



*O blessed, holy Trinity,
Divine, eternal Unity,
O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
This day Your name be
uppermost.*

*My Maker, hold me in Your
hand;
O Christ, forgiven let me stand;
Blest Comforter, do not depart;
With faith and love enrich my
heart.*

*Lord, bless and keep me as Your
own;
Lord, look in kindness from Your
throne;
Lord, shine unfailing peace on
me
By grace surrounded; set me free.*

LSB 876: 1, 4, 5



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“Good morning, good evening!”

Dear friends in Christ,
We passed a gratifying milestone since I last wrote. As our students progress through the curriculum (which is itself a work-in-progress), they are beginning to apply in practice what they have been learning. This past month, we have heard a number of them preach at our online Monday Vespers service. It has been just great to watch them and listen to them! The sermons we have heard were from last semester’s homiletics (sermon-writing) course and mark a significant step forward in the students’ journey to serving as Lutheran preachers.



Mushtaq preaching

What is especially gratifying is that our student preachers are men who have been with us for some time, so that we have become close. Most recently, our student preacher was Mushtaq Masieh, one of our B.Th. students whom I first met (online) when we offered our exploratory course about theology 3+ years ago. At the time we had folks taking the course in time zones ranging from California to Pakistan. As a result, Mushtaq has always greeted us from the start with a cheery “Good morning! Good evening!” to include everyone—it has become almost an opening liturgy between us.

Like his fellows who have also served as student preachers, Mushtaq’s preaching was winsome in its sincerity and directness. His text was the Gospel for Lent 2A—Nicodemus’ visit to Jesus in John 3. Sitting in front of his computer, he gave us a solid message of Law and Gospel that rose above the limitations of

our online situation. It was good to be there.

The students have been rotated into the Monday service every other week. In between their preaching, members of the faculty preach. Because the student sermons are from last semester, the texts aren’t always in sync with the Church season in which we are hearing them. We have listened to a Christmas sermon in February and an Epiphany sermon in Lent. Nonetheless, each preacher has preached the Word “in season and out of season” (not *quite* St. Paul’s point to Timothy, 2 Tim 4:2!) and has done so well.

When Pr. Davis Wowa, one of our African pastors taking courses with us, preached for us, he gave a vivid demonstration of maintaining pastoral focus and concentration. Davis’s Zoom connection froze several times while he was preaching. But when he “unfroze,” he adroitly picked up right where the interruption had happened—even if in mid-sentence—and went on with the sermon to its completion.

We give thanks to our Lord for these men and hold them up in prayer. May the Lord continue to guide, guard, and bless them in their preparation as preachers of the Word!

☞: Good morning!
☞: Good Evening!

-Charles ✝



Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Verse for Lent
Joel 2:13

Throughout Lent, it is our prayer for you that you may be blessed with renewal and solemn joy in the contemplation of Jesus.

Please pray for the faculty, students, and staff of the Rīga Luther Academy, especially

Shan
Mushtaq
Davis

Give thanks for our safe travel and that of

David
Quintin
John

May the Lord, our Rock, our Fortress, and our Deliverer be with you and yours as we continue in Lent.

SOLI DEO GLORIA

WITNESS ALWAYS



And what about...?

I'd like to give a brief update on a potpourri of activities and persons connected with the Luther Academy, Rīga, and my service in the Eurasia region.

The normal duties and activities I am involved in have gone on over the past month. I still spend quite a bit of time either online or preparing to go online teaching or facilitating the Academy's worship.

Our faculty group meets every Monday (morning for me; for the rest, it is afternoon). We recently welcomed back to his home location in Rīga our dean of students, Rev. Dr. Quintin Cundiff. He recently spent 4 weeks in India at Concordia Seminary, Nagercoil. During that time, he still met with us via Zoom from India, but we see him now with the familiar background of his Rīga home behind him.

My colleague in Romania, Rev. Dr. David Preus, helps coordinate and assess the student preaching I wrote about on p. 1; both he and Dr. Cundiff have served our goals and the students well in progressing in the art of sermon writing and preaching.

Our students need your prayers as we are now in the stage of making applications for visas to visit Latvia for those who need them so that they may attend the upcoming "Intensive" course in June. This is the main opportunity we have as an Academy community to gather face-to-face for study, worship, and general fellowship. We will be in Mazirbe, Saldus, and Rīga for our gathering.

Rev. Leif Camp was my colleague when I was in St. Petersburg, Russia. Leif was recently in Latvia to meet with the Academy about cooperation with the Ingrian institute of theology in Kolbino, Russia. Prof. Jerry Lawson, now in Rīga but formerly from Kolbino, was able to host Leif and pass on greetings to him from us. We keep the Ingrians in prayer, especially during the turbulent times involving Russia and Ukraine.

My TH200 class, *Overview of the Bible*, is just finishing the Old Testament portion of the curriculum and, after an examination, will move on to the New Testament portion. Because of events I reported last month, there is only one student enrolled in TH200: Shan. He is faithfully online each Monday for our lectures which begin for him around 9:30 pm and conclude at midnight! Your prayers for Shan are asked and much appreciated.

- Charles ✚

THANK YOU

Please know how grateful Connie and I are for all which you, our supporters, friends, and "pray-ers" do so faithfully and consistently as our partners in the Gospel work of helping to form Lutheran pastors through our efforts with the Rīga Luther Academy. We have never had to wonder if we would have what is needed for our work and living. That is a tribute to the love of Christ and His Gospel that is in all of you. May the Lord bless you in and through it all!

Charles and Connie



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