

———— Gathering ————	
A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD	ELW 504

ELW 504

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

PRELUDE

WELCOME

GATHERING SONG

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who is eager to forgive and who loves us beyond our days. Amen.

Gathered in the presence of God and one another, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy and forgiveness, we confess that sin has a hold on us. We have harmed your good creation. We have failed to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Turn us in a new direction. Show us the path that leads to life. Be our refuge and strength on the journey, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Beloved of God:

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven + and you are made whole. God points the way to new life in Christ, who meets us on the road. Journey now in God's abiding love through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GREETING

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

And also with you.

KYRIE **ELW 157**

HYMN OF PRAISE **ELW 167**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray -

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING: JEREMIAH 31:31-34

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.

PSALM: PSALM 46

¹God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. ²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; ³though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.

⁶The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.

⁷The LORD of hosts is with us;

The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

⁸Come, behold the works of the LORD; see what desolations he has brought on the earth.

⁹He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰"Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth."

¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 3:19-28

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For "no human being will be justified in his sight" by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW 174

GOSPEL: JOHN 8:31-36

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 8th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³¹Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

³⁴Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you O Christ

SERMON

HYMN THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION ELW 654

Apostle's 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 to the dead.
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 catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Response to "Lord in your mercy" is "hear our prayer." If you would like to add a prayer petition, email it to Pastor Aleese at pastor@shepherdofthecross.org

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always! And also with you!

Congregation is invited to share a sign of peace with others. Pull out your cell phones and send a text and/or a picture to someone, sharing the peace of Christ with them as well!

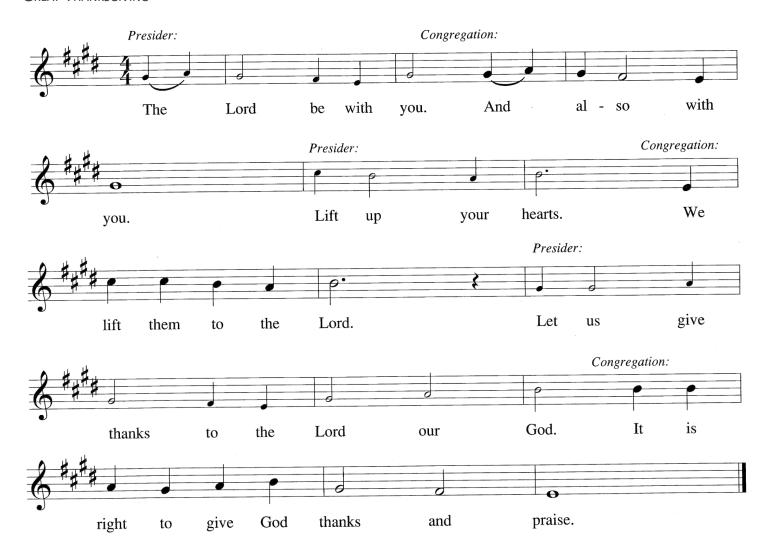
OFFERING AND OFFERING SONG

As the Grains of Wheat

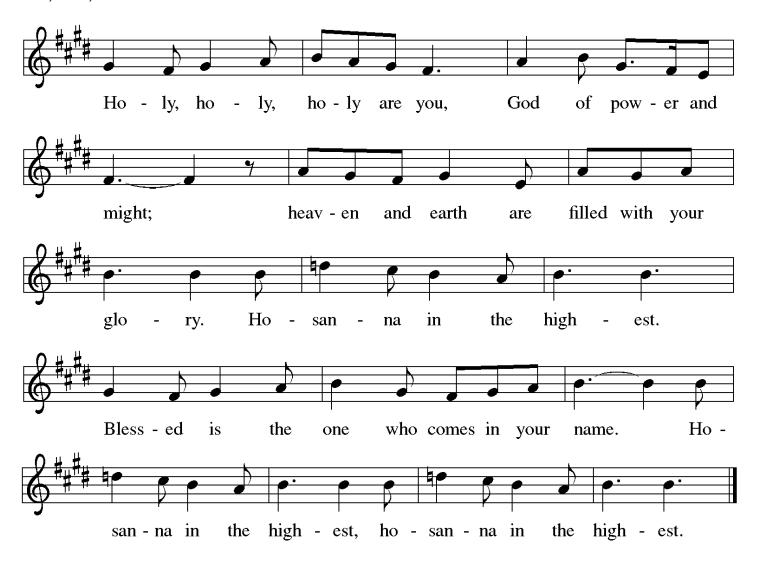
ELW 465 (VERSE 2 ONLY)

OFFERING PRAYER

GREAT THANKSGIVING



PREFACE



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Together we receive God's gift of love given to us in the sacrament of communion. All are welcome at the table, where Christ is our host.

Following the directions of the ushers, the congregation will be invited forward in groups. Each group will stand before the altar to receive the bread and wine/juice. After receiving both bread and wine,

remain with your group until Pastor Aleese offers a short blessing, dismissing each group to return to their seats. Those not desiring to receive communion may come forward for a blessing.

LAMB OF GOD

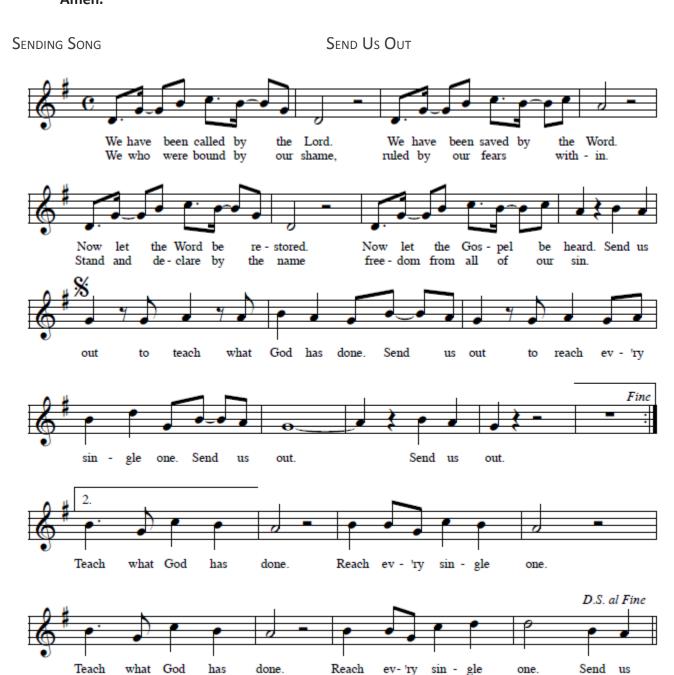


PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BLESSING

God, who gives life to all things and frees us from despair, bless you with truth and peace. And may the holy Trinity, + Father, Son and Holy Spirit, guide you always in faith, hope, and love.

Amen.



DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Thanks be to God!

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