

THE RITE 13 LITURGY
EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH
MAY 21, 2006



*TIMOTHY MICHAEL MOORE
RYAN DOUGLAS WILLIAMS*

These teenagers are members of the Journey to Adulthood program in the Rite 13 group and have already celebrated or are about to celebrate their thirteenth birthday. The Rite 13 name's origin is derived from the special liturgy we celebrate today. The word "liturgy" means "the work of the people" and it expresses who we believe we are in the presence of God. Liturgy reflects our mission. Today's liturgy is a rite of passage where we recognize the blessing of God's gift of manhood and womanhood. We hope you will enjoy being a part of this important day.

The Rite 13 teenagers, the celebrities, will begin the service on the right side of the church, sitting with their parents. They will be called to the chancel steps to receive their blessing but when they are finished, they will move to sit on the left side of the church with the rest of the youth. This is a symbol of the widening world of the teenager - expanding from family influence to also include the realm of peer influence.

You, the congregation, are witnesses of this very important rite of passage. You are here today to actively help in this process by your presence, your prayers and your love. Remember that when the congregation is called on to reply, "Amen," you are literally saying, "Yes, Lord - let it be so."

**A Rite of Passage:
The Celebration of
Manhood and Womanhood**

The Presentation of the Candidates

Following the renewal of baptismal vows, the congregation is seated and the

Presider Says:

Dear People of God: Today we celebrate one of God's great gifts - the gift of manhood and womanhood. The candidates will now be presented.

The leaders, parents, and candidates come forward. Each candidate is presented by name.

Leaders: (alternating)

We present to you N., son of N. and N.

When all have been presented, celebrities & parents face the presider.

Leaders: (together)

Fr. Robert, we are honored to serve as leaders of the Rite 13 Class. These that stand before you have grown beyond childhood and are now ready to be recognized as young men. They are prepared and ready to begin their journey toward adulthood.

Presider:

By the grace of God, you have lived through the pains and joys of childhood and have grown strong. Now, as young men, it is given to you to share in God's power of creation. You are blessed with the ability to create new ideas, new thoughts, new hopes for the world, and indeed, even to create new life. Because we are made in God's image, we are the only creatures on earth who can choose how to use our creative power to shape the world according to God's purpose. God calls us to use this gift to build and not to destroy. Are you aware of God's gift to you and the responsibility to use it wisely?

Celebrities: I am.

Celebrities turn around to face the congregation.

Presider: The celebrities will now read Psalm 139. The congregation is asked to repeat the Antiphon.

Psalm 139

Celebrities: (all together)

Lord, you have searched me out and known me;
you know my sitting down and my rising up:
you discern my thoughts from afar.
If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
Even there your hand will lead me and your right hand
hold me fast.

Congregation:

Your works are wonderful, and I know it well

Celebrities:

For you yourself created my inmost parts:
you knit me together in my mother's womb
I will thank you because I am marvelously made:
your works are wonderful and I know it well

Congregation:

Your works are wonderful, and I know it well

Celebrities:

My body was not hidden from you while I was being
made in secret and woven in the depths of the
earth.
Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the
womb; all of them were written in your book;
they were fashioned day by day, when as yet
there were none of them.

Congregation:

Your works are wonderful, and I know it well

Celebrities:

Search me out, O God, and know my heart;
Try me and know my restless thoughts.
Look well whether there be any wickedness in me and
lead me in the way that is everlasting.

Congregation:

Your works are wonderful and I know it well

The Prayer for the Parents

Parents and celebrities turn to face the presider.

Presider: *(addressing the parents)*

Parents, when Mary and Joseph searched for Jesus and found him in the temple talking with the elders, they realized that Jesus was no longer a child. This is such a moment. We rejoice with you as we recognize your sons as young men. We stand with you to support you as they begin their journey to adulthood.

Presider : *(addressing the congregation)*

People of God, together let us pray for these parents:

Presider and congregation together:

God of mercy and love, enfold these parents with your grace. Increase in them the spirit of wisdom and understanding. Teach them how to truly listen with a spirit of love, patience and gentleness. Bless these parents as they watch their sons enter into manhood. Strengthen and uphold them as they comfort their sons, remembering that they can neither walk the journey for them, nor shield them from pain. Carry them safely through this journey so that one day they may stand together as adults and friends. Amen.

Presider: Parents, you may now address your sons.

Parents turn to face their sons and address them saying:

Parents: (all together) We now recognize your passage into manhood. We thank God for the gift of your life.

As you begin to carve out the life that will be your own, we stand behind you and support you. May we be patient and understanding, ready to guide and forgive, that in our love for you, you may know the love of God. You are holy and wonderful and blessed and we won't look away from you. We are your parents and we support you on this journey.

Celebrities: (all together)

Thank you for being there when I need you the most. Now as I approach adulthood, I realize that God will help show me the way. Remember that I always love you, even when I say or do things that make it seem like I don't.

The Charge to the Congregation

The celebrities and parents turn and face the congregation. The Presider addresses the congregation:

Presider: As the living body of Christ, we have been empowered by the Holy Spirit to do God's work in the world. Will you, as a community of faith which spans the generations, share your knowledge, experience and love with these young people as they begin their journey to adulthood?

Congregation responds with strong heart and spirit:

We will, with God's help. We recognize you as young men of Emmanuel Church. We stand behind you on your journey. You are formed by a loving hand and are unique expressions of the creative power of God. God is with you. God is calling you. Explore, ask, claim and embrace. You are holy and wonderful and blessed and we won't look away from you. We are your community of faith and we support you on this journey.

The Blessing

The celebrities stand together on the steps facing the altar. The parents move to stand behind their teen, placing their hand on the teen's shoulder. The Presider addresses the celebrities.

Presider:

Tim –

Ryan –

you have been armed by Almighty God with both the imagination of childhood and the strength and creative power of manhood. Now you must journey forth to gain the skills you will need to assume full responsibility as an adult.

For each blessing, the celebrities kneel and the Presider marks the sign of the cross on the candidate's forehead.

Presider:

N., may Almighty God fill you with courage, wisdom and joy. May Jesus Christ your strong and never-failing friend, make you strong in faith and defend you on every side. May the Holy Spirit guide you in truth and peace. And may the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, rest upon you this day and forevermore.

Congregation: Amen!

The Charge to the Youth Group

When all celebrities have been blessed, the presider addresses the youth group:

Presider:

Will the youth of Emmanuel Church please stand.

Dear friends of Tim and Ryan: As they begin to move beyond the circle of their families, they will need loyal friends. They will need your advice, your encouragement and your acceptance. Will you be there for them and be their friends, knowing there will be times when your support means more to them than any other?

Youth Group: *(with strong heart and spirit)*

We will, with God's help. We will offer you our friendship and will support you in the ways that we are able. You are holy and wonderful and blessed and we won't look away from you. We are your peers, and we invite you to join us on this journey. Welcome!

The Peace

Presider: Will the congregation please stand.
The Peace of the Lord be always with you!

Congregation: And also with you!



The Rite 13 Class 2005-2006

*Karyn Anderson
David Brown
Catherine Cofer
Johnny Miller
Tim Moore
Ansley McAlister
Samantha Nickerson
Cole Northcutt
Sarah Pylant
Ryan Williams
Nathan Witherell
Elliott Woodruff*

*You are invited to join us for a reception in the
Common Room to honor the celebrities immediately
following the service!*