



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 23, 2020 • 10 am

You are welcome here! As a Reconciling in Christ congregation, we believe that the gospel is God's gift to all people, shared unconditionally and without regard to race, gender identity, sexual orientation, socio-economic or family status, age, physical or mental abilities, outward appearance, or religious affiliation. We seek to live the truth written in Ephesians that Christ breaks down the dividing walls between us and makes us one.

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.

Gathering

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

Welcome

Prelude

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God,
whose steadfast love is everlasting,
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God,

**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 good 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.

Beloved of God,...through the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

**** Gathering Song**

Built on a Rock (verses 1 and 2)

ELW # 652



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
5 Through all the pass - ing years, O Lord, grant that, when church bells are



fall - ing; crum - bled have spires in ev - 'ry land, bells still are
dwell - ing— high in the heav'n's 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
ring - ing, man - y may come to hear your Word, who here this



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
prom - ise is bring - ing: "I know my own, my own know me; you, not the



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.
world, my face shall see; my peace I leave with you. A - men."

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

**** Prayer of the Day**

Assisting Minister leads the prayer of the day and the assembly responds: Amen.

**** Items in bold are to be spoken/sung by the assembly.**

Word

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.

Reading

Matthew 16:13-20

Sermon

The Rev. Jason Churchill

** Hymn

Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good (verses 1 and 2)

ELW #871



1 Sing praise to God, the high - est good, the au - thor of cre -
2 What your al - might - y pow'r has made, in mer - cy you are
3 We sought the Lord in our dis - tress; O God, in mer - cy
4 All who con - fess Christ's ho - ly name, give God the praise and



a - tion! O God of love, you un - der - stood our need for
keep - ing; by morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade, your eye is
hear us. Our Sav - ior saw our help - less - ness and came with
glo - ry! Let all God's sav - ing pow'r pro - claim; give God the



your sal - va - tion. With heal - ing balm our souls you fill;
nev - er sleep - ing; in the do - min - ion of your might
peace to cheer us. For this we thank and praise the Lord,
praise and glo - ry! Cast ev - 'ry i - dol from its throne;



all our la - ment with peace you still.
all things are just and good and right. To God all praise and glo - ry!
who is by one and all a - dored.
God is the Lord, and God a - lone:

Text: Johann J. Schütz, 1640–1690; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812–1897, adapt.
Music: LOBT GOTT DEN HERREN, IHR, Melchior Vulpius, 1570–1615

** Prayers of the People

Each portion of the prayer ends with either:

Responses: Bless we the Lord
Hear us, O God.

Thanks be to God.
Your mercy is great.

** Items in bold are to be spoken/sung by the assembly.

Thanksgiving for the Word

Lord's Prayer

Sending

We are sent into the world to serve.

Dismissal

Postlude

Enjoy today's service? Visit our Facebook page and invite a friend, comment, or leave a review. May God go with you today and everyday.

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For additional reference on hymn text and music please refer to the hymn number in the cranberry prayer book and hymnal, Evangelical Lutheran Worship.

Participants in Today's Service

Pastor:

The Rev. Jason Churchill

Cantor:

Dr. Oksana Glouchko

Assisting Minister:

Ken Nicholson

Lector:

Ann Warner

Reader:

Noah Sullivan

Ministers:

The people of St. Stephen's

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