

AUGUST 23, 2020

WELCOMING WORD *Jesus declares that the church will be build on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. We gather to hear this word go forth to offer our witness through word and deed.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise

C: On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul.

L: For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly; but the haughty he perceives from far away.

C: Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.

OPENING HYMN #383 Rise Up, O Saints of God

Rise up, O saints of God! From vain ambitions turn.
Christ rose triumphant that your hearts with nobler zeal might burn.

Speak out, O saints of God! Despair engulfs earth's frame.
As heirs of God's baptismal grace, his word of hope proclaim.

Rise up, O saints of God! His kingdom's task embrace.
Redress sin's cruel consequence; Give justice larger place.

Give heed, O saints of God! Creation cries in pain.
Stretch forth your hand of healing now, with love the weak sustain.

Commit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod.
And quickened by the Spirit's power, Rise up, O saints of God!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin,

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: Reconciling God,

C: We confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us: through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.

P: Beloved of God, by the abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. Amen.

INVOCATION

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

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: O God,

C: 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.

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 51:1-6 ¹Listen 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. ²Look 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. ³For 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. ⁴Listen 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. ⁵I 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. ⁶Lift 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.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 12:1-8 ¹I 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. ²Do 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. ³For 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. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20 ¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷And 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. ¹⁸And 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.

MESSAGE - Intern Tamara Siburg

HYMN #369 *The Church's One Foundation* (vs. 1, 3, 5)

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.

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.

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

CONFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. 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

OFFERTORY PRAYER Of all the gifts which you have given us, we treasure your Holy Spirit, O God. In gratitude for guidance and discernment, we offer these tributes before you and ask your blessing. May our lives be a blessing to others, in Jesus' name. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

L: Let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence

L: 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,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: You call for 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.

C: Hear our prayer.

L: 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. (especially ...) Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: You call us into this community 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.

C: Hear our prayer.

L: 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 lives of our beloved ones whom death has separated from us. Bring us one day with them to our heavenly home. Lord, in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

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

C: Amen

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. 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.

BENEDICTION *May the blessing of God our creator, the love of Jesus Christ our redeemer, and the presence of the Holy Spirit the comforter, surround you and sustain you until we gather again*

CLOSING HYMN: #405 Lord of Light (vs. 1 - 3)

Lord of light, your name outshining all the stars and suns of space,
Use our talents in your kingdom as the servants of your grace;
Use us to fulfill your purpose in the gift of Christ your son.

REFRAIN: Father, as in highest heaven, so on earth your will be done.

By the toil of faithful workers in some far outlying field,
By the courage where the radiance of the cross is still revealed.
By the victories of meekness, through reproach and suff'ring won;

REFRAIN: Father, as in highest heaven, so on earth your will be done.

Grant that knowledge, still increasing, at your feet may lowly kneel;
With your grace our triumphs hallow, with your charity our zeal.
Lift the nations from the shadows to the gladness of the sun.

REFRAIN: Father, as in highest heaven, so on earth your will be done.



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

RANDY SCHULZ AND FAMILY Randy's brother Gary passed away unexpectedly on August 8.

KATHY CONRAD AND FAMILY Kathy's son John died on August 13.

Diane Pladziewicz
Nick Sydow (friend of Connie Curran's sons)
Delores Bryant
Brock Howe
Dorothy Jelle
Mike Olson (Wendy Rasmussen's brother)
Connie Fausett (sister of Diane Twiton & Jean Bower)
Sally Gaard (friend of Margie Kahl)
Harlan Oimoen
Grace Aavang
Trevor Sayre (son of Tamie Reichert)
Dianne Haskins (friend of Char Smith)

Agnes Robertson (friend of Holly Thompson)
Makenzee Smith
Brian Marshall (friend of Kim Kelliher)
Martha Hartman
Jeannie U'Ren
Ruth Ann Nemet
Irene Bruflat
Laurie Duden (Brenda Martin's aunt)
Bill Steinhauer
Peter Toniazzo
Richard Schuhler (friend of Ron & Bonny Kellogg)

DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 23, 2020

SHARE: What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

READ: Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding

Monday, John 1:43-51, Jesus Calls Phillip and Nathaniel

Tuesday, Romans 11:33-36, The Wisdom and Knowledge of God

Wednesday, Isaiah 28:14-22, Judgement on Corrupt Leaders

Thursday, Psalm 26:1-8, Plea for Justice

Friday, 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12, The Lawlessness of Humanity

Saturday, Jeremiah 15:10-14, Jeremiah's Complaint and Reassurance

TALK: Consider some of these ideas: He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Matthew 16:15-16 At a climatic 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.

- Christ means Messiah – so whenever we say we believe in Jesus Christ, we are confessing that Jesus is the one in whom we hope. Do you think of that name as a confession of faith?
- If Jesus is Messiah, then each of our decisions, and all of our words, ought to reflect Jesus' lordship. Do our words and actions consistently reflect our Lord?
- Can you act with confidence in Jesus' promise that the strength of hell is no match for Christ's church?

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.

BLESS: May you confess Jesus as Lord in all you do and say today. Amen!