



August 27, 2023

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Ken Bersche

*Janis Lapham, Organist
Maggie Kent, Secretary*

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“How Firm a Foundation”

♪ How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He has said
Who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?

♪ “Fear not! I am with you, O be not dismayed,
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

♪ “The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose
I will not, I will not, desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no never, no never, forsake!

♪ “When through fiery trials your pathway will lie,
My grace, all-sufficient, will be your supply.
The flames will not hurt you; I only design
Your dross to consume and your gold to refine.

♪ “Throughout all their lifetime My people will prove
My sov’ reign, eternal, unchangeable love;
And then, when gray hairs will their temples adorn,
Like lambs they will still in My bosom be borne.”

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 728-Text: A Selection of Hymns, London 1787; Tune: Genuine Church Music, Winchester 1832;
Setting: Joseph Herl b.1959; ©2006 Concordia Publishing House; Used by permission; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

Confession and Absolution

That we may rest on Jesus and His unchanging grace, let us with repentant hearts confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

A Time of Silence

How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!

Heavenly Father, Your Word tells us that we all have sinned and fall short of Your glory. By what we have done and by what we have failed to do, we have lived shaky lives that falter when we do not stand firm in You.

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee!

Lord Jesus, have mercy upon us. You are the rock of ages in whom we find protection and deliverance.

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand!

Holy Spirit, enable us to trust the promises of Your Word, confident in the forgiveness of sins found in Christ Jesus, our solid rock. Amen.

Upon this your confession, I am blessed to proclaim the certainty of God's saving grace to all of you! In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, our mighty rock and fortress, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Almighty God, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus Christ, to be the rock upon whom our lives are built. Help us rest securely in Your promises and find strength in Your mighty deliverance; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Hymn of Praise *Please Be Seated*

“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”

- ♪ Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood, From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
- ♪ Not the labors of my hands Can fulfill Thy Law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know, Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone.
- ♪ Nothing in my hand I bring; Simply to Thy cross I cling.
Naked, come to Thee for dress; Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly; Wash me, Savior, or I die.
- ♪ While I draw this fleeting breath, When mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown, See Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 761-Text: Augustus M. Toplady 1740-78; Tune: Thomas Hastings 1784-1872;
Setting: Lutheran Worship 1982; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 51:1-6

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.

²Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you;

for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him.

³For the LORD comforts Zion; he comforts all her waste places

and makes 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“Give attention to me, my people, and give ear to me, my nation;
for a law will go out from me, and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples.
⁵My righteousness draws near, my salvation has gone out, and my arms will judge the peoples;
the coastlands hope for me, and for my arm they wait.
⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment,
and they who dwell in it will die in like manner; but my salvation will be forever,
and my righteousness will never be dismayed.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

Romans 11:33–12:8

³³Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!

How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

³⁴“For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?”

³⁵“Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?”

³⁶For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers, 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 renewal of your mind, that by testing 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 himself more highly than he 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 the members do not all have the same function, ⁵so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

♪ My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;

No merit of my own I claim But wholly lean on Jesus’ name.

~On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.

♪ When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;

In ev’ry high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil. ~On Christ,...

♪ His oath, His covenant and blood Support me in the raging flood;

When ev’ry earthly prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. ~On Christ,...

♪ When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found,

Clothed in His righteousness alone, Redeemed to stand before His throne! ~On Christ,....

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 575- Text: Edward Mote 1797-1874;
Tune: John Stainer 1840-1901; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 16:13–20

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixteenth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

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, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

Children's Message *Please Be Seated*

The Hymn

“Be Still, My Soul”

- ♪ Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side; Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide;
In ev'ry change He faithful will remain. Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'nly Friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.
- ♪ Be still, my soul; your God will undertake To guide the future as He has the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright at last. Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.
- ♪ Be still, my soul; though dearest friends depart And all is darkened in this vale of tears;
Then you will better know His love, His heart,
Who comes to soothe your sorrows and your fears. Be still, my soul; your Jesus can repay
From His own fullness all He takes away.
- ♪ Be still, my soul; the hour is hast'ning on When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored. Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 752-Text: Catharina Amalia Dorothea von Schlegel 1697-1752, tr. Jane L. Borthwick 1813-97
Tune: Jean Sibelius 1865-1957, setting: The Hymnbook 1955; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Proclamation of the Word

“His Salvation Never Changes”

Isaiah 51:1–6

Offering and Musical Offering

Prayer of the Church *Please Stand*

Each petition is concluded with the following:

Lord, be our rock of refuge,

To which we can always go.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

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

2 Corinthians 13:14

Amen.

Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“The Church’s One Foundation”

- ♪ The Church’s one foundation Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new creation By water and the Word.
From heav’n He came and sought her To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.
- ♪ Elect from ev’ry nation, Yet one o’er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses With ev’ry grace endued.
- ♪ Though with a scornful wonder The world sees her oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder, By heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping, Their cry goes up, “How long?”
And soon the night of weeping Shall be the morn of song.
- ♪ Through toil and tribulation And tumult of her war
She waits the consummation Of peace forevermore
Till with the vision glorious Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious Shall be the Church at rest.
- ♪ Yet she on earth has union With God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion With those whose rest is won.
O blessèd heav’nly chorus! Lord, save us by Your grace
That we, like saints before us, May see You face to face.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 644-Text: Samuel J. Stone 1839-1900;
Tune: Samuel S. Wesley 1810-76; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

Postlude