



PRELUDE

"The Church's One Foundation" – arr. Mark Hayes

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP: (based on Psalm 138)

O Lord our God, we come together with songs of praise in our hearts, because of your unfailing love and faithfulness. **Even though we struggle with life's issues, your mercy blesses us.**

Listening God, we come together with prayers of thanks in our hearts, because you hear and answer our prayers. **Even though life is sometimes difficult, your strength blesses us.**

Welcoming God, we come together in reverent worship filling our minds, because your faithful love endures forever.

Even though we are fragile people who sometimes feel lost and abandoned, God's love blesses us and never changes.

Thanks and praise be to our glorious God for ever and ever. Amen. — written by Joan Stott

RECONCILING IN CHRIST (RIC) STATEMENT

Wherever you are on your journey, you are welcome here in the name of Jesus Christ. We celebrate that each person is loved by God. We affirm the gifts of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression, and are committed to working for racial equity. Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church!

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose compassion endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God, **we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love. **Amen.**

(Stand) GATHERING HYMN

"Christ is Made the Sure Foundation"

ELW#645

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.

KYRIE ELW page 184; setting 8

("Kyrie eleison" is a Greek expression meaning "Lord, have mercy.")

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all;
for this holy house, for all who worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor;

that we may live out truth and justice and grace, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;
for life and for love, for our work and our play, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord
Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.
For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word;
that you nourish our souls with your body and blood, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord
Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

HYMN OF PRAISE *ELW page 185; setting 8*

**This is the feast of vict'ry for our God,
for the Lamb who was slain has begun his
reign. Alleluia.**
**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.**
**Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are his.**
**This is the feast of vict'ry for our God,
for the Lamb who was slain has begun his
reign. Alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**
**This is the feast of vict'ry for our God,
for the Lamb who was slain has begun his
reign. Alleluia.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

(sit) READING: Isaiah 51:1-6

*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.*

¹Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who 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; the LORD 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.

READING: Romans 12:1-6

*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.*

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a
living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ²Do not be conformed
to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, 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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Back to School Blessing (for all ages)

1st GRADE & 3rd GRADE BIBLE MILESTONE (*Blessing & Distribution of Bibles*)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *page 188; setting 8*

♪ **Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.
Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20

The holy Gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ 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." ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ I 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." ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The Gospel of our Lord. . . **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(sit) SERMON

(Stand) HYMN OF THE DAY

"Built on a Rock"

ELW #652

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.

(sit) PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: **Receive our prayer.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

Your gift given today continues our purpose of "Joyfully taking God's love into the world!" Thank you!

OFFERING MUSIC

"Put Peace into Each Other's Hands" – arr. Jane Holstein

Women's Trio: Jan Fitkin, Linda Holm, Carolyn Jensen



GREAT THANKSGIVING *ELW Page 190; setting 8*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

 **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory, full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORDS PRAYER

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

Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

LAMB OF GOD *ELW Page 191; setting 8*

 **Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.**

COMMUNION SONG

"The Church's One Foundation"
"We Place Upon Your Table, Lord"

ELW #654
ELW #467

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. **Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. **Amen**

(Stand) SENDING HYMN

"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

ELW #623

BLESSING

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Great is Thy Faithfulness" – arr. Melody Bober

Preaching/Presiding: Pastor Brian Julin-McCleary

Cantor: Linda Holm

Communion Servers: CarolMae, Chris, Tina

Greeter: Maxine Buhr

Musician: Nicole Green

Reader: CarolMae Osborn

Ushers: Bob North, Fred Bolhuis, Isaac Jorgensen, Darin Hansen

Welcome Center Host:

Sound/Video: Sandy Livingston

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