

# **Sunday Worship Bulletin**

*August 23, 2020*

## **GATHERING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

## **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM (ELW p. 119)**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
the fountain of living water,  
the rock who gave us birth,  
our light and our salvation.

**Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.  
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

**We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters  
and by your Word you created the world,  
calling forth life in which you took delight.**

**Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.  
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.  
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,  
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.**

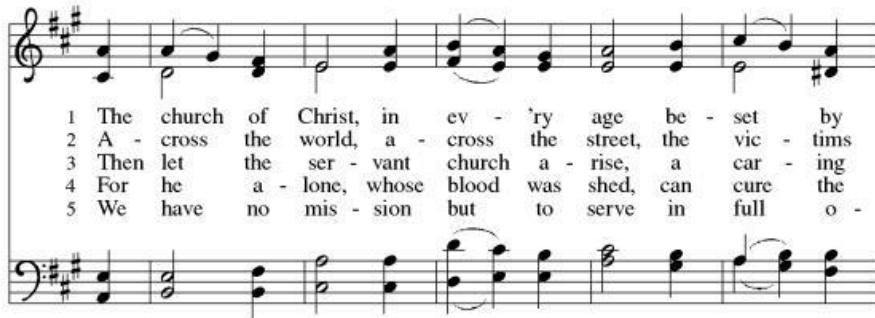
**We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,  
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.  
Shower us with your Spirit,  
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.**

To you be given honor and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG *The Church of Christ, in Every Age* (ELW 729)**

## The Church of Christ, in Every Age



1 The church of Christ, in ev - 'ry age be - set by  
2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims  
3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing  
4 For he a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the  
5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



change, but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its  
of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for  
church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's  
fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to  
be - dience to our Lord; to care for all, with -



her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.  
bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.  
sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.  
share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.  
out re - serve, and spread his lib - er - at - ing word.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000  
Music: WAREHAM, William Knapp, 1698–1768  
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## The Church of Christ, in Every Age

1 The church of Christ, in ev'ry age  
beset by change, but Spirit-led,  
must claim and test its heritage  
and keep on rising from the dead.

2 Across the world, across the street,  
the victims of injustice cry  
for shelter and for bread to eat,  
and never live before they die.

3 Then let the servant church arise,  
a caring church that longs to be  
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,  
and clothed in Christ's humanity.

4 For he alone, whose blood was shed,  
can cure the fever in our blood,  
and teach us how to share our bread  
and feed the starving multitude.

5 We have no mission but to serve  
in full obedience to our Lord;  
to care for all, without reserve,  
and spread his liberating word.

### **GREETING (ELW p. 120)**

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

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 124)**

Let us pray.

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### **WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 51:1-6**

A reading from Isaiah.

*Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants, so now God offers comfort to Zion. God's deliverance will come soon and will never end.*

1 Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness,  
you that seek the Lord.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn,  
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

2 Look to Abraham your father  
and to Sarah who bore you;

for he was but one when I called him,  
but I blessed him and made him many.

3 For the Lord will comfort Zion;

he will comfort all her waste places,  
and will make her wilderness like Eden,  
her desert like the garden of the Lord;  
joy and gladness will be found in her,  
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

4 Listen to me, my people,  
and give heed to me, my nation;  
for a teaching will go out from me,  
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

5 I will bring near my deliverance swiftly,  
my salvation has gone out  
and my arms will rule the peoples;  
the coastlands wait for me,  
and for my arm they hope.

6 Lift up your eyes to the heavens,  
and look at the earth beneath;  
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,  
the earth will wear out like a garment,  
and those who live on it will die like gnats;  
but my salvation will be forever,  
and my deliverance will never be ended.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 138**

O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever. (*Ps. 138:8*)

1 I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart;  
before the gods I will sing your praise.

**2 I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness;**

**for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.**

3 When I called, you answered me;  
you increased my strength within me.

**4 All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O Lord,  
when they have heard the words of your mouth. R**

5 They will sing of the ways of the Lord,  
that great is the glory of the Lord.

**6 The Lord is high, yet cares for the lowly,  
perceiving the haughty from afar.**

7 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;  
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

**8 You will make good your purpose for me;**

**O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.**

## **SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-8**

A reading from Romans.

*In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by the time in which we live but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.*

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

<sup>3</sup>For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup>For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. <sup>6</sup>We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; <sup>7</sup>ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; <sup>8</sup>the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 124)**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

### **GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.*

<sup>13</sup>Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" <sup>14</sup>And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." <sup>15</sup>He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup>And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I tell you, you are Peter, and on

this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. 19I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” 20Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **SERMON (ELW p. 125)**

“You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it...”

This phrase is one of the most significant verses to the Catholic church. Catholics interpret this phrase said by Jesus, “You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church....” as proof of Peter’s faithfulness and leadership. Peter becomes, in this way, the first pope, and the pope is the rock on which the church is built. His profession of faith about Jesus, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God,” is proof of his divine selection.

Protestants, however, interpret this verse differently. We interpret Jesus as saying, “You are Peter, and on this rock of a statement- the statement Peter just said, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God...” on that rock of a reality— the reality of Jesus’ Messiahship, the reality that Jesus is the Son of the Living God... the church is built.” The church, therefore, is not deemed to be built on Peter, and a pope is not determined to be necessary or ordained by Christ. Jesus’ Messiahship, the fact that he is the Son of the Living God, is determined to the the rock of the church. I would argue, of course, that though our interpretation of this verse is very different, that Jesus’ Messiahship is also the rock of the Catholic Church and all churches, as well.

I’ve been thinking about what the rock of the church is a lot lately. What is our base? What are we built on? What is essential, that can not be stripped away without everything else crumbling down... and what is simply a nice fixture- like a wall hanging or a decorative window sill that can easily be removed, even if we think it must be there.

During this Covid time I’ve been trying to complete some continuing education online. Last week I was finishing up the third part of a class on “Change at Warp Speed.” For pastors, this Covid time has often felt like change at warp speed. In the class, we explored different elements of being able to handle change and leading a group through change and sometimes even conflict. The presenter then put a picture of an apple on the screen and said, “It’s important to discern your core.”

This slide got our group talking probably more than any other slide in the presentation. At first, discerning your core seemed a bit lofty and like a luxury that none of us had the time for. But, as we talked about it, we realized that this time of crisis has caused many of us to discern our core beliefs, hopes and fears... for better or worse. We also talked about how we, as pastors, have been better able to handle the changes and the pressures of ministry when we are more in touch with our core beliefs and our core identity as a child of God. We’ve noted that when congregation members maintained a sense of their core identity, their values, who they are as God’s beloved child a member of God’s family, they were often able to weather the changes that were in front of them. Last, and most importantly, the church needed to determine what their core identity was and core priorities were (based off of that core identity) or it was too easy to start chasing this effort and that idea. Most strikingly, we realized that, if churches did not actively determine their core identity, it was often determined for them. This challenging time revealed to churches who they really were- for better or worse- the strength of their connections, their priorities and their beliefs about the world and God. Whether or not they actively tried to determine their values, their core beliefs became evident over time.

Today's passage is one that requires some discernment. Like Peter, we should hear Jesus' question, "Who do you say that I am?" We should hear this as individuals and also as a congregation. "Who do we say that Jesus is?" And, do our actions reflect who we say Jesus is?

If we say that Jesus is the Son of the God of abundance- do our actions and does our giving- both personally and as a church- reflect that?

If we say Jesus is the Messiah- are we boldly trusting our futures in Jesus' capable hands?

If we say Jesus is the one who came and ate with outcasts and sinners- if we say that Jesus came for all nations and races- if we say that Jesus healed those who no one else could touch— would people be able to tell that by our words and deeds?

If we say Jesus was one who came not to be served but to serve, is that how we are living?

If, like Peter, we say that Jesus, is the Son of the Living God- do we treat our faith, our beliefs, and our church as a living, changing, growing community... or simply assertions and practices to maintain?

Some Bible passages give you answers, others leave you with questions. Today's passage leaves us with questions, but it's a good one. And some questions, if you really chew on them, are better than the most polished answers. Today's passage causes us to think, what is our rock, what's our core? And is what we are doing a reflection of that?

This past year, council, we realized that, though the Mission Statement is supposed to be updated regularly, there had been no conversation about or revisions of that statement for a long time. So, we started to look at the current statement, look at the world around us, reflect on our values as a community, ponder who Jesus is for an through us and draft another statement. I would argue that the process itself, the process through which we needed to determine our core beliefs, was more valuable than the final product itself.

This week, put this question somewhere, "Who do you say that I am?" And ponder it. Like our council endeavors, I would imagine the process of reflection will be valuable. Who do you say- in word and deed- Jesus is?

I would imagine this question may bring some twinges of guilt that inspire some heartfelt confessions. Because when most of us think about ALL the things we say and do, well, there are many moments when our words and deeds do not reflect our beliefs that Jesus is Messiah, Son of the Living God, Savior of the world, the worker of miracles and friend of outcasts and sinners. But, my hope is the question will also bring joy, peace and hope to your heart. Because the question should remind us deep down we know and trust that Jesus is all of these good things. Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the Living God. Repeatedly, Peter messes things up, denies it, doesn't get it, and betrays Jesus... But Jesus still loves Peter, dies for Peter and elevates Peter to be a leader of the church. The same is true for us.

**HYMN OF THE DAY *The Church's One Foundation* (ELW 654)**

## The Church's One Foundation



1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;  
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,  
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,  
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,  
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,



she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.  
her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:  
by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,  
she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;  
and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.



From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;  
one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,  
yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"  
till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,  
Oh, bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,



with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.  
and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.  
and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.  
and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.  
that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900  
Music: AURELLIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876

### Words

#### The Church's One Foundation

1 The church's one foundation  
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;  
she is his new creation  
by water and the word.  
From heav'n he came and sought her  
to be his holy bride;  
with his own blood he bought her,  
and for her life he died.

2 Elect from ev'ry nation,  
yet one o'er all the earth,  
her charter of salvation  
one Lord, one faith, one birth:  
one holy name she blesses,  
partakes one holy food,  
and to one hope she presses,  
with ev'ry grace endued.

3 Though with a scornful wonder  
this world sees her oppressed,



by schisms rent asunder,  
by heresies distressed,  
yet saints their watch are keeping;  
their cry goes up: "How long?"  
And soon the night of weeping  
shall be the morn of song.

4 Through toil and tribulation  
and tumult of her war,  
she waits the consummation  
of peace forevermore;  
till with the vision glorious  
her longing eyes are blest,  
and the great church victorious  
shall be the church at rest.

5 Yet she on earth has union  
with God, the Three in One,  
and mystic sweet communion  
with those whose rest is won.  
Oh, blessed heav'nly chorus!  
Lord, save us by your grace,  
that we, like saints before us,  
may see you face to face

#### **CREED (ELW p. 126)**

**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.**

*\*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Lord our rock, you are our foundation in Jesus Christ, your Son, whom we confess as the living God. Prepare your church for its mission in bearing witness to Christ, both here at home and throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You call forth praises from the far reaches of the universe to the smallest of creatures. Join our songs to theirs, that a spirit of praise and thanksgiving will arouse us to cherish this wondrous home you give us. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord. Direct the leaders of countries, legislators and magistrates, mayors and councils, to walk in your ways. Help leaders regard those in need with mercy and fulfill your loving purposes in the governance of peoples. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Though we walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve us, deliver us, and fulfill your purpose for us. According to your steadfast love, grant healing and wholeness to those who are bereaved, in trouble or adversity, or sick and in need of care.....

Bob Dieter, Mary Kraft, Marilyn Frisch, Julie and Denny Christensen, Dianne Sanderson, Dustin Poppema, Gene Wachter, Betty Nelson

\*Prayers for Members in Nursing Homes: Sandra Marsh, Arlene Muse, Lois Gruis

\*Members in Care Facilities: Bobbie Elvin, Joan Doeden, Jean Bender

\*Family Members and Friends: Myril Ferguson (Mary Ferguson's husband), Lee Morrison (Terry Morrison's son), Karoline Wiebe, Ryan Lien (Lon Lien's son), Henrietta Lais, Tom Morgan (Sandy Randall's dad), Peggy Kobold (Norma Radenbaugh's daughter), Brad Martens (Valerie Veen's son) and Josh Hanson (Mary Ingenthorn's son)

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You call us into First Lutheran, in which we, though many, are one in Christ. May we recognize in ourselves and in one another the unique gifts you have given us for the building up of the church for the sake of the world. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

You are the everlasting Rock from which we were hewn, and you restore your people to joy and gladness. In blessed memory and hope, we thank you for the lives of our beloved dead. Bring us with them to our heavenly home. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **OFFERING AND CGC MOMENT**

### **OFFERING PRAYER (ELW p. 129)**

Let us pray.

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 134)**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

### **BLESSING (ELW p. 136)**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

**Amen.**

### **SENDING SONG *Take My Life, That I May Be (PATMOS)* (ELW 685)**

## Take My Life, That I May Be



- 1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
- 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
- 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.  
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.  
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.  
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;  
it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure store;  
take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.

Music: PATMOS, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

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### Words

#### Take My Life, That I May Be

1 Take my life, that I may be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my moments and my days;  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

2 Take my hands and let them move  
at the impulse of thy love;  
take my feet and let them be  
swift and beautiful for thee.

3 Take my voice and let me sing  
always, only, for my King;  
take my lips and let them be  
filled with messages from thee.

4 Take my silver and my gold,  
not a mite would I withhold;  
take my intellect and use

ev'ry pow'r as thou shall choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine,  
it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is thine own,  
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure store;  
take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, if all for thee.

**DISMISSAL (ELW p. 137)**

Go in peace. Share the good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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