



George Pósfay

18 June 1921 – 7 November 2017

Rev. Dr George Pósfay was born on 18 June 1921 in Budapest. He was ordained in the Lutheran Church of Hungary in 1943, served congregations in Hungary, the United States and Venezuela, and was closely linked to the LWF from its beginnings 70 years ago.

Rev. Dr Pósfay attended the 1947 Assembly in Lund, where the LWF was constituted, and continued deepening his relationship with the global Lutheran communion over many years, serving in a variety of capacities. In 1971 Rev. Dr Pósfay, who had served as a pastor and church leader in Venezuela since 1952, was appointed the LWF Latin America secretary in the Department of Church Cooperation. In 1980 he was named secretary for Research and Planning in the same department, a post he held until his retirement in 1986.

Following retirement, Rev. Dr Pósfay volunteered as the director of the Hungarian-language radio programming for the European Radio Mission, sponsored by the Norwegian Mission. He also served as honorary supply pastor at the Hungarian Protestant congregation of Geneva and Lausanne, and was active in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Geneva.

The pastor and historian was educated in Hungary at Elizabeth University and the Evangelical Lutheran Seminary in Sopron, doing post-graduate studies at universities in Uppsala and Lund, Sweden, and the United States, where he attended Augustana College and Seminary in Rock Island, Illinois, and obtained a master's degree in history at Western University in Cleveland, Ohio. In 1991 he received a doctorate in theology at the Lutheran Theological University in Budapest.

In his letter to the family, LWF General Secretary Rev. Dr Martin Junge said Rev. Pósfay lived out his faith through his dedicated work for the Lutheran family. "We give thanks for his dedicated life, and paraphrasing his own words in his farewell speech: 'We are grateful to God that George could be part of the ecumenical movement and work with us so that God's glory be manifested...'

"As we give thanks for Rev. George Pósfay's life, we pray that when meeting God face to face, he hears the words, 'Well done, good and faithful servant!'" Dr Junge's letter concluded.

[Based on LWF news release, 17 Nov 2017]

Thank you to those sharing in worship leadership today:

Julia Barbe, Mathias Barbe, readers

André du Plessis, prayer leader

Ana Villanueva, Roswitha Golder, Communion servers

Ralston and Miriam Deffenbaugh, ushers

Marian Frerichs, altar care

Rev. Kristian Joób, preacher

Rev. Andrew Willis, presider

Terry MacArthur, minister of music

Regine Kummer, organ

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Geneva

English-Speaking Congregation

20, rue Verdaine CH-1204 Geneva, Switzerland

Telephone 022 310 50 89

Emails: pastor@genevalutheran.ch office@genevalutheran.ch

www.genevalutheran.ch

Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving
for the Life of George Pósfay
18 November 2017

Gathering Music

Greeting

Thanksgiving for Baptism

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.

We glorify you.

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.

We praise you.

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

We worship you.

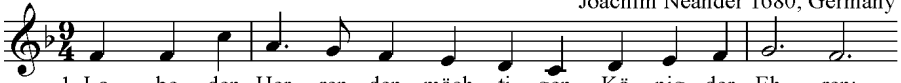
To you, O blessed Trinity, be glory and honor, forever and ever.

Amen.

Hymn

Praise to the Lord

Sing in the language of your choice.



1. Lo - be den Her - ren den mäch - ti - gen Kö - nig der Eh - ren;
 1. Praise - to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
 1. Bé - nis - sons Dieu, no - tre roi, le puis - sant roi de gloi - re!
 1. Di - csérd, én lel - kem, a di - csó ség ö - rök ki - rá - lyát,



lob ihn, o See - le ver - eint mit den himm - li - schen Chö - ren.
 O my soulpraise him for he is your health and sal - va - tion!
 De ses bien-faits in - ces - sants, cé - lé - brons la mé moi - re!
 Szállj fel trón - ja e - lé, mond - ván ne - ki buz - gó há - lát.



Kom - met zu - hauf; Psal - ter und Har - fe, wacht auf.
 Let all who hear, now to his tem - ple draw near;
 Et qu'en tous lieux, sur la terre et dans les cieux.
 Zú - gó ha - rang, É - nek és or - go - na - hang



Las - set den Lob - ge - sang hö - ren.
 join - ing in glad ad - o - a - tion!
 Mont - ent nos chants de vic - toi - re!
 Mind csak az ő ne - vét áld - ják.

2. Lobe den Herren,
 der alles so herrlich regieret,
 der dich auf Adelsers
 Fittichen sicher geführet,
 der dich erhält,
 wie es dir selber gefällt.
 Hast du nicht dieses verspüret?

2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er
 all things is wondrously reigning
 and, as on wings of an eagle,
 uplifting, sustaining.
 Have you not seen all that is needful has been
 sent by his gracious ordaining?

3. Lobe den Herren,
 der künstlich und fein dich bereitet,
 der dir Gesundheit verliehen,
 dich freundlich geleitet.
 In wieviel Not
 hat nicht der gnädige Gott
 über dir Flügel gebreitet!

3. Praise to the Lord, who will
 prosper your work and defend you;
 surely his goodness and mercy
 shall daily attend you.
 Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
 if with his love he befriended you.

4. Lobe den Herren,
 was in mir ist, lobe den Namen.
 Lob ihn mit allen,
 die seine Verheißung bekamen.
 Er ist dein Licht;
 Seele, vergiß es ja nicht.
 Lob ihn in Ewigkeit. Amen.

4. Praise to the Lord!
 Oh let all that is in me adore him.
 All that has life and breath,
 come now with praises before him.
 Let the Amen sound from his people again.
 Gladly forever adore him.

Catherine Winkworth
 adp. Hedwig T. Dumbaugh

2. Bénissons Dieu, notre roi,
dont la main étendue
Porte ses faibles enfants
comme l'aigle en la nue!
Il nous guérit. Son pouvoir est infini,
Il nous remplit d'allégresse.

3. Bénissons Dieu, notre roi,
qui toujours fait justice,
A l'orgueilleux redoutable,
au plus humble propice!
Riche en bonté, pour ses enfants révoltés
Son amour est sans limite.

4. Bénissons Dieu, notre roi!
Célébrons ses louanges.
Car il demeure à jamais
quand tout passe et tout change.
Il nous entend: adressons-lui notre chant.
Unis aux chœurs de ses anges!
D'après J. Vincent 1924

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Remembrances

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 61:1-3

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 86:1-13

2. Dicsérd az Urat,
ki mindent oly bölcsen intézett,
Aki hatalmának szárnyain hordozott, védett.
Nagy irgalmát Árasztja minden nap rád,
— Áldását mindenütt érzed.

3. Dicsérd őt,
ki csodálatosan alkotott téged;
Tőle nyer lelked erőt, üdvöt s tested épséget.
Gond sbaj között, Balsors mikor üldözött,
Híven takargatta élted.

4. Dicsérd őt, mert boldogok,
kik őbenne remélnek;
Jöjjetek, zendüljön ajkunkon háladó ének.
Ki híve vagy, Aliid, magasztald őt s vigadj.
Dicsőség legyen nevének.

Antiphon

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

Jacques Berthier: Taizé, France

O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer: when I call
an - swer me. O Lord hear my prayer, O
Lord hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.

Music J. Berthier © Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, 71250 Taizé, France.

Bow down your ear, O LORD, and answer me,

for I am poor and needy.

Keep watch over my life, for I am faithful;

save your servant who trusts in you.

Be merciful to me, O LORD, for you are my God;

I call upon you all the day long.

Gladden the soul of your servant,

for to you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

For you, O LORD, are good and forgiving,

and abundant in mercy to all who call upon you.

Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer,

and attend to the voice of my supplications.

In the time of my trouble I will call upon you,

for you will answer me.

Antiphon

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

Among the gods there is none like you, O LORD,

nor anything like your works.

All the nations you have made
will come and worship you, O LORD,

and glorify your Name.

For you are great; you do wondrous things;

and you alone are God.

Teach me your way, O LORD,

Teach me your way, O LORD,

that I may walk in your truth;

that I may walk in your truth;

give me an undivided heart to revere your Name.

give me an undivided heart.

I will thank you, O LORD my God, with all my heart,

and glorify your Name for evermore.

For great is your love toward me;

you have delivered me from the pit of death.

Antiphon

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

Epistle Reading

Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

John 14:25-27

The Gospel according to John, chapter 14.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said]: 'I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.'

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Alleluia

Sermon

Rev. Kristian Joób

Prayer


God, our heavenly Father, as we now take leave of George,
we give thanks for his rich and valuable life!
We are amazed at the way he walked, the way you taught him.
Thank you for leading and protecting him his entire life!
Thank you for every blessing he could be to people,
for the congregations he built and strengthened.
Thank you for George's devotion and faithfulness in his work
and service for your church in many different parts of the world.
We ask you to console everyone who mourns for him.
Let his life and your guidance be an inspiration
for our life, faith, and service. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Hymn

Children of the Heavenly Father

Swedish: Carolina Sandell Berg. English Ernst W. Olson.

Swedish folk song



1. Chil - dren of the heaven - ly Fa - ther safe - ly
2. God his own doth tend and nour - ish, in his
3. Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the
4. Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his

in his bo - som ga - ther; nest - ling bird nor star in
ho - ly courts they flour - ish. From all e - vil things he
Lord his chil - dren sev - er; un - to them his grace he
chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth; his the lov - ing pur - pose

heav - en such a re - fuge e'er was giv - en.
spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Apostles' Creed

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 again 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*

Prayers of Intercession

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Anthem

There in God's Garden

Choir

*Hungarian, Pécseli Király Imre 1590-1641 English, Erik Routley
Music, Kolozsvár, 1744*

*1. There in God's garden stands the Tree of wisdom
whose leaves hold forth the healing of the nations,
Tree of all knowledge, Tree of all compassion, Tree of all beauty.*

*2. Its name is Jesus, name that says, 'Our Savior!'
There on its branches see the scars of suffering;
see where the tendrils of our human selfhood feed on its life-blood.*

*3. Thorns not its own are tangled in its foliage;
our greed has starved it; our despair has choked it.
Yet look, it lives! Its grief has not destroyed it, nor fire consumed it.*

*4. See how its branches reach to us in welcome;
hear what the voice says, 'Come to me, you weary!'
Give me your sickness, give me all your sorrow. I will give blessing.'*

*5. This is my ending; this my resurrection;
into your hands, Lord, I commit my spirit.
This have I searched for; now I can possess it. This ground is holy!*

The congregation is invited to join on the last verse:

6. Há la lé - gyen a men - ny - be - li Is - ten - nek,
 6. All heaven is sing - ing: "Thanks to Christ, whose pas - sion
 6. Dank sei dem Va - ter, uns - rem Gott im Him - mel,

ki meg - vál - tó - ja a bü - nös em - ber - nek,
 of - fers in mer - cy heal - ing strength and par - don.
 er ist der Ret - ter der ver - lor - nen Mensch - heit,

es meg - szer - ző - je szent bé - kes - sé - günk - nek, id - ves - sé - günk - nek.
 Peo - ples and na - tions, take it, take it free - ly!" A - men, my mas - ter!
 hat uns er - wor - ben Frie - den oh - ne En - de, e - wi - ge Freu - de.

The Passing of the Peace

Az Úr békessége legyen
 mindenkor veletek!
És a te lelkeddel.

The peace of the Lord be with
 you always.
And also with you.

Offertory

Bendice, Señor nuestro pan

Argentina

Ben - di - ce, Se - ñor nues - tro pan, y da pan a los que tien - en
 Lord, bless the bread you have given, and give bread to all who are
 ham - bre y ham - bre de jus - ti - cia a los que tien - en
 hun - gry, give hun - ger for jus - tice to those with

pan. bread. Ben - di - ce Se - ñor nues - tro pan.
 Lord, bless the bread you have given.

English, Donald Wetherick

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Pastor *People* Sursum corda
 The Lord be with you. *And* al - so with you.

Pastor *People*
 Lift up your hearts. *We lift them to the Lord.*

Pastor *People*
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *It is right to give God thanks and praise.*

Preface

Sanctus

1 2 Jacques Berthier: Taizé, France
 Sanc - tus, Sanc - tus, Sanc - tus, Do - mi - nus
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord

3 4
 De - us Sa - ba - oth, De - us Sa - ba - oth.
 God of hosts, God of hosts.

Music J. Berthier © Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, 71250 Taizé, France.

Eucharistic Prayer

Words of Institution

Remembering

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Lord's Prayer *in our many languages*

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Agnus Dei

Cordero de Dios

Misa popular nicaragüense

Em Am 3 Em

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:

Am 3 Em D 3

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

Em Em

so - tros.
on us. Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que
O Lamb of God, you

Am 3 Em

qui - tas el pe - ca - do del mun - do;
take a - way the sin of the world:

D G Am Em

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

Communion

(Because this is the table of Jesus Christ, all people are welcome and invited to his feast. Communion is continuous. Please come forward, beginning with the center section, and form one circle around the altar. Receive the bread in your hands. Take the chalice from the server or help yourself to one of the small, individual glasses. Please return to your seat after receiving communion. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request from the server.)

Songs during Communion

Urunk hála, hogy Te táplálsz

Väinö Malmivaara: Finland

Sulyok Imre: Hungary 1912-2008



U - runk há - la, hogy Te táp - lálsz nap - ról nap - ra szün - te - len!

For the food which you keep giv - ing day by day, we bless your name.
God, our hearts are filled with long - ing, wait - ing to be tru - ly fed



Áld - va légy, hogy min - den új nap új ö - röm, új ke - gye - lem!

Joy and grace re - fresh each morn - ing, so your good - ness we pro - claim.
with a taste of Je - sus Christ, the ev - er - giv - ing, liv - ing bread.

English Frederick Schlagenhaft and Terry MacArthur © 2009 LWF

Eat this Bread

Jacques Berthier: Taizé, France



Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry.
Esst das Brot, trinkt den Wein, Kommt zu mir, seid nim - mer - mehr hun - grig!



Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.
Esst das Brot, trinkt den Wein, glaubt an mich, seid nim - mer - mehr durstig.

Music J. Berthier © Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, 71250 Taizé-Communauté, France.

Nunc Dimitis

Jacques Berthier: Taizé, France

The first system of the musical score is written in 3/4 time. The treble staff contains the vocal melody, and the bass staff contains the accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'Nunc di - mit - tis ser - vum tu - um Do - mi - ne, se -
Let your ser - vant now go in peace, O Lord, now'. The melody features a long note on 'Do' followed by a half note on 'mi' and a quarter note on 'ne'.

Nunc di - mit - tis ser - vum tu - um Do - mi - ne, se -
Let your ser - vant now go in peace, O Lord, now

Do - mi - ne
O Lord,

The second system of the musical score continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are: '- cun - dum ver - bum tu - um in pa - ce.
go in peace ac - cord - ing to your word.' The melody ends with a long note on 'ce'.

- cun - dum ver - bum tu - um in pa - ce.
go in peace ac - cord - ing to your word.

Music J. Berthier © Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, 71250 Taizé, France.

*Maintenant, Seigneur, tu peux laisser ton serviteur s'en aller en paix selon ta parole.
Ahora despides, Señor, a tu siervo, conforme a tu palabra, en paz.*

Do - mi - ne.
to your word.

Post-Communion Prayer

Commendation

Hymn

Now Thank We All Our God


Sing in the language of your choice.

Johann Crüger: Germany

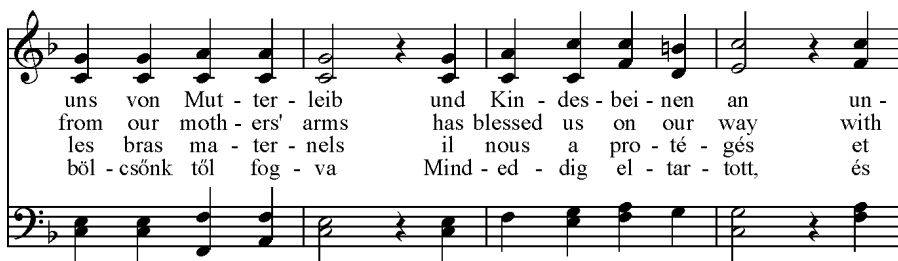
Martin Rinckart. English, Catherine Winkworth. Français, F. du Pasquier.



1. Nun dan - ket al - le Gott mit Her - zen, Mund und Hän - den, der
 1. Now thank we all our God, with hearts and hands and voices, who
 1. Lou - ons le Cré - a - teur, chan - tons à Dieu lou - an - ges! Et
 1. Jer, di - csér jük Is - tent Szív - vel, száj - jal, lé - lek - kel, Ki



gro - ße Din - ge tut an uns und al - len En - den, der
 won - drous things has done, in whom this world rejoices; who
 joy - gnows no - tre voix au con - cert des saints an - ges! Dès
 nagy, di - cső dol - got Cse - lek - szik min - de - nek - kel. Ki



uns von Mut - ter - leib und Kin - des - bei - nen an un -
 from our moth - ers' arms has blessed us on our way with
 les bras ma - ter - nels il nous a pro - té - gés et
 böl - csőnk től fog - va Mind - ed - dig el - tar - tott, és



zäh - lig viel zu - gut und noch jetzt und ge - tan.
 count - less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
 jus - qu'au der - nier jour, il est no - tre ber - ger.
 szám - ta - lan jók - kal Min - ket el - ár - asz - tott!

2. Der ewigreiche Gott
woll uns bei unserm Leben
ein immer fröhlich Herz
und edlen Frieden geben
und uns in seiner Gnad
erhalten fort und fort
und uns aus aller Not
erlösen hier und dort.

3. Lob, Ehr und Preis sei Gott,
dem Vater and dem Sohne
und Gott dem Heilgen Geist
im höchsten Himmelsthronen,
ihm, dem dreiein'gen Gott,
wie es im Anfang war
und ist und bleiben wird
so jetzt und immerdar.

2. Loué soit notre Dieu!
Que notre vie entière
tous nous vivions joyeux
sous le regard du Père,
qu'il nous tienne en sa grâce
et nous guide toujours,
nous garde du malheur
par son unique amour.

3. De ce Dieu trois fois saint
qui règne dans la gloire,
chrétiens empressons-nous
de chanter la victoire;
son Royaume est aux cieux
où plein de majesté,
il règne, seul vrai Dieu,
de toute éternité.

2. O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us still in grace,
and guide us when perplexed;
and free us from all ills,
in this world and the next.

3. All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given;
the Son, and him who reigns
with them in highest heaven;
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

2. A jószágos Isten
Áldjon tovább is minket,
Hogy vidáman, békén
Tölthessük életünket;
Tartson meg mindvégig
Minket kegyelmében,
Legyen szabadtónk
Minden szükségünkben!

3. Atyának, Fiúnak
És Szentlélek Istennek,
A Szentháromságnak,
Hűséges éltetőnknek
Dicséret, dicsőség,
Legyen magasztalás,
Most és mindenkoron
Örök hálaadás!

Benediction

Postlude

*In the photograph on the cover, George is standing in front of Deák téri evangélikus templom,
the church in Budapest where he was baptized and ordained
and where his ashes will be interred.*

Telephone 022 310 50 89
Pastor's mobile: 079 544 7012

www.GenevaLutheran.CH

Office@GenevaLutheran.CH
Pastor@GenevaLutheran.CH

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Geneva, English-Speaking Congregation
20, rue Verdaine CH-1204 Geneva, Switzerland

