

Welcome to Worship at Immanuel Lutheran Church



August 23, 2026
9 a.m. Service Bulletin
Ordinary Time
Year A Lectionary

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING TO WORSHIP WITH US!



WE BELIEVE THAT GUESTS ARE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, and we seek to make your visit faithful and positive! Please scan the QR code to left or sign the Pew Register (red notebook) as it is passed down your pew.

WE BELIEVE THAT SERVING CHRIST MEANS SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS. Our name, Immanuel, means “God with us.” Everything we do is to welcome and serve the Lord who is here among us, in you, and in our neighbors.

Our ministries, from our Worship to our Soup Kitchen and Food Bank, from our Jail Ministry to our Women’s Drug Recovery house, from our Homeless Children’s Ministry to our Campus Ministry at Lander University, are all designed and carried out to share “God with us” with our surrounding neighborhood and city. God’s Love is inexhaustible! People from all around town work alongside us to share this Love with our neighbors. You can too!

WE BELIEVE THAT CHURCH is where disagreements may occur, and the love of Christ draws us together to worship and work together. We do not all agree on everything, but we do love God and each other, and that is enough!

WE BELIEVE THAT GOD LOVES EVERYONE, so we do too! ALL are welcome here!

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built 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. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

Order of Worship

✝ THE WELCOME Courtney Christensen, Council Member of the Day

As the prelude begins, please prepare your heart and mind for Worship in SILENT meditation.

✝ THE PRELUDE *Solemn Melody* Henry Walford Davies
Dr. Will Cleveland, Organist

✝ THE LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES
Ruth Divilbiss and Olive Divilbiss

✚ THE OPENING HYMN

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

ELW # 645

Please stand, as you are able.

1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and
 2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of
 3 Here be - stow on all your ser - vants what they seek from
 4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, praise and hon - or

cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
 hosts, and stay; come with all your lov - ing - kind - ness,
 you to gain; what they gain from you, for - ev - er
 to the Son, praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,

bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
 hear your peo - ple as they pray; and your full - est
 with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter
 ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and

help for - ev - er and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
 ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in these walls to - day.
 in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.
 one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.

Music: WESTMINSTER ABBEY, Henry Purcell, 1659–1695; arr. Ernest Hawkins, 1802–1868

✙ THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

The Rev. Chris Christopher, Pastor

Pastor Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God, whose compassion endures forever.

ALL AMEN.

Pastor Please be seated or kneel as we offer God our confession.

Confession is a time to clear our conscience, acknowledge shortcomings, and receive God's assurance of forgiveness before hearing the Word and sharing Holy Communion.

✙ THE CONFESSION

Please be seated or kneel.

Pastor Compassionate God,

ALL 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.

✙ THE ABSOLUTION

Declaration of forgiveness

Pastor 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.

ALL AMEN.

✙ THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

Please stand, as you are able.

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

ALL And also with you.

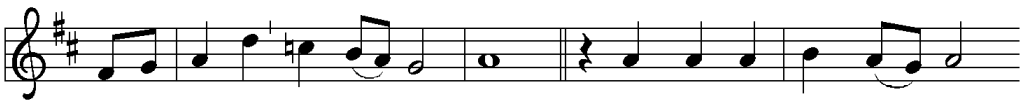
✚ THE HYMN OF PRAISE

ELW Setting #3

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

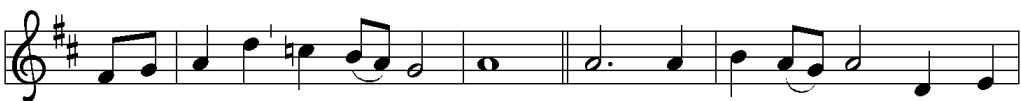


who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon-or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev - er. A - men.

Continues on page 6

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic - to-ry for our God.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

✝ THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

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



THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please be seated.

✙ THE LESSON Isaiah 51:1-6

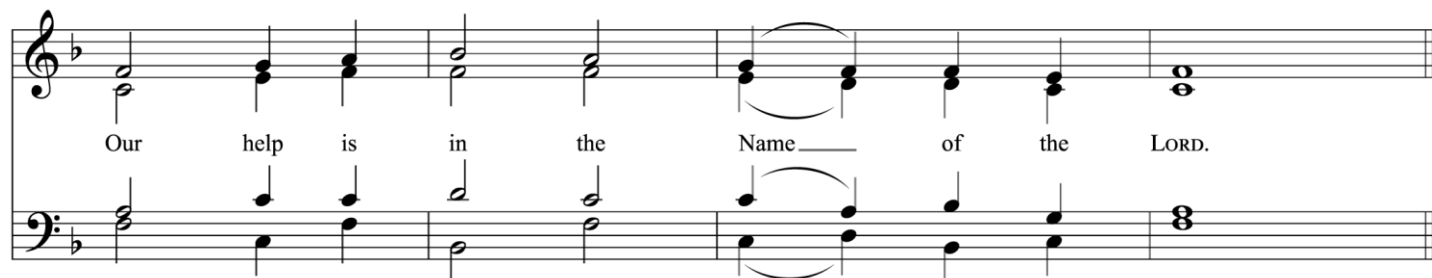
Summary

Lector *In today's lesson, we learn that similar to how God called Abraham and Sarah and provided them with many descendants, God now offers comfort to Zion. God's deliverance will come soon and will never end. Now, the lesson from the book of Isaiah in the Old Testament.*

Lector ¹ Listen 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. 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.

Lector Here ends the lesson. For the word given to us,
ALL **Thanks be to God.**

Congregational Refrain



From *A HymnTune Psalter, Revised Common Lectionary Edition* © 2007 by Carl P. Daw, Jr. and Kevin R. Hackett. Church Publishing Incorporated. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Cantor Our Help is the Name of the Lord.
ALL **Our Help is the Name of the Lord.**

Cantor ¹ If the Lord had not been on our side, let Israel now say; ² If the Lord had not been on our side, when enemies rose up against us; ³ Then would they have swallowed us up alive in their fierce anger toward us;
ALL **Our Help is the Name of the Lord.**

Cantor ⁴ Then would the waters have overwhelmed us and the torrent gone over us;
⁵ Then would the raging waters have gone right over us.
ALL **Our Help is the Name of the Lord.**

Cantor ⁶ Blessed be the Lord! he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.
⁷ We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; the snare is broken, and we have escaped. ⁸ Our help is in the Name of the Lord, the maker of Heaven and Earth.
ALL **Our Help is the Name of the Lord.**

✝ THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW Setting #3

Please stand, as you are able.



✝ THE GOSPEL READING

Matthew 16:13-20

Pastor The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew the 16th chapter.
ALL Glory to you, O Lord.

Pastor 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.

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.
ALL Praise to you, O Christ.

✝ THE SERMON

The Rev. Chris Christopher

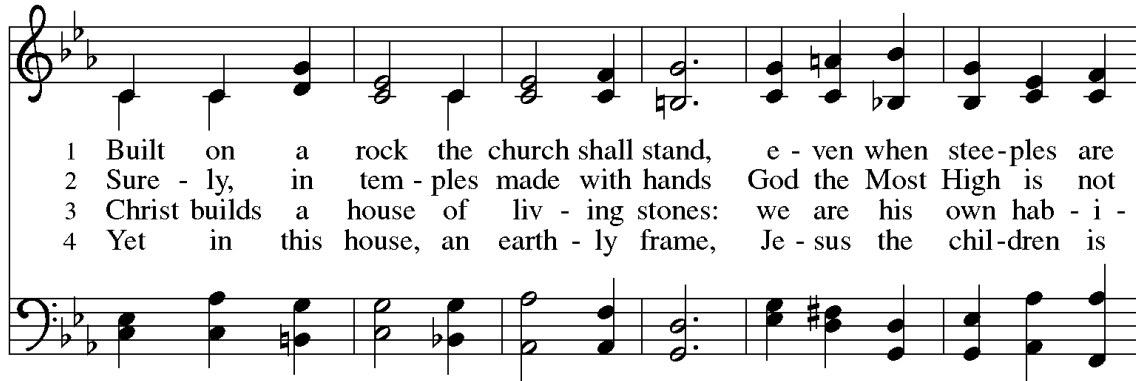
Please be seated.

✚ THE HYMN OF THE DAY

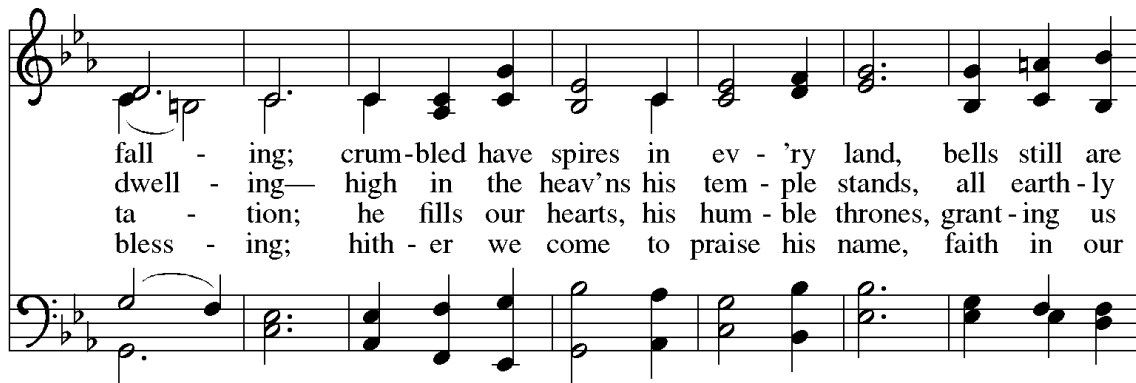
Built on a Rock

ELW # 652

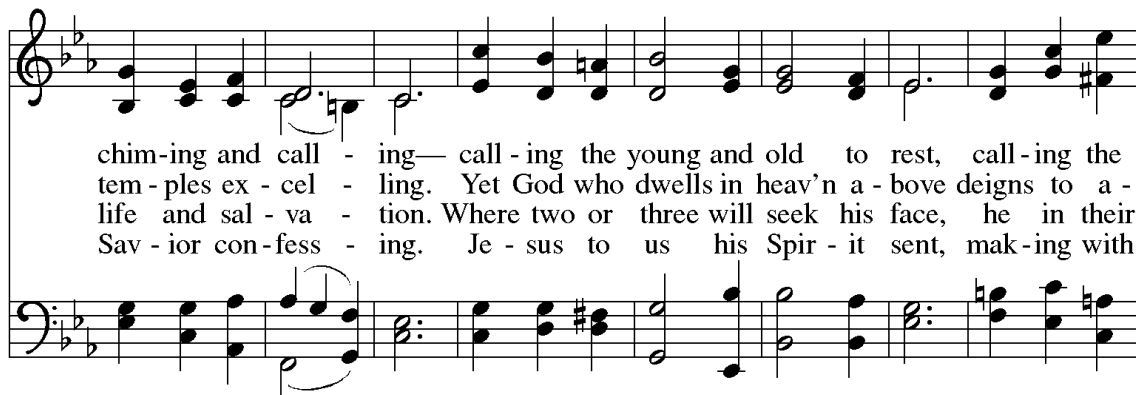
Please stand, as you are able.



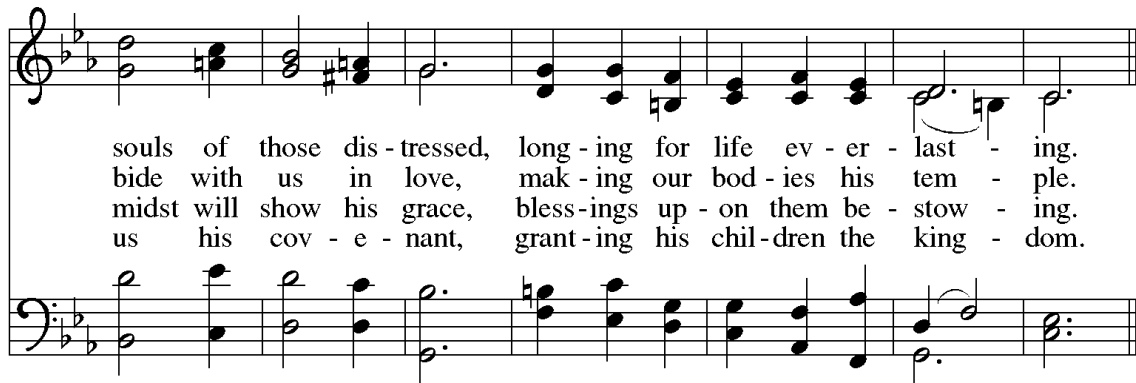
1 Built on a rock the church shall stand, e - ven when stee - ples are
 2 Sure - ly, in tem - ples made with hands God the Most High is not
 3 Christ builds a house of liv - ing stones: we are his own hab - i -
 4 Yet in this house, an earth - ly frame, Je - sus the chil - dren is



fall - ing; crum - bled have spires in ev - 'ry land, bells still are
 dwell - ing— high in the heav'ns his tem - ple stands, all earth - ly
 ta - tion; he fills our hearts, his hum - ble thrones, grant - ing us
 bless - ing; hith - er we come to praise his name, faith in our



chim - ing and call - ing— call - ing the young and old to rest, call - ing the
 tem - ples ex - cel - ling. Yet God who dwells in heav'n a - bove deigns to a -
 life and sal - va - tion. Where two or three will seek his face, he in their
 Sav - ior con - fess - ing. Je - sus to us his Spir - it sent, mak - ing with



souls of those dis - tressed, long - ing for life ev - er - last - ing.
 bide with us in love, mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.
 midst will show his grace, bless - ings up - on them be - stow - ing.
 us his cov - e - nant, grant - ing his chil - dren the king - dom.

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Carl Doving, 1867–1937, adapt.
 Music: KIRKEN DEN ER ET GAMMELT HUS, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887
 Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

✙ THE NICENE CREED

AM = Assisting Minister

AM Living together in joy, let us confess our faith.

ALL We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of Heaven and Earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. AMEN.

✙ THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Please be seated or kneel.

AM With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and ALL of God's creation.

Silence for preparation

AM God, our rock, you are the foundation on which the church is built. Strengthen and encourage your faithful people everywhere they gather, that they boldly proclaim your word of life to all the world. Merciful God,

ALL receive our prayer.

AM You spoke and all creation came into being. Field and forest, wetland and wilderness. Sustain and nourish your creation. Teach us to be wise stewards of all you have made. Merciful God,

ALL **receive our prayer.**

AM You bring deliverance to nations and peoples. Come to the aid of nations experiencing war, conflict, disease, famine, and disaster. Guide the work of relief agencies and peacemaking organizations. Merciful God,

ALL **receive our prayer.**

AM You regard the lowly and hear us when we cry out to you. Be present among all who struggle with addiction, housing insecurity, incarceration, and physical and mental illness, that they know they are not alone. Be with all in our community and the world who are oppressed. Hear our prayers for all in need this day. Merciful God,

ALL **receive our prayer.**

AM You draw together people with differing gifts. Lift the many and varied gifts and talents of this congregation and strengthen the bonds of fellowship that all may be united as the body of Christ. Merciful God,

ALL **receive our prayer.**

AM Your steadfast love endures forever. We give thanks for the faithful who died in the hope of this promise. Strengthen us in faith until the day we join them at your eternal banquet. Merciful God,

ALL **receive our prayer.**

AM Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised.
All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL **AMEN.**

✙ THE PEACE

Please stand, as you are able.

AM The peace of the Lord be with you always.

ALL **And also with you.**

AM Let us turn to our AV Team and those worshiping with us on-line and on the radio and say together,

ALL **the peace of the Lord be with you.**

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Holy Communion

Please be seated.



*During this time the ushers will pass the offering plates. If you prefer, you may give remotely by scanning the QR code to the left or visiting our website www.ilcgreenwood.com and selecting GIVE from the menu. THANK YOU for your generosity.

✝ THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

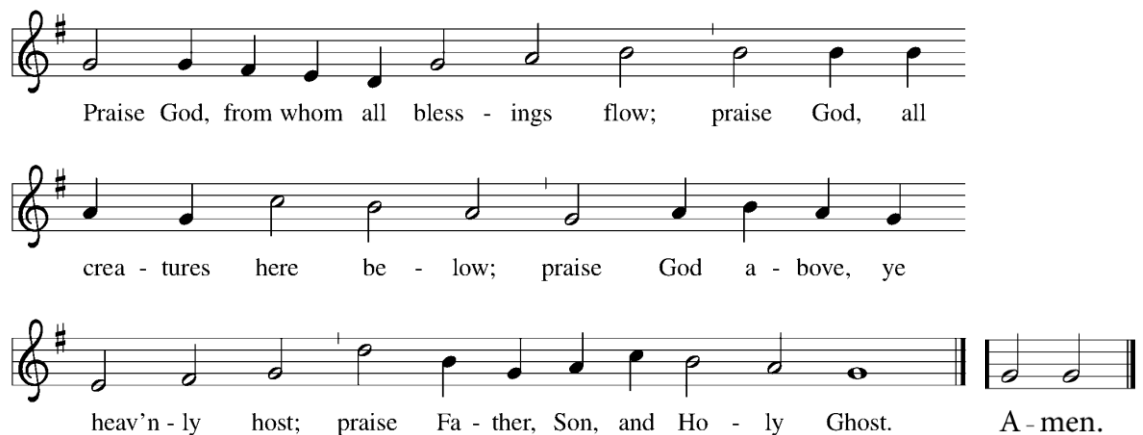
Up to the Hills I Lift My Eyes Normand Gouin
The Chancel Choir

*Up to the hills I lift my eyes. from where shall come my strength my help?
My Hope rests in the Lord, my God, the maker of the earth and skies.
God guides our steps and guards our way. He never slumbers, never sleeps.
His love and grace fill all our days, the guard and hope of Israel.
No Sun shall cause you harm by day, nor moonbeam in the dark of night.
The Lord will ever keep you safe till you ascend to heaven's height.
The Lord will guard your soul from death; from ev'ry foe he sets you free.
The Lord will guide your ev'ry step from now until eternity.*

✝ THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Please stand, as you are able.



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.
Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

✙ THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor Loving God,
ALL we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. AMEN.

✙ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor The Lord be with you.
ALL And also with you.
Pastor Lift up your hearts.
ALL We lift them to the Lord.
Pastor Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
ALL It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Pastor continues with the Words of Institution.

✙ THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.
ALL 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.

✙ THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Please be seated.

ALL are invited regardless of your understanding, your faith background, or sense of worth. Christ invites you. Jesus gives himself for you; Yes, for YOU. So come, come to the Table of the Lord. Communion is distributed by intinction, the dipping of the bread into the cup. The silver cups hold wine. The stoneware cups hold grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request; please ask for gluten free as you approach the server. Prepackaged elements are available inside a bowl at the head of the aisle. ALL are welcome to use the chancel rail for private prayer during the distribution.

✝ THE AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God

ELW Setting 3

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; grant us peace.

✝ THE PRAYER LIST

*Please email Dr. Will to add or remove names.
If anyone needs visitation, please contact Pastor Chris.

Those in need of healing: Maddy Bell, Linda Beveridge, Stephanie Branch, Wayne Cannon, Tom Carter, Vicky Crawford, Patricia Carteron, Steve Crooks, Oliver Conaty, Laquana Davis, the family of Spencer Franks, Cheryl Gagné, Michael Gagné, the Goodman family, Traver Gowan, Pop Pop Gowan, Chelsea Hall, Samuel Raines, John Mark Scruggs, Muriel Houde-Stickney, Tracy Koester, David Krumwiede, Juan Luna, Anna Luna, Judith Mutter, Chandler Patterson, Susan Smitty Stahley, Earl Womack, and Betty Weeks.

Those with long term needs: Gail Bouknight, Grayson Brock, Bob Brock, Rick Coker, Richard Coker, Helen Harrell, Latrosha Fuller, Willie Fred Kennedy, Lois Kuntz, Juan Luna, Nancy Nash, Martin Pueschel, Rodine Russell (NHC 226-D), Sara Russell, Jeanne Shealy, and Deanna Whitt.

Those in the military: Daniel Darling, Nicholas Pueschel, and Devin Rosenbaum.

Expectant and new again parents and siblings, the women of Kinard Manor and ALL in recovery, the people fed through our Soup Kitchen Ministry and Food Pantry Ministry, the people participating in our Jail Ministry, the people of our Matthew 25:40 Ministry, along with the people they continue to help in Guatemala, and

The families of Saints who have been received into their eternal rest: George Lee Natvig.

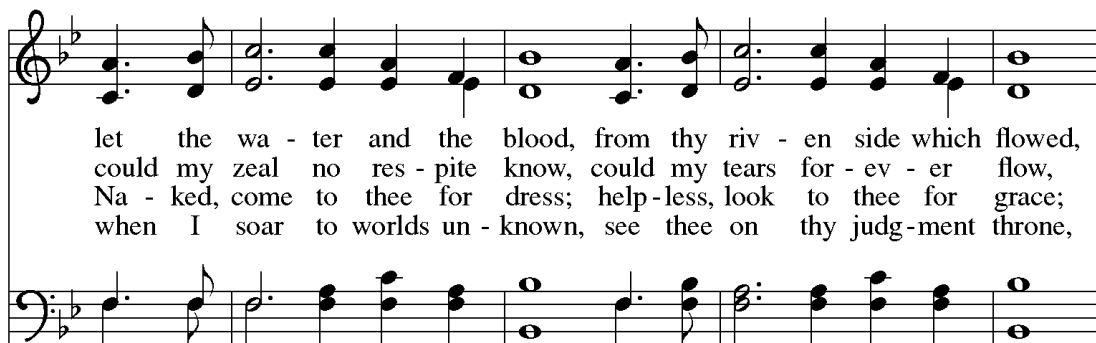
✠ THE COMMUNION HYMN

Rock of Ages

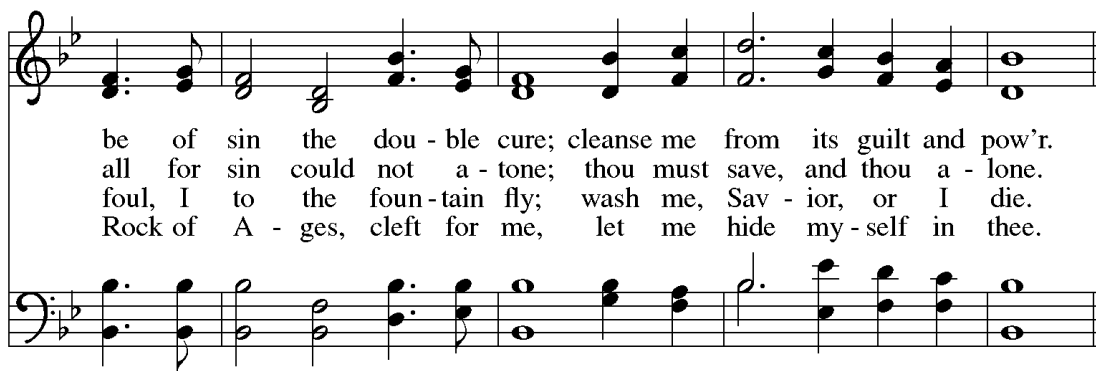
ELW # 623



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
 2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;
 3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.
 4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,



let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,
 could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
 Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;
 when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
 all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.
 foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–1778
 Music: TOPLADY, Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872

✠ THE BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

Please stand, as you are able.

Pastor The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in
 God's Grace!
 ALL AMEN!

✝ THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor Compassionate God,
ALL 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.

✝ THE BENEDICTION

Pastor Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ✝ one God, bless, heal, and hold you
 today and always.
ALL AMEN.



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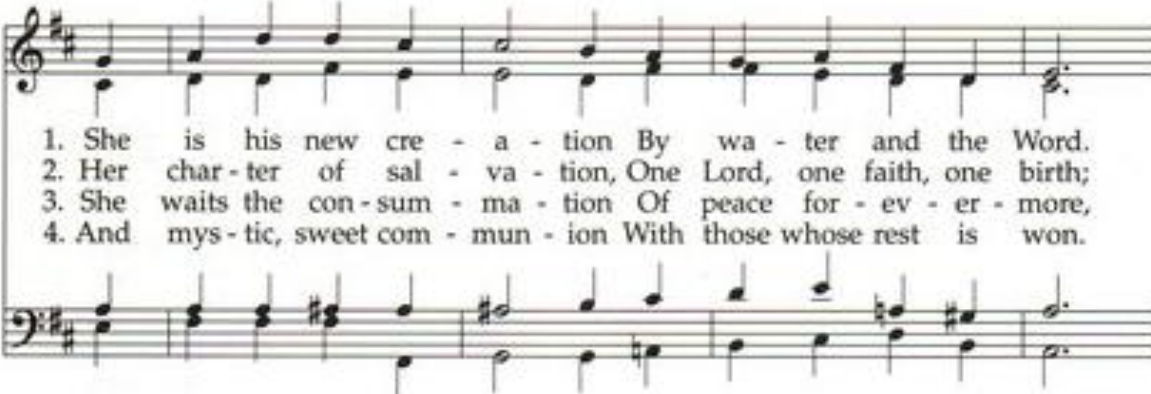
✝ THE CLOSING HYMN

The Church's One Foundation

ELW # 654



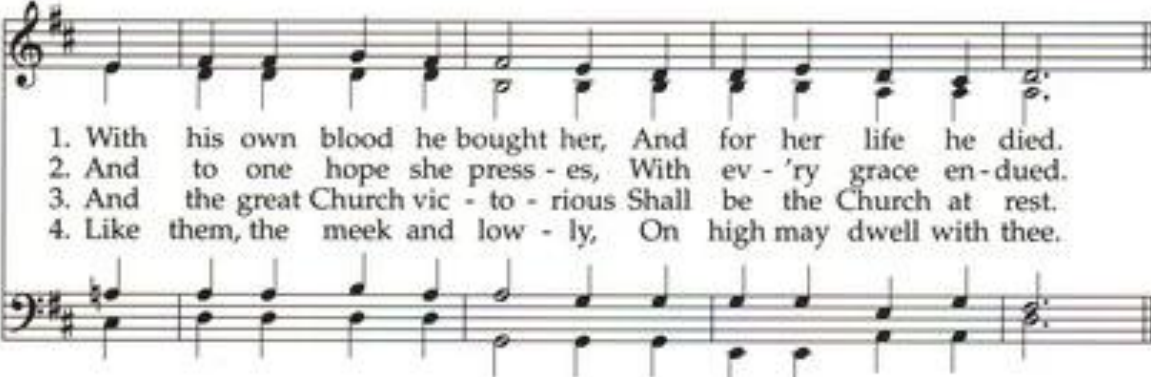
1. The Church's one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ her Lord;
 2. E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, Yet one o'er all the earth,
 3. 'Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, And tu - mult of her war,
 4. Yet she on earth hath un - ion With God, the Three - in - One,



1. She is his new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the Word.
 2. Her char - ter of sal - va - tion, One Lord, one faith, one birth;
 3. She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of peace for - ev - er - more,
 4. And mys - tic, sweet com - mun - ion With those whose rest is won.



1. From heav'n he came and sought her To be his ho - ly bride;
 2. One ho - ly name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food,
 3. Till with the vi - sion glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest,
 4. O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we



1. With his own blood he bought her, And for her life he died.
 2. And to one hope she press - es, With ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
 3. And the great Church vic - to - rious Shall be the Church at rest.
 4. Like them, the meek and low - ly, On high may dwell with thee.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839-1900

Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810-1876

✝ THE DISMISSAL

CM = Council Member of the Day

CM Let us proclaim together:

ALL Walk in God's grace and give it freely to others. Thanks be to God.

✝ THE POSTLUDE

Gavotte

Samuel Wesley

THANK YOU to those serving in Worship today!

Council Member of the Day	Courtney Christensen
Lector / Assisting Minister	Kat Finkbeiner
Cantor	Blair McClendon
Acolytes	Ruth Divilbiss and Olive Divilbiss
Crucifer	Nathan Shumate
Communion Assistants	Nathan Shumate, Ruth Divilbiss, and Olive Divilbiss
Sound and Video Technician(s)	George Beveridge and Jim Cochran
Altar Guild	Kat Finkbeiner
Ushers	Kat Finkbeiner and Erwin Finkbeiner
Counter	John Kinard
Officer on Duty	Kevin Reeder

Altar flowers today are given by Elaine and David Rosenbaum in honor of all the students returning to college.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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864-223-0590, Church Web Site: www.ilcgreenwood.com
office@ilcgreenwood.com
Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
* Closed on Mondays

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Chris Christopher, Pastor
pastorchris.ilcgreenwood@gmail.com

John Kinard, Congregation President
jkinard29@yahoo.com

Dr. Will Cleveland, Parish Administrator / Director of Music
will@ilcgreenwood.com

Juan Luna, Sexton
Samuel Hurley and Kristen Metts, Parish Custodians

SERVING THE CHURCH IN GREATER CAPACITIES

The Rev. Yehiel Curry, Presiding Bishop, ELCA
The Rev. Ginny Aebischer, Bishop, South Carolina Synod