

**Thursday, May 17, 2018 + 11:15am**

Memorial Service for Rev. Dr. Vítor Westhelle

Service of Eucharist

The Rev. Drs. Klaus-Peter Adam, Kathleen Billman,  
José David Rodríguez, & Barbara Rossing, *Co-Presiders*  
Erin Coleman Branchaud, Rev. Erik Christensen, Francisco Herrera, *Musicians*

Rev. Gunthoti Manoj Kumar, *Lector*  
Gretchen Freese, Mangasa Parlindungan, & Benjamin Taylor,  
*Communion Assistants*

Ramona Acevedo & Jeffery Meyers, *Ushers*

Josh Evans, *Crucifer & Sacristan*

Sharayah Robinson, *Bread Baker*



**Lutheran School of  
Theology at Chicago**

*CALLED INTO THE WORLD*

Service items  
marked with an  
asterisk "\*"   
indicate that you  
may rise, in body  
or spirit.

A note from Dr. Westhelle's Family:

*This gathering is a memorial service in celebration of Vítor Westhelle's life, not a funeral. His body was donated for cancer research, and his eyes have already been donated to two recipients, giving sight to people so that they can "see the world in a new way."*

*The family welcomes all to the luncheon of Brazilian food and pot-luck food, to share stories, photos and memories. Vítor loved gatherings with family and friends around food, and Vítor loved to cook. Both events are being live-streamed to Brazil, where Vítor taught.*

**WELCOMES**

President James Nieman & Carlos Westhelle

**\*INTRODUCTION**

**P** Welcome in the name of Jesus, the Savior of the world.  
We are gathered to worship, to proclaim Christ crucified and risen, to remember before God our brother, Vítor, to give thanks for his life, to commend him to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

**\*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

**P** When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life.  
For if we have been united with him in a death like his,  
we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth, who formed us from the dust of the earth, who by your breath gave us life, we glorify you.

**C** We glorify you.

P Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who suffered death for all humanity, who rose from the grave to open the way to eternal life, we praise you.

C **We praise you.**

P Holy Spirit, author and giver of life, the comforter of all who sorrow, our sure confidence and everlasting hope, we worship you.

C **We worship you.**

P To you, O blessed Trinity, be glory and honor, forever and ever.

C **Amen.**

**\*GATHERING SONG** “*Memento Novo/In this New Moment,*”  
(See Insert)

*Soloist sings verse 1 in English; then all sing v. 1 in English,  
v. 2 & v. 3 may be sung in any language.*

**\*GREETING**

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**PSALM**

Psalm 23  
*Read in Unison*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup>He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;

<sup>3</sup>he restores my soul.

*This hymn was written by a group of Brazilian composers and theologians who gathered in 1983 to explore inculturated approaches to evangelism. Vítor used this hymn often in his work with the Pastoral Land Commission in Matelandia, organizing landless people in Brazil.*

He leads me in right paths  
for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff —  
they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
my whole life long.

**FIRST READING**

1 John 3:2

**L** A reading from 1 John.

<sup>2</sup>Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

**L** Word of God, Word of Life.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**\*GOSPEL**

Mark 9:1-2

**P** The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

**C** Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>2</sup>[Jesus] said to them, "Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see that the

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**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY**      “Pues si vivimos/*When We Are Living,*”  
  (ELW 639)  
*verses 1 & 3 in Spanish, verse 2 in English*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*The assembly is invited to recite the Apostle's Creed in the language of their choosing.*

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Each set of petitions will conclude with: "God of mercy, Receive our prayer."*

**\*PEACE**

**\*GREAT THANKSGIVING / GRAN PLEGARIA EUCARÍSTICA**

**\*DIALOGUE / DIÁLOGO**

**P** El Señor sea con ustedes.

**C** Y también contigo.

**P** Elevemos los corazones.

**C** Al Señor los elevamos.

**P** Demos gracias al Señor nuestro Dios.

**C** Es justo darle gracias y alabanza.

**\*PREFACE / PREFACIO**

**\*SANCTUS/SANTO**

San - to, san - to, san - to, es el Se - ñor,  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . God,

Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to, es el Se - ñor.  
God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.

San - to, san - to, san - to, san - to, es el Se - ñor,  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . God,

Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to, es el Se - ñor.  
God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.

(Continued on next page)

Ho - san - na en el cie - lo, ho - san - na en la  
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na here on

tie - rra. Ben - di - to el que vie - ne en el  
earth. . . . . Blest is he who comes in the

nom - bre del Se - ñor. Ho - san - na en el  
name . . . of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

cie - lo, ho - san - na en la tie - rra. Ben -  
high - est, ho - san - na here on earth. . . . .

di - to el que vie - ne en el nom - bre del Se - ñor.  
Blest is he who comes in the name . . . of the Lord.

### \*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE / PLEGARIA EUCARÍSTICA

P...Great is the mystery of faith.

**C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

This re-  
imagination of  
the Lord's  
Prayer, by  
Deanna A.  
Thompson,  
appears in  
"Churrasco: A  
Theological Feast  
in Honor of Vitor  
Westhelle"  
edited by Mary  
Philip, John  
Nunes, and  
Charles M. Collier  
(Eugene, Oregon:  
Pickwick  
Publications,  
2013).

Today's  
communion  
bread is gluten  
free and vegan.

Each of the  
chalices contain  
grape juice.

You may either  
eat the bread,  
and drink  
directly from  
the cup, or dip  
the bread in the  
cup.

## \*LORD'S PRAYER, REIMAGINED

P Lord, remember us in your mercy and teach us to pray.

**Our Maker, who art wrapped in nature**

**Hallowed be thy mask.**

**Thy eschata come;**

**Thy reversal be done;**

**In spaces as it is in history.**

**Give us this day our solidarity;**

**And forgive us our placelessness,**

**As we forgive those who ignore the abyss.**

**Lead us not into ecological destruction,**

**And deliver us from the abuses of the cross.**

**For thine is the epiphany, and the incarnation, and the hope.**

**For all people and all places,**

**Amen**

## \*COMMUNION

### COMMUNION HYMNS

"Lamb of God"

Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;  
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

ten pie-dad de no - so-tros, ten pie-dad de no - so-tros.  
have . . mer-cy up - on us, have . . mer-cy up - on us.

Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;  
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



ten pie-dad de no - so-tros,      ten pie-dad de no - so-tros.  
have . . mer-cy up - on us,      have . . mer-cy up - on us.

Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;  
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

da - nos tu paz,      da - nos tu paz.  
grant us your peace,      grant us your peace.

*"Borning Cry," (ELW 732)*

*"Neither Death nor Life," (ELW 622)*

### **\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P** El cuerpo y la sangre de nuestro Señor Jesucristo los fortalezca y conserve en su gracia.

**C Amén**

**P** Te damos gracias, Dios todopoderoso, porque tú nos has renovado con el poder sanador de este don de vida; y te suplicamos que, en tu misericordia, nos fortalezcas por este don en fe hacia ti y en ferviente amor mutuo; por Jesucristo nuestro Señor.

**C Amén**

### **\*COMMENDATION**

**P** Let us commend Vítor to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Vítor. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light.

**C Amen.**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*SENDING HYMN**

*“Oh, Sing to the Lord: Cantad al Señor”*

(ELW 822)

*verses 1, 3 & 5 in Spanish; verses 2 & 4 in English*

**\*DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## Vítor Westhelle

Vítor Westhelle, professor of systematic theology at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC), died May 13 after living with cancer since early 2017. He was a deeply respected and revered theologian, colleague and mentor at LSTC and globally. He is survived by his wife of over 40 years, Christiane; three sons, Carlos Henrique, André, and Felipe; three “daughters-in-love” Janelle, Christal, and Stephanie, and two granddaughters, Ana Carolina and Gabriela Marie.

*In a letter to Esther Menn, dean of the faculty, the week prior to his death, Vítor announced his retirement from the faculty and reflected on learning life's last and most difficult lesson of how to receive life as a gift. He also communicated the happy news that the Executive Council of Faculdades EST, the seminary that he left to come to LSTC,*

voted to grant him the prestigious title, Doctor Honoris Causa in Theology in Latin America.

Vítor's impact on the global church cannot be underestimated. He was a prolific writer and editor who published works in English, Portuguese, and Spanish including 14 books and hundreds of articles and book chapters. Students familiar with his writing came to LSTC from around the world to study with him. His recent books, *The Scandalous God: The Use and Abuse of the Cross* (Fortress Press, 2006); *The Church Event: Call and Challenge of a Church Protestant* (Fortress Press, 2010); *After Heresy: Colonial Practices and Post-Colonial Theologies* (Cascade, 2010); *Eschatology and Space: The Lost Dimension in Theology, Past and Present* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012); and *Transfiguring Luther: The Planetary Promise of Luther's Theology*, (Cascade Books, 2016), are examples of his deep and wide-ranging scholarship. A fuller list of his publications, and links to his sermons and other writings can be found at: <http://vitorw.com/>

Vítor Westhelle was born January 25, 1952, in Taquara, Brazil, the first son of Veny Ethel Bauer Westhelle and Waldemar Westhelle. He had 2 sisters, Regina and Mariane, a brother, Wilson. His first degree qualified him to work as an electrician for the state-owned electrical company CEEE. He began his theological studies in 1972 at the former Faculdade de Teologia da IECLB, now Faculdades EST, in São Leopoldo, RS. In 1977, the year he completed his bachelor's degree, he participated in the Lutheran World Federation Assembly in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. In 1977, he married Christiane Gertrud Götz, whom he met at a church youth gathering in 1972.

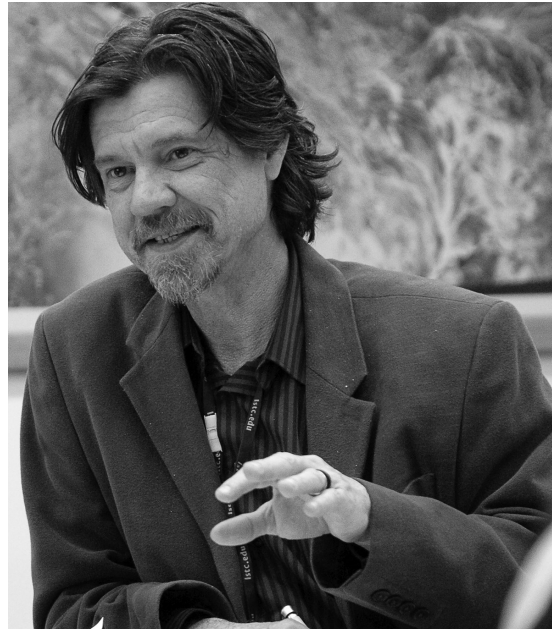
Vítor received a scholarship to study at LSTC and earned a ThM in 1980 and completed his PhD in systematic theology in 1984 while teaching at Luther Northwestern Theological Seminary (now Luther Seminary) in St. Paul, Minn.

In 1985 Vítor returned to Brazil and served as pastor of a 13-point

*Lutheran parish in Paróquia Evangélica de Matelândia and as coordinator of the Pastoral Commission on Land in Paraná working with those struggling for land and justice. From 1989 to 1992 he was professor of systematic theology and ethics at Escola Superior de Teologia in São Leopoldo.*

*He joined the LSTC faculty in 1993 as associate professor of systematic theology and was named a full professor in 1999. He has served as visiting professor at the University of Natal, South Africa; University of Aarhus, Denmark; Gurukul Theological College and Research Institute, India; Universidade do Vale do Rio dos Sinos – UNISINOS, Brazil; ISEDET, Argentina; and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (now United Lutheran Seminary), USA. From 2010–2016 he split his year between Chicago, Denmark and Brazil, serving as honorary professor of theology at the University of Aarhus and occupying the Chair of Luther Research at Escola Superior de Teologia as well as professor of systematic theology.*

*Vítor was a leading theological voice in the Lutheran World Federation, serving on the LWF Council and contributing a Latin American perspective to LWF publications on ecclesiology, hermeneutics, Luther's theology, ecology, and participating in LWF assemblies. He organized an international 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary LWF celebration at LSTC in 1998. His friends and colleagues around the world join in sending their condolences to his family and to the LSTC community.*



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*The English  
portions of the  
eucharistic  
prayer were  
adapted from  
resource  
"Eucharistic  
Prayers" by  
Samuel Wells and  
Abigail Kocher  
(Grand Rapids:  
Eerdmans, 2016).*