

INSTITUTE OF LITURGICAL STUDIES

April 16-18, 2012

PLENARY SESSIONS



Gordon Lathrop

Drawn by the Spirit of Christ into the Dialogue of Blessing (Tuesday, April 17th 10:00 a.m.)

Liturgical thanksgiving at the holy table, as also at font and candle, ministry and marriage, both proclaims the promise of God, the source of all blessing, and draws us into a life of thanksgiving and blessing ourselves.

Gordon W. Lathrop is a pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, who has recently been Visiting Professor of Liturgical Studies in Yale Divinity School and is Professor of Liturgy Emeritus at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. He lives in Philadelphia with his wife. He is the author of several books, including *Holy Things: A Liturgical Theology* (Fortress 1993), *Holy People: A Liturgical Ecclesiology* (Fortress 1999), *Holy Ground: A Liturgical Cosmology* (Fortress 2003), *The Pastor: A Spirituality* (Fortress 2006), and *The Four Gospels on Sunday: The New Testament and the Reform of Christian Worship* (Fortress 2012).



CHRISTIAN SCHAREN

Blessed and Broken: Gay Marriage in Church and Society (Tuesday, April 17th 2:00 p.m.)

Daily communal prayer is anchored in the singing of the psalms. The psalms provide a language for the praying community, a language not only to address God but also to speak with one another. Exploring the role of psalms in the daily office from the early church to the Community of Taizé, this presentation asks how the psalms were theologically formative for communal life and how this formation continues today.

Christian Scharen is Assistant Professor of Worship and Co-Director, Learning Pastoral Imagination Project, Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota.



MARTHA STORTZ

Bodies of Blessing, Blessing of Bodies: Insights from a Biblical Practice (Wednesday, April 18th 10:00 a.m.)

How do blessed disciples become a blessing for others? Addressing that question, this talk probes biblical practices of blessing and the sacraments of baptism and the Eucharist for insight.

Martha E. Stortz is currently the Bernhard M. Christensen Professor of Religion and Vocation at Augsburg College, a position she has held since September 2010. Before coming to Augsburg, Stortz was professor of historical theology and ethics at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary for almost three decades. Stortz is the author of several books, including *Blessed to Follow: The Beatitudes as Compass for Discipleship* (Augsburg Fortress, 2009)



FREDERICK NIEDNER

Blessing---God's Last Hope, and Ours (Wednesday, April 18th 2:45 p.m.)

On our knees, with arms heaved heavenward, we receive and give away the abundance that flows from God's grieving, broken heart.

Frederick Niedner is a Professor of Theology at Valparaiso University and teaches biblical studies, Hebrew language, and introductory courses in Christian theology.