

WELCOMING WORD *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.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: God is our refuge and strength,

C: a very present help in trouble.

L: Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,

C: and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;

L: The LORD of hosts is with us;

C: the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

OPENING HYMN B#365 *Built on a Rock* (vs. 1-4)

Built on a rock, the church shall stand, even when steeples are falling.
Crumbled have spires in every land; bells still are chiming and calling.
Calling the young and old to rest; calling the souls of those distressed.
Longing for life everlasting.

Not in our temples made with hands, God, the almighty, is dwelling;
High in the heav'ns his temple stands, all earthly temples excelling.
Yet he who dwells in heav'n above, deigns to abide with us in love.
Making our bodies his temple.

We are God's house of living stones, built for his own habitation;
He fills our hearts, his humble thrones, granting us life and salvation.
Were two or three to seek his face, He in their midst would show his grace,
Blessings upon them bestowing.

Yet in this house, an earthly frame, Jesus the children is blessing.
Hither we come to praise his name, faith in our savior confessing.
Jesus to us his Spirit making with us his covenant,
Granting his children the kingdom.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: Faithful God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world.

C: 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: Almighty God,

C: 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.

FIRST LESSON: Jeremiah 31:31-34 ¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ²It 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. ³But 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. ⁴No 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.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 3:19-28 ¹⁹Now 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. ²⁰For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom 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; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus. ²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

GOSPEL: John 8:31-36 ³¹Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³They 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’?”

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

MESSAGE – Pastor John Twiton

HYMN 230 *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*

Lord, keep us steadfast in your word; curb those who by deceit or sword
Would wrest the kingdom from your Son, and bring to naught all he has done.

Lord Jesus Christ, your pow’r make known, for you are Lord of lords alone;
Defend your holy church, that we may sing your praise triumphantly.

O Comforter of priceless worth, send peace and unity on earth.
Support us in our final strife and lead us out of death to life.

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 Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. You have set before us gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

P: Renew and inspire the church in the freedom of the gospel, O God. Where the church is in error, reform it. Where the church speaks your truth, strengthen it. Where the church is divided, unify it. Ignite in us the working of the Holy Spirit. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: As the earth changes, as mountains shake and the waters roar, may we care for this planet as a holy habitation for all living things. Sustain all peoples and lands recovering from natural disasters of any kind. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Guide areas of the world divided or traumatized by conflict, especially in our own land. Free all from slavery and human trafficking, and protect all in harm's way. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Release those living in bondage to debts, chronic pain, or addiction. Grant healing touch to those who are ill (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: In this family of faith we give thanks for courageous voices that have remained firm in their commitment to the one who frees us from sin and death. Centered in your grace, unify us in the hope of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Even in death, you free us and give us a place in your house. We give thanks for our ancestors who have shown us truth and freedom, especially Martin Luther and those who work for the renewal of the church. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of 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: A Might Fortress Is Our God

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing.
Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe.
His craft and pow'r are great, and armed with cruel hate.
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
Were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He!
Lord Sabaoth His Name, from age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

And tho' this world with devils filled should threaten to undo us.
We will not fear, for God has willed His truth to triumph through us.
Let good and kindred go - this mortal life also;
The body they may kill. God's truth abideth still.
His kingdom lives forever!



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

OUR SYMPATHIES ARE WITH

- the family & friends of Ruth Osterholz, who passed away on October 18
- Amy Kellesvig & family. Amy's mother, Judy Jennings passed away on Tuesday.

Agnes Robertson (friend of Holly Thompson)
Nick Sydow (friend of Connie Curran's sons)
Brian Marshall (friend of Kim Kelliher)
Dorothy Jelle
Mary Krantz
Ruth Ann Nemet
Connie Fausett (sister of Diane Twiton & Jean Bower)
Laurie Duden (Brenda Martin's aunt)
Bill Steinhauer
Peter Toniazzo
Richard Schuhler (friend of Ron & Bonny Kellogg)
Trevor, Lizzie & Cammie Sayre (son of Tamie Reichert)

Delores Bryant
Makenzee Smith
Brock Howe
Jeannie U'Ren
Mike Olson (Wendy Rasmussen's brother)
Irene Bruflat
Sally Gaard (friend of Margie Kahl)
Harlan Oimoen
Grace Aavang
Dianne Haskins (friend of Char Smith)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BUCKY BOOKS FOR SALE Our youth are fundraising to help our future summer youth opportunities. Each book sells for \$35.00. **TO ORDER:** Email brenda.martin@elcmthoreb.org OR Locate our link to order online on our ELC website - search for the Youth tab/High School. Thank you for your support.

SUNDAY SCHOOL on ZOOM Join us on ZOOM, 9:00 - 9:30 am, each Sunday morning. Youth, who are 3 years old - 8th grade are invited to participate. It is great seeing their faces each week. Lessons are also emailed, if you are unable to attend our ZOOM time.

FUSE NIGHTS on ZOOM Youth, who are 9th - 12th graders are welcome to join our high school group on ZOOM, Mondays, October 12 & 26 at 7 pm. FUSE nights build relationships, challenge each other in exciting games, time to hang out, and learn about what it means to share our faith with everyone.

DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 25, 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, Psalm 119:41-48, Delight in God's commandments

Tuesday, James 2:14-26, Faith Without Works is Dead

Wednesday, John 14:21-27, My Peace I Give to You

Thursday, Psalm 43, Prayer to God in Time of Trouble

Friday, 2 Peter 2:1-3, Warning about False Prophets

Saturday, John 8:31-36, The Truth Will Set You Free

TALK: Consider some of these ideas: "So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed." John 8:36 Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

- What are the forces in this world that still 'enslave' people?
- Have you ever felt 'bound' by forces or impulses that make you long for freedom?
- Who do you look to for truth?
- Do you trust Jesus' word for true guidance in living?

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.

BLESS: May you know Jesus' freedom this day. Amen!