

**ST. JOHN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

**7:45AM &
10:45AM**

**MARCH 21,
2021**



**Making the
Love of
Christ
Known**

Jeffery Gramza
Senior Pastor

Doug Meyer
Pastor Emeritus

Charlie Frekot
Vicar

Prelude

Welcome /Announcements

Threshold

We continue our Lenten “season of recovery” as we focus on health as essential to our spiritual lives.

Holy Vessels

Threshold Song - WDS Lenten Series

MUSIC: Chuck Bell
WORDS: Marcia McFee

The musical score is written on two staves in G-clef, 8/8 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the song, with lyrics 'Ves - sels, hol-y and whole. Bro - ken, need-ing the One'. The second staff begins with a measure rest marked '5', followed by the melody for the second line of the song, with lyrics 'O - pen, bod - y and soul Heal - er, come.'. The score ends with a double bar line and the instruction 'Repeat As Needed'.

Ves - sels, hol-y and whole. Bro - ken, need-ing the One

5 O - pen, bod - y and soul Heal - er, come. Repeat As Needed

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The demands of following Jesus are great. He shows us that sometimes we must make extraordinary efforts to move in a new direction. As we consider the health of humanity, we cannot ignore the need to heal the very planet that sustains us. We live in increasing chaos of a beleaguered environment and the hoarding of resources. We want to be “saved” by something or someone else, but we discover this week that we are in the boat with the One who shows us our power to turn it around, to calm the storm. We protect the jewel that is our home, restoring something beautiful from scars of the past.

Repeat Refrain



Prayer of Confession

Let us acknowledge our need to restore, repair, renew our Holy Vessels, especially this holy container of life on which we live—this very planet.

Let us pray:

Life-giving God,

In the beginning, you created this universe with a phrase, “Let it be...” and the waters and dry land, the sky and the creatures were formed.

You set humanity among these wonders and invited us to care and honor all things.

We have not successfully answered that call.

Too often we think there is nothing we can do—that the change required is too great.

It all feels overwhelming and so we look away, sometimes even from the small things that could make a difference for our own community.

Help us, Healer.

Show us our ability to chart a different course.

Forgive our inaction.

**Move us to move
one step at a time.**

**In this silence, we sense and acknowledge our yearning
for wholeness.**

Silence

Repeat Refrain



Assurance

Know this: Jesus asks us to do hard things, to make changes,
knowing we are capable.

No. Matter. What.

We can change in order to heal this jewel planet called home.

The calm of Christ in the storm is available.

For you, for me, for all.

Peace

I invite you to imagine the warmth that surrounds you extending
to those who may be next to you. Imagine it extending beyond
your walls to

the neighborhood...
the wider community...
the church...

and seeing it spread like the rising sun, let it expand to all the
world. Let this be our peace. Amen.

The peace of Christ is with you.

And also with you.

Gathering Hymn

ELW 825



You Servants of God



1 You ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim, and pub - lish a -

3 Sal - va - tion to God who sits on the throne! Let all cry a -

4 Then let us a - dore and give him his right, all glo - ry and



broad his won - der - ful name; the name, all - vic - to - rious, of

loud and hon - or the Son. The prais - es of Je - sus the
pow'r and wis - dom and might, all hon - or and bless - ing, with



Je - sus ex - tol; his king - dom is glo - rious and rules o - ver all!

an - gels pro - claim, fall down on their fac - es, and wor - ship the Lamb.
an - gels a - bove, and thanks nev - er ceas - ing, and in - fin - ite love!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: LYONS, attr. Johann Michael Haydn, 1737–1806

Prayer of the Day

O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, now and forever.

Amen.

Children's Sermon

Kids Praise (10:45) *At this time children age 3 – grade 4 are now dismissed, at the parent's discretion, to the Octagon.*



First Reading Jeremiah 31:31-34

The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

³²It 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. ³³But 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. ³⁴No 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.

The reading is concluded:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 51:1-12

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

³For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil
in your sight; so you are justified when you speak
and right in your judgment.**

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸**Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹²**Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

Second Reading: Hebrews 5:5-10

Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.



⁵Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son, today I have begotten you”;

⁶as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.”

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

The reading is concluded:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Announcement

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 8th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 8: 18-27

Now when Jesus saw great crowds around him, he gave orders to go over to the other side. A scribe then approached and said, “Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.” And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” Another of his disciples said to him, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” But Jesus said to him, “Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”

And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. A windstorm arose on the sea, so great that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. And they went and woke him up, saying, “Lord, save us! We are perishing!” And he said to them, “Why are you afraid, you of little faith?” Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a dead calm. They were amazed, saying, “What sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?”

After the reading:
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

ELW 862

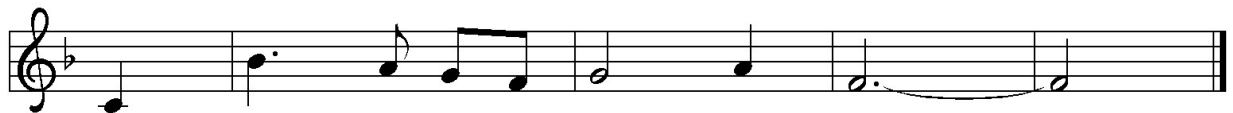
Praise, Praise! You Are My Rock



- 1 Praise, praise! You are my rock. The wind, the waves are high. You hold me
2 Praise, praise! You are my rock. My des - ert sand is dry. You break the
3 Praise, praise! You are my rock. You calm the fear and pain. One word of



when the waves are strong. You hold me lest I die, I die.
rock, a riv - er flows. You hear me when I cry, I cry.
faith and I am well, I rise to praise and walk a - gain.



Praise, praise! O God, you are my rock.

Praise, praise! You are my rock.
You stood high on a hill.
A holy cloud: you are on high.
Be still, my heart, be still, be still.
Praise, praise! O God, you are my rock.

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926
Music: ZACHARY WOODS ROCK, Rusty Edwards, b. 1955
Text and music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

Prayers of Intercession

Offering

Offering Prayer

Merciful God, we thank you for your wonderful works among humankind. Accept this offering with the dedication of our lives and help us be for the world an emblem of your steadfast love, in Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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.

Benediction

Now go with confidence
that we will awaken, we will seek out and reach for
the healing solutions that our neighbors, our communities, our
world needs,
recovering our depth of love for all
and our joy of living in this world.

May the words of Jesus ring in your ears:
“follow me.”

And may the Spirit hover, move, and deliver you.
Amen.



Sending Hymn

ELW 763

My Life Flows On in Endless Song



- 1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,
- 2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu-sic ring - ing.
- 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.
- 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899

Music: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING, Robert Lowry, alt.

Dismissal

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude



