

## Introduction to the day

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

# GATHERING

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

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## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

*The congregation invited to stand as they are able and face the baptismal font.*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
whose teaching is life,  
whose presence is sure,  
and whose love is endless.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.  
God our comforter:

**like lost sheep, we have gone astray.**

**We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity.**

**We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression.**

**We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed.**

**Free us from our sin, gracious God.**

**Listen when we call out to you for help.**

**Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves.**

**Amen.**

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

By the gift of grace in ✠ Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous.

Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

**Amen.**

*Please remain standing and turn to face the altar as you are able.*

## GATHERING SONG

*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* (isometric) (ELW 504)

Words and Music on Next Page



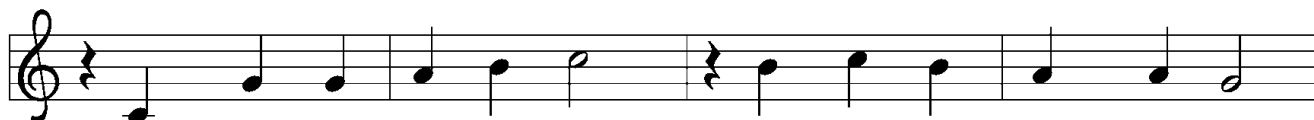
1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -  
2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -  
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -  
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and  
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom  
your us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they  
fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe  
God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?  
can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;  
weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might  
The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,  
in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;  
goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.  
God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.  
God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.  
they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

## GREETING

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.**

# HYMN OF PRAISE

By Grace We Have Been Saved

(ACS 1006)

*Refrain*



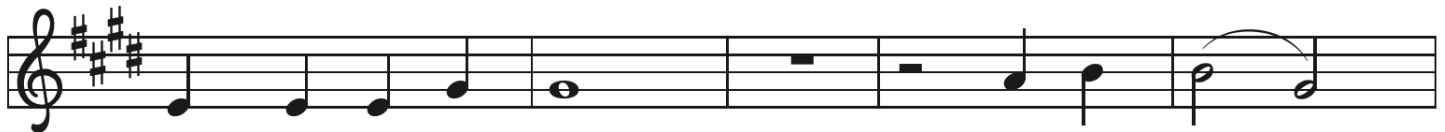
By grace we have been saved— saved by grace through faith,



not be-cause of what we do; it is the gift of God.



1 On the days when you are weak, on the  
2 Rest your bod - y, rest your mind, in the  
3 You don't need to be a - fraid. You will



days when you are strong, rich or poor,  
still - ness you will find you're a love - ly,  
nev - er be a - lone. There is mer - cy,



young or old, just lis - ten to the song.  
pre - cious child, part of the great de - sign.  
there is hope, and love will take you home.

*Refrain*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

# WORD

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

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## **FIRST READING:** Jeremiah 31:31-34 (Mike Grant)

*The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.*

*A reading from Jeremiah.*

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM:** Psalm 46 (Mike Grant)

<sup>1</sup>God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

<sup>2</sup>**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,  
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

<sup>3</sup>though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

<sup>4</sup>**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

<sup>5</sup>God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken; God shall help it at the break of day.

<sup>6</sup>**The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

<sup>7</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

<sup>8</sup>**Come now, regard the works of the LORD,  
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

<sup>9</sup>behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;  
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

<sup>10</sup>**“Be still, then, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**

<sup>11</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

## **SECOND READING:** Romans 3:19-28 (Mike Grant)

*Paul’s words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ’s death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.*

*A reading from Romans.*

<sup>19</sup>Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup>For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

<sup>21</sup>But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, <sup>22</sup>the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, <sup>23</sup>since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; <sup>24</sup>they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup>whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; <sup>26</sup>it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

<sup>27</sup>Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup>For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **STEWARDSHIP TEMPLE TALK** (Nancy Garman/Bruce Seiler)

## **KIDS' MESSAGE** (Jeri Wartena)

*The congregation is invited to stand as they are able to welcome the Gospel.*

## **GOSPEL: John 8:31-36** (Pastor Carolyn)

*Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.*

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup>Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” <sup>33</sup>They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

<sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. <sup>36</sup>So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated*

## **SERMON** (Pastor Carolyn)

The congregation is invited to stand as they are able

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Faith of Our Fathers* (alternate text) (ELW 813)



1 Faith of our fa - thers, liv - ing still in spite of dun - geon,  
2 Faith of our moth - ers, dar - ing faith, your work for Christ is  
3 Faith of our sis - ters, broth - ers too, who still must bear op -  
4 Faith born of God, oh, call us yet, bind us with all who



fire, and sword. Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy  
love re - vealed, spread - ing God's word from pole to pole,  
press - ion's might, rais - ing on high, in pris - ons dark,  
fol - low you, shar - ing the strug - gle of your cross



when - e'er we hear that glo - rious word. Faith of our fa - thers,  
mak - ing love known and free - dom real. Faith of our moth - ers,  
the cross of Christ still burn - ing bright. Faith for to - day, O  
un - til the world is made a - new. Faith born of God, O



ho - ly faith, we will be true to you till death.  
ho - ly faith, we will be true to you till death.  
liv - ing faith, we will be true to you till death.  
liv - ing faith, we will be true to you till death.

**CREED**

Let us join with Christians throughout the world and confess our shared faith using the words of the 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 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.**

Please be seated.

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** (Mike Grant)

Set free from sin and death and nourished by the word of truth, we join in prayer for all of God's creation.

We pray for all who long for a word of truth and for the radical grace that flows from the cross. Inspire congregations to freely and boldly proclaim your love for all people with persistence and hope. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for your creation, for mountains, rivers, streams, cities, homesteads, and neighborhoods. Write in our hearts a new love and care for creation. Give us the will to curb wasteful habits and to hold accountable those who neglect the vulnerable. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all who aspire to public office and for all who will vote on Tuesday at local polling places. Pour wisdom and understanding upon all who govern so that communities of justice and peace may thrive. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all who long for healing in mind, body, or spirit. Strengthen hospitals, clinics, counseling centers, nursing homes, and recovery centers to be holy spaces of renewal that all might live the abundant life you intend. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all who seek to grow in faith and love of you. Guide teaching and learning in confirmation, small groups, Sunday school, youth groups, schools, seminaries, and universities. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for all the saints and reformers who have gone before us who dwell in your holy habitation. Give us courage through their example to challenge unjust systems and work toward life-giving reformation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*The congregation may offer additional prayer concerns either aloud or in the chat box*

Confident that you hear us, O God, we boldly place our prayers into your hands; through Jesus Christ, our truth and life.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

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## **OFFERING**

*We acknowledge that all we have is a gift from God and in gratefulness we return to God a portion of the time, finances, and gifts that God has given us.*

*Thank you so much for your continued support.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,

our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food,  
you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.

You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life,  
and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven.

You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,  
his life given for us  
and his rising from the grave,  
we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.

By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal:  
strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want,  
and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church, both now and forever.

**Amen**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us using the words of the language of your heart.

**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.**



## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

If you are joining us online,  
you are welcome to take communion in your home or to be in a time of prayer.

If you are worshiping with us onsite,  
please follow the directions of Pastor Carolyn and the ushers.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord of life,  
in the gift of your body and blood  
you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation.  
Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy,  
bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*The congregation is invited to stand as they are able.*

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

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## BLESSING

People of God,  
you are Christ's body,  
bringing new life to a suffering world.  
The holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

*Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* (ELW 836)

*Words and Music on next page*



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!  
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,  
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais-ing thee, their sun a - bove.  
stars and an - gels sing a-round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean-depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.  
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flow-'ry mead-ow, flash - ing sea,  
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.  
chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.  
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

*Please be seated.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*After brief announcements related to the ministry of Bethel, the congregation is invited to stand and face the baptismal font as they are able.*

## DISMISSAL

The living Word dwells in you. Go in peace.  
**Thanks be to God, and we will.**