the call.

The representative gives the letter certifying the call. The assembly is seated.

INTRODUCTION

Pastor Sunitha Mortha:

A reading from John: Jesus said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." 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."

ADDRESS AND QUESTIONS

A reading from Matthew:

Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)

A reading from First Timothy:

Set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Attend to the public reading of scripture, to exhorting, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you through prophecy with the laying on of hands by the council of elders. Put these things into practice, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; continue in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers. (1 Timothy 4:12-16)

QUESTIONS TO PASTOR SHAREI

Pastor Sunitha Mortha: Sharei, in the presence of this assembly will you commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility, in the confidence that it comes from God through the call of the church?

Pastor Sharei: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Pastor Sunitha Mortha: Will you preach and teach in accordance with the holy scriptures and with the confessions of the Lutheran church? Will you carry out this ministry in harmony with the constitutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America?

Pastor Sharei: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Pastor Sunitha Mortha: Will you be diligent in your study of the holy scriptures and faithful in your use of the means of grace?

Pastor Sharei: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Pastor Sunitha Mortha: Trusting in God's care, will you love, serve, and pray for God's people, nourish them with the word and sacraments, and lead them by your own example in faithful service and holy living?

Pastor Sharei: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Pastor Sunitha Mortha: Will you give faithful witness in the world, that God's love may be known in all that you do?

Pastor Sharei: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Pastor Sunitha Mortha:

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

Amen.

QUESTIONS TO THE ASSEMBLY

The assembly stands.

Pastor Sunitha Mortha:

People of God, will you receive Sharei as a messenger of Jesus Christ sent to serve all people with the gospel of hope and salvation? Will you regard her as a servant of Christ and a steward of the mysteries of God?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Will you pray for her? Will you help and honor her in carrying out this ministry? In all things, will you strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Pastor Sunitha Mortha:

Sharei Green, the office of Pastor of United in Faith Lutheran Church is now committed to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

BLESSING

Pastor Sharei may kneel. Pastor Sunitha may lay one hand on her head.

Pastor Sunitha Mortha:

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will, working in you that which is pleasing in God's sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever.

Amen.

Pastor Sharei stands. The congregation may extend hands of blessing.

WELCOME

Pastor Sunitha Mortha:

People of God, I present to you Pastor Sharei Green, your Pastor.

Let us welcome her in the name of Christ.

The assembly may offer acclamation with applause, music, or spoken response.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

Living Savior, just as you journeyed with the disciples to Emmaus, accompany us on our journey of faith. Gather us at your table, that we recognize you in the breaking of the bread. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Almighty God, you provide for the needs of all creation. Bless the fields that are being prepared for planting, and send favorable weather so that the soil may yield an abundant harvest. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

God of justice, where leaders abuse power, confront them and call them to repentance. Where there is corruption, bring integrity; where there is violence, sow peace. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Healing Savior, your resurrection brings hope to a hurting world. Heal those who are sick. Strengthen the weary, give courage to the despairing, and comfort the dying. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Gracious One, you have made us your own through the gift of baptism. Unite us in genuine love for one another and uphold this community in your name. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

People of God, for what else do we pray?

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Eternal Light, we give thanks for (*Olavus Petri, Laurentius Petri and*) all who have nurtured your church's life in ages past. Bring us at last with them to the brightness of your glorious presence. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

Presiding Minister:

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

At the Peace, Pastor Sharei assumes the role of presiding minister for the remainder of the service, leading the congregation through the prayers, offering, Holy Communion, and the sending.

MEAL

OFFERING

The presiding or assisting minister invites people to offering:

Now it's time for the offering. We'll be passing the offering plates or if you prefer to give digitally, a link to give can be found on our website.

We gather our offerings—money, resources, skills, time, and gifts—so that all may have enough. In this Easter season, we gather them in celebration of new life and resurrection, trusting that the good news is alive in the world. Let us bring forth our gifts as signs of that living hope among us.

The minister(s) move to the table.

OFFERING SONG

Selection by Bethel Choir

OFFERTORY – Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Offering is brought forward when the music starts

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

OFFERING PRAYER

The assembly may rise in body or spirit.

Presiding Minister:

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

Presiding Minister:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, Lord God of pow-er and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-
san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Presiding minister:

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
you have brought us this far along the way.

In times of bitterness you did not abandon us,
but guided us into the path of love and light.
In every age you sent prophets
to make known your loving will for all humanity.
The cry of the poor has become your own cry;
our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire.
In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant
to preach good news to the afflicted,
to break bread with the outcast and despised,
and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection,
we await the day when Jesus shall return
to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death.
Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

Amen.

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate,
to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup
with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world.
Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

Amen.

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age,
that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection,
we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son.
Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Presiding minister:

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our (Father/ Mother/ Parent), 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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Presiding minister:

We practice an open communion which means that you don't have to be a member of our church, or believe a certain thing, or be a certain age in order to come. **Everyone** is welcome to the table, which is set by God.

Communion is by intinction only. We offer wine and juice, as well as gluten-free wafers and uncontaminated juice for those who are gluten-free. We also have sealed communion available for anyone who prefers it for health or personal reasons.

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION

The assembly may be seated. Follow the direction of the ushers for communion.

LAMB OF GOD – ELW p. 174

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The assembly may rise in body or spirit.

Presiding minister:

Let us pray.

Gracious God,

loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, and imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

Presiding Minister:

Receive this blessing:

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG – The Lord Now Sends Us Forth: Enviado soy de Dios (ELW 538)

During the singing, the minister(s) process to the back, following the flame.

DISMISSAL

Assisting minister:

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

