



Worship for Sunday, August 23, 2020 - 12th Sunday after Pentecost
St. Stephen the Martyr Lutheran Church
Greendale, WI www.ssmelca.org

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.

PRELUDE - "Quiet Meditation" by Bob Burroughs

**Handbells: Denise Sanders,
Teri Peterson, Sandra Wesolowski**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

C: Amen.

P: Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Reconciling God,

**C: 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.

P: Beloved of God,
by the radical abundance of divine mercy
we have peace with God through † Christ Jesus,
through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.

Our sins are forgiven.

Let us live now in hope.

For hope does not disappoint,

because God's love has been poured into our hearts

through the Holy Spirit.

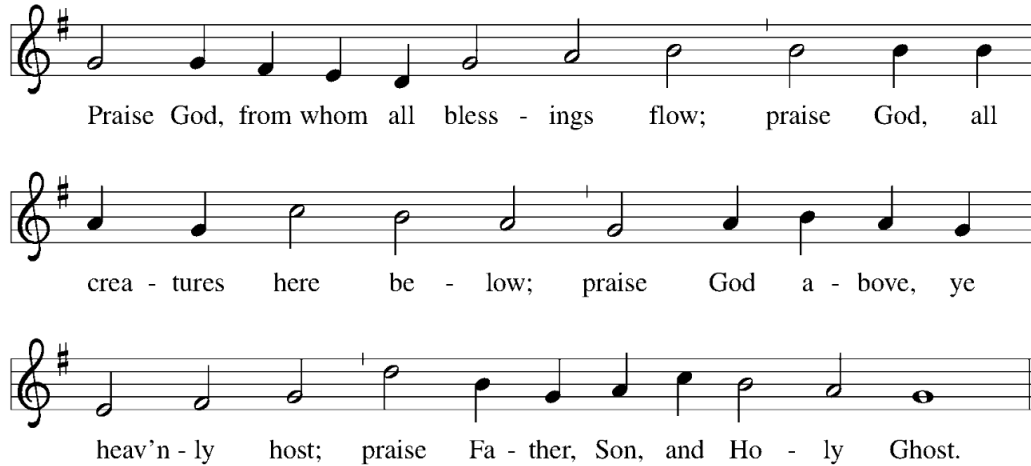
C: Amen

GREETING

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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE - "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"



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.

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C: **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.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 51:1-6

Read by Jeff Schultz

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 that pursue righteousness,
you that 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;
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.

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.
 ¶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.

L: The word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-8

Read by Jeff Schultz

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.

¶I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, 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: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

L: The word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew. C: Glory to you, O Lord.

At a climactic point in Jesus’ ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is “the Messiah, the Son of the living God,” and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷And 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. ¹⁸And 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. ¹⁹I 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.” ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE - ROCK **Rev. Brian Hooper**

HYMN OF THE DAY *“Built on a Rock”*

5 Through all the passing years, O Lord,
grant that, when church bells are ringing,
many may come to hear your Word,
who here this promise is bringing:
“I know my own, my own know me;
you, not the world, my face shall see;
my peace I leave with you. Amen.”

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
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AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in God, who with Wisdom created life,
and continues to work in all of Creation.**

**We believe in God who is Alpha and Omega,
the beginning and end of all that is, was and is to come.**

**We believe in God who liberates us from sin and death,
claiming us in baptism as God's own.**

**We believe in Jesus the Christ, born of Mary,
who lives and listens to women, men, and children-healing them,
making them whole and leading them into relationship with God.**

**We believe in Jesus who was both human and divine,
chose to live a life of justice over indifference,
that led to his suffering on the cross.**

**We believe Jesus died, was resurrected and offers this same promise
of eternal life to all who are baptized.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit; Healer, Sustainer, Breath of God,
who works in each one of us to make God's reign a reality
for all humankind.**

**We believe he abides in us, helping us to see beyond ourselves,
to live an abundant life. Trusting in the promise, presence and
mystery of our Triune God, we are bold to confess our faith
and live as God's chosen children. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Held together in one body by the Spirit of Christ, let us pray for the church and the world, responding to each petition with the words, hear our prayer.

Bless the church, that despite the hardships experienced during this pandemic, Christians around the globe will stand firm on the rock, who is Christ. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer**

Bless the earth, that it be saved from ecological harm. Restore all lands and seas to the beauty and vigor that you intend. Protect animals whose habitat is endangered. Train us to be gardeners of your creation. We pray for those suffering the effects of destructive summer storms, especially those in Iowa. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Bless the leaders of nations, that they govern their people with integrity and attend to the needs of the poor. Guard the United States from violence. Give clear purpose to protestors and to police. Inspire our political parties to conduct the election season with honesty and respect for all. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer**

Bless our various means of communication, our phones, the internet, our postal service, and delivery businesses, that our communities be sustained for fruitful life together. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer**

Bless students, that whether in class or at home they be kept safe and able to learn. Uphold faculty and families and protect all who will be affected by the opening of schools. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer**

Bless all who are in need; all who have tested positive for the virus; the sick and the dying. We pray for the unemployed; for medical workers; for those seeking a vaccine; for those who are overwhelmed with anxiety about the future. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer**

We praise you for the lives of all your faithful people. We mourn the death of those we have loved. Bring us at the end, we pray, into the joy and gladness of life together in you. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer**

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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.**

SHARING THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY *(Thanks for sharing your gifts. Offering envelopes can still be mailed to the church, you can use the GIVE + app found on the resource tab at ssmelca.org or you may wish to sign up for Simply Giving to have your offering scheduled on an automatic basis.)*

OFFERING PRAYER

L: God of life, you give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life and labor. Take them, offered in great thanksgiving, and use us and the gifts we offer in service in the world.

C: **Amen.**

BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE - "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing" arr. Rudy Davenport

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KEEP THESE SSM MEMBERS IN PRAYER

Joyce Gagliano, Sue Herman, Sue Jarchow, Lynda Johnson, Ken & Carolyn Kahl, Shirley Lieske, Sandy Peterson, Teri Peterson, Patrick Rafalski, John Rech, Joan Retzlaff, Ron Ropel, Rob Rutzen, Karl Simley, John Winter.

PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Roberta Henrichs, sister-in-law of Joan Retzlaff	Dawn Salopek, sister of Karen Miller
Laurence Freemont, friend of SSM	Janet Heino, great aunt of Stephanie Falksen
Katie Stull, granddaughter of Phil & LaVerne Morgan	Tinsley Marie, great granddaughter of Sue Herman
Jane Janicki, sister of the Winter Family	Cameo Abifarin, friend of Julie Herman
Jerelie Caston, daughter of Joan Retzlaff	Cathy & Mark Kossow, friends of Lynda Johnson
Nancy & Mike Andritsch, sister/brother in law of Barbara & Dan Davies	Tippecanoe's "Larry under the bridge", friend of the Homeless
Josh Knapp, friend of Amy Billman	Judy Ventimiglia, friend of Shelly Rosenstock
Linda Radike, friend of Julie Herman	Katie Manzeck, friend of Carol Manning
Karen Stolz, neighbor of Julie Herman	Susan White, sister of Sally Kowalewski
Roger & Kathy Blanchard, cousin of Bob Lieske	Jon Kowalewski, husband of Susan Kowalewski
Billy Waters, husband of Darlene Waters & Stepdad of Lori Salas	Lauryn Ramintho, great-granddaughter of Karen Miller
Mike Derrick, nephew of Ron & Carole Ropel	Lucy Copeland, granddaughter of Dianne Niese
Daniel Kilimann, son of Joy Kilimann	Liane Guthrie, daughter of Dianne Niese
Carson Wudtke, grandson of Dan & Barb Davies	Leroy Robinson, father of Linda Schmidt
Sharon West, friend of Lynda Johnson	Maria Hill, friend of Lynda Johnson
Ted P., brother-in-law of Gail Jakus	Steve, son of Louise Becker
Jay Lessing, friend of LaVerne Morgan	Ann Scorzynski, friend of LaVerne Morgan
Jeanne Jimenez, daughter of Shirley Rau	Kristin White, daughter of Sue Herman
Cindy Molter, mother of Fred Ankebrant	Laura Sussman, mother of Kimberly Carroll
Mark Molter, uncle of Fred Ankebrant	Diane Schauer, friend of Carol Manning
Ashton Miller, nephew of Jenny & Kurt Koeff	Louie Baumgartner, son-in-law of Bob Lieske
Terry Betchner, friend of Dianne Niese	Richard Kurcharski, father of Jenny Resterhouse
Beth Klosinski, daughter of Linda Schmidt	Robert Goist, friend of Denise Sanders
Tom Ervin, former father-in-law of Shelly Rosenstock	Sharon Maschke, sister in law of Pam Maschke