



Sunday, August 27, 2017
The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

“In Isaiah the people are bid 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 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.”

AS WE GATHER

WELCOME

PRELUDE

P. Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Please stand as you are able)

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

P. Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, full of compassion and mercy, abounding in steadfast love.

C. **Amen.**

P. Trusting God's promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P. Eternal God our creator,

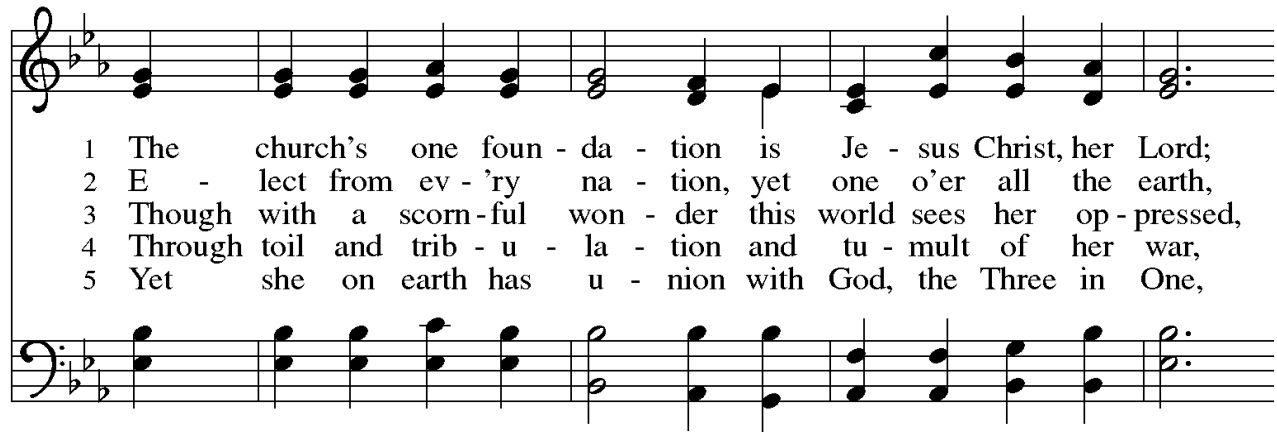
C. **in you we live and move and have our being. Look upon us, your children, the work of your hands. Forgive us all our offenses, and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires. By your grace draw us near to you, our refuge and our strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P. Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us. In the mercy of almighty God, Christ died for us while we still were sinners; and for his sake, God ☩ forgives you all your sins.

C. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

The Church's One Foundation



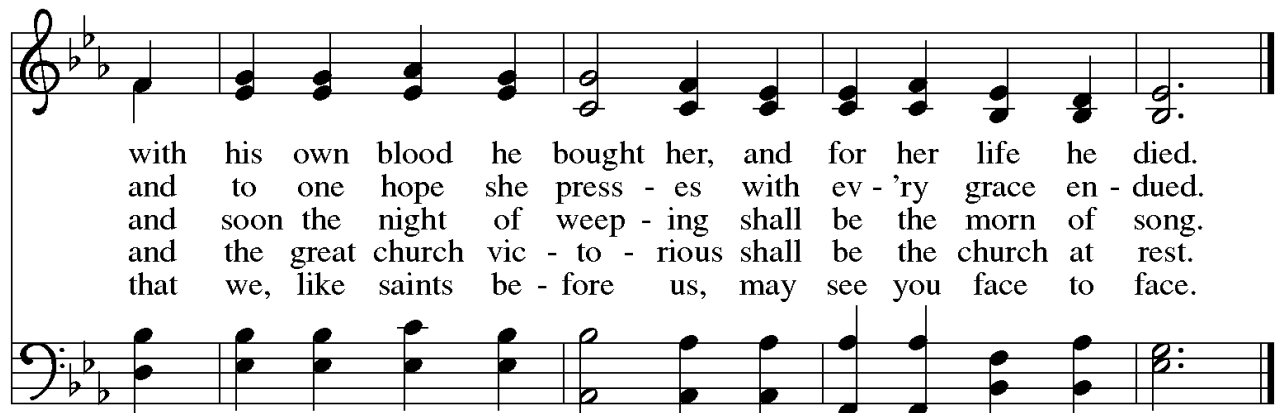
1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,



she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:
by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.



From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
Oh, bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,



with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P. Let us pray,
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.
- C. **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

WORD **We Hear God's Story**

First Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6

- R. A reading from Isaiah, the 51st chapter.

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.

(Continued on next page)

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.
⁶Lift 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.

R. The word of the Lord.

C. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM : Psalm 138

¹I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with | my whole heart;
before the gods I will | sing your praise.

²**I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of
your steadfast | love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name and your word a- | bove all things.**

³When I called, you | answered me;
you increased my | strength within me.

⁴**All the rulers of the earth will praise | you, O LORD,
when they have heard the words | of your mouth.**

⁵They will sing of the ways | of the LORD,
that great is the glory | of the LORD.

⁶**The LORD is high, yet cares | for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty | from afar.**

⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you | keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right | hand
shall save me.

⁸**You will make good your pur- | pose for me;
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works |
of your hands.**

Second Reading: Romans 12:1-8

R. A reading from Romans the 12th chapter.

¹I 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.

R. The word of the Lord.

C. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Please stand as you are able)



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

P. The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 16th chapter.

C. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

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 our Lord.

C. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(please be seated)

SERMON Pastor Brandon Cian

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The Solid Rock

EDWARD MOTE

WILLIAM B. BRADBURY



1. My hope is built on noth-ing less Than Je-sus' blood and right-eous-ness.
2. When dark-ness seems to hide His face, I rest on His un - changing grace.
3. His oath, His cov - e - nant, His blood Sup - port me in the whelm-ing flood.
4. When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found;



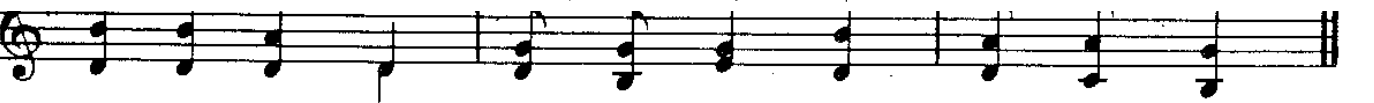
I dare not trust the sweet-est frame, But whol-ly lean on Je-sus' name.
 In ev -'ry high and storm-y gale, My an-chor holds with - in the vale.
 When all a - round my soul gives way, He then is all my Hope and Stay.
 Dressed in His right-eous-ness a - lone, Fault-less to stand be - fore the throne.



REFRAIN



On Christ, the sol - id Rock, I stand; All oth - er ground is



sink-ing sand. All oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.



WE CONNECT TO GOD'S STORY

(Please stand as you are able)

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell,
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy christian Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P. Generous, compassionate God, we gather before you to pray for the church,
the world, and all in need.

After each petition,

P. Lord, in your mercy,
C. **hear our prayer.**

P. Into your hands we place all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, trusting in
the mercy of Christ Jesus.
C. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C. **And also with you.**

(Please be seated)

OFFERING

Offertory

(Please stand, as you are able)

OLD HUNDREDTH (Louis Bourgeois, 1551)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

OFFERING PRAYER

P. Let us pray.

C. Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

(Please be seated)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSINGS

Those desiring an individual blessing please come forward. There need not be a special occasion for a blessing. However, those celebrating birthdays, anniversaries, or preparing to travel are encouraged to come forward. Those struggling with life issues, are encouraged to come forward.

(After the Blessings Have Been Completed, Please Stand, as you are able)

SEND

We Are Sent to Tell God's Story

BENEDICTION

P. May God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope.

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

C. Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Take My Life, That I May Be

1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;

take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

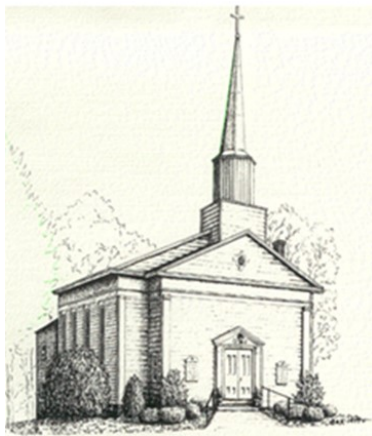
DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

C. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Worship has ended; let the service begin!”



Worship 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School 10:15 a.m.

Pastor Brandon Cian, Lutheran Pastor

Carol Corman, Lead Musician

People of St. John's, Ministers

We are a part of...



Allegheny Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

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St. John's Union Church: www.stjohnsunionchurch.org

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