

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Third & Terry, Longmont, Colorado
(303) 776-2800 | www.firstluth.org
Pastor Garrett Struessel and Deacon Korra Looschen

Reformation Sunday
Sunday, October 26, 2025
9:30 a.m.

REFORMATION

We welcome you to worship!
Please fill out the blue worship card and place it in the offering plate later in the service.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

INTRODUCTION

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.



CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful and loving God,

we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found.

Amen.

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ☩ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

"A Mighty Fortress"

Verse 1:

A mighty fortress is our God,
A bulwark never failing;
Our helper he amid the flood
Of mortal ills prevailing;
For still our ancient foe
Doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great,
And, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Verse 2 – Choir

Verse 3:

And though this world, with devils filled,
Should threaten to undo us;
We will not fear, for God hath willed
His truth to triumph through us:

The prince of darkness grim,
We tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure,
For lo his doom is sure,
On little word shall fell him.

Verse 4:

That word above all earthly powers,
No thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours
Through him who with us sideth:
Let goods and kindred go,
This mortal life also;
The body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is for ever.

GREETING

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

And also with you.

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

ANTHEM

"Refuge and Strength" by Mark Hayes

Chancel Choir

WORD

READINGS

READINGS

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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

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.

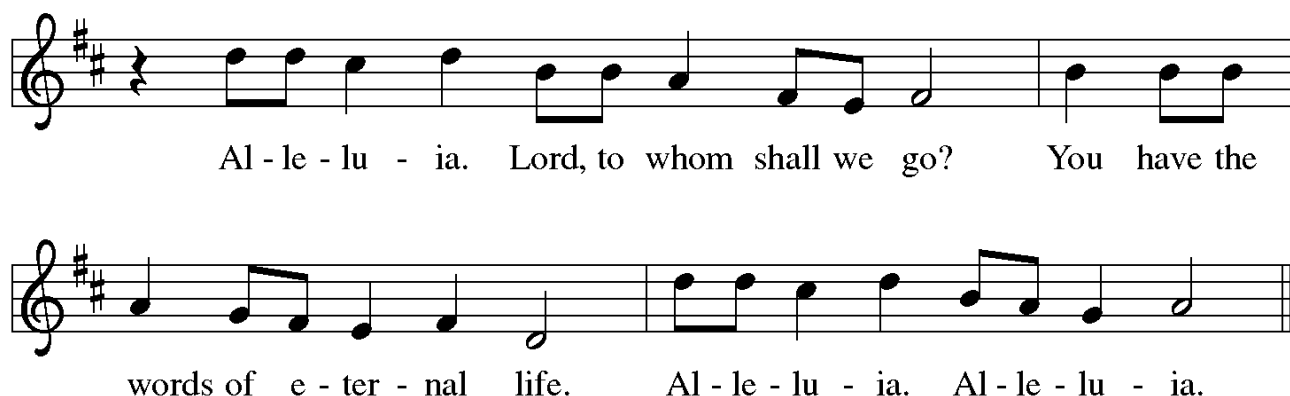
²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Deacon Korra Looschen



GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 8th chapter beginning at the 31st verse.

Glory to you, O Lord.

John 8:31-36

³¹Then Jesus 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 the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Garrett Struessel

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Welcoming New Members to the Congregation

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

Sisters and brothers have come to our congregation from various locations.

APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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.**

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

We give you thanks for our new members whom you have drawn to yourself by the love of Jesus Christ and whom we have welcomed into this household of faith. Keep us close together in your Spirit, in the breaking of bread and the prayers, and in service to others.

Let us welcome these sisters and brothers in Christ to this community of faith.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

The Gerber Family: Sarah, Evelyn, and Corrine

The Keller Family: Cynthia and Miriam

The Maier Family: Rod, Lindsay, and Henry

The Osberg Family: John and Susan

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of Grace
receive our prayer.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

MEAL

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN

"Sing Halleluah, Praise the Lord" arr. By K. Pope

Chancel Choir

OFFERTORY PRAYER

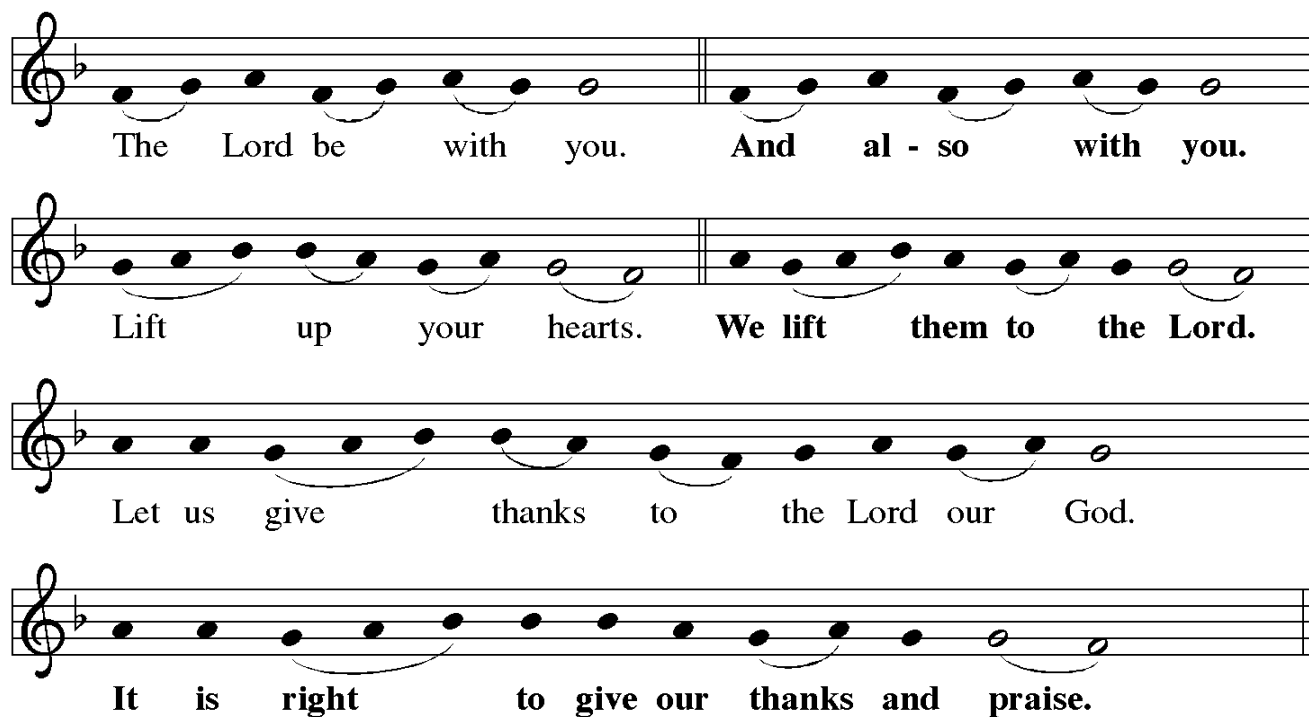
Lord of the harvest,

we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are quarter notes, mostly beamed in pairs or groups of four. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words aligned under specific notes and others under groups of notes. The first staff has a double bar line after the first measure. The second staff also has a double bar line after the first measure. The third and fourth staves end with double bar lines.

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

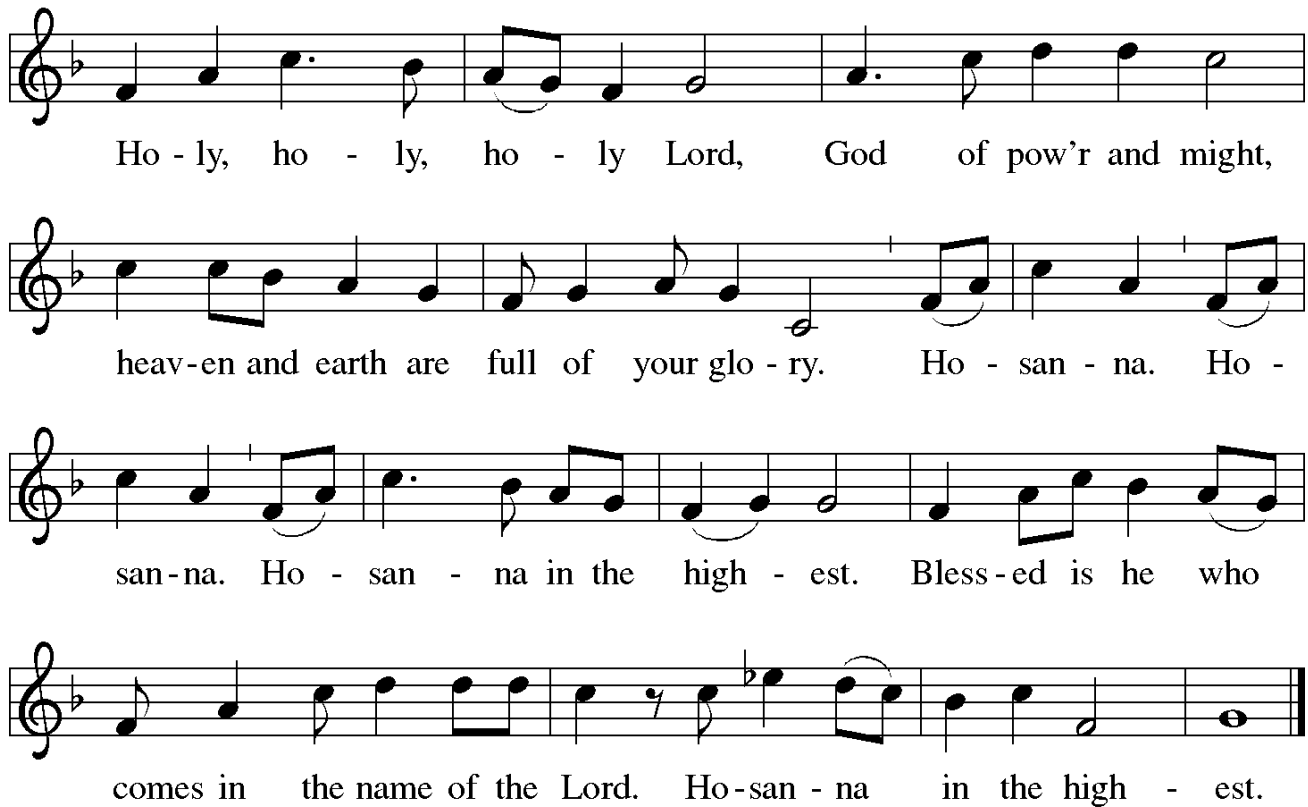
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Page 144



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.**

COMMUNION

All are welcome who come trusting in the gift of God's presence in the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation, shared in this meal. "The body of Christ, broken for you", and "the blood of Christ shed for you", include the promise of the forgiveness of sin, life and salvation in Christ Jesus our Lord. The ushers will invite you to come forward for communion. We invite everyone to receive communion if you so desire. The invitation to receive Holy Communion is from Christ Jesus; therefore "all are welcome". In our serving communion trays, wine is darker red on the outside, and grape juice is the lighter color in the center. We serve only gluten-free bread prepared in a kitchen excluding wheat flour, to include everyone regardless of wheat-gluten sensitivities. Come, taste and see, that the Lord is good.

LAMB OF GOD

Page 146

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

"Soli Deo Gloria"
"The Church's One Foundation"
"The Church of Christ"

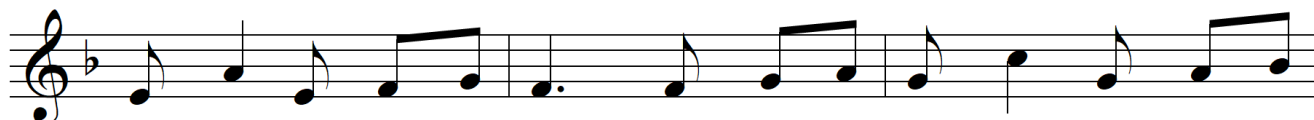
ELW 878
ELW 654
ELW 729



1. O God of bless - ings, all praise to you! Your love sur -
 2. All praise for proph - ets, through grace in - spired to preach and
 3. All praise for mu - sic, deep gift pro - found, through hands and
 4. All praise for Je - sus, best gift di - vine through word and
 5. A bil - lion voic - es in one great song, now soft and



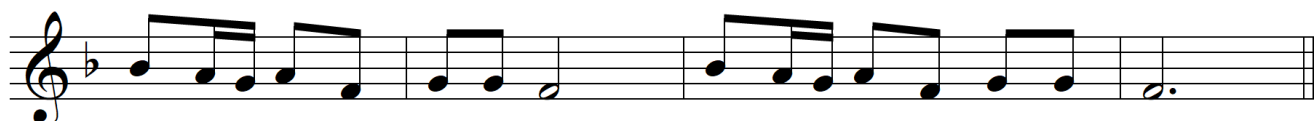
rounds us our whole life through. You are the
 wit - ness with hearts on fire. Your Spir - it
 voic - es in ho - ly sound; the psalm of
 wit - ness, in bread and wine; in - car - nate
 gen - tle, now deep and strong, in ev - 'ry



free - dom of those op - pressed, you are the com - fort of all dis -
 choos - es the weak and small to sing the new reign where might - y
 Da - vid, and Mar - y's praise, in word - less spen - dor and lyr - ic
 love song of bound - less grace, priest, teach - er, proph - et in time and
 cul - ture and style and key, from hill and val - ley, with sky and



tressed. Come now, O ho - ly and wel - come guest:
 fall; with them may we live your gos - pel call:
 phrase, with all cre - a - tion one song we raise:
 space, your stead - fast kind - ness with hu - man face:
 sea, with Christ we praise you e - ter - nal - ly:



So - li De - o glo - ri - a! So - li De - o glo - ri - a!

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.

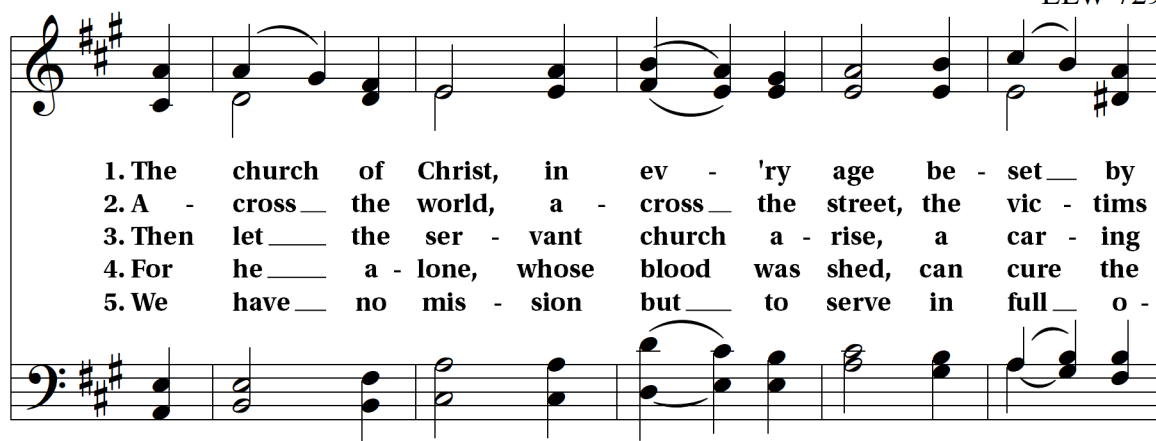
From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
 one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
 Oh, bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus!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

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900
 Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876

The Church of Christ, in Every Age

ELW 729



1. The church of Christ, in ev - 'ry age be - set by
 2. A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims
 3. Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing
 4. For he a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the
 5. We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



change, but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
 of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
 church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's
 fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to
 be - dience to our Lord; to care for all, with -



her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
 bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.
 sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
 share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
 out re - serve, and spread his lib - er - at - ing word.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000
 Music: William Knapp, 1698-1768
 Text © 1971 Hope Publishing Company

WAREHAM
 LM

COMMUNION BLESSING

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

O God,

through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

"Built On a Rock"

See Insert

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Built on a Rock

Verse One

Built on a rock the Church doth stand,
Even when steeples are falling:
Crumbled have spires in ev'ry land,
Bells still are chiming and calling,
Calling the young and old to rest;
But above all the soul distrest
Longing for rest everlasting.

Verse Two

Surely in temples made with hands,
God, the Most High, is not dwelling;
High above the earth His temple stand,
All earthly temples excelling,
Yet He whom heav'ns cannot not contain
Chose to abide on earth with men,
Built in our bodies His temple.

VERSE THREE - CHOIR

Verse Four

Here stands the font before our eyes
Telling how God did receive us;
Th'altar recalls Christ's sacrifice.
And what his table doth give us;
Here sounds the Word that doth proclaim
Christ yesterday, today, the same,
Yea, and for aye our Redeemer.
AMEN

WELCOME to Worship!

WELCOME to worship! We are so glad you are here!

LARGE-PRINT BULLETINS & HYMNS are available from the ushers.

KIDS WORSHIP BAGS are available to use during the church service. Pick one up in the narthex so they can enjoy looking through a children's Bible, coloring in the coloring pages, or playing with one of the toys. Kids worship bags are labeled according to age ranges. Please return the bags after service. Thank you for bringing your kids to church

ADDITIONAL PARKING is available in the Ahlberg Chapel parking lot, one-half block north of the church on Terry Street.

RESTROOMS are located on the upper level of the church, along the hallway leading to the Big Room. There are handicap accessible restrooms on the lower level near the elevator, and in the Big Room.

We love seeing you in worship!

Scan the QR Code for the Following!

View the Latest Sunday Bulletin



Preacher/Presider

The Rev. Garret Struessel

Worship Assistant

Deacon Korra Looschen

Council Hosts

Andrew Howell
Eric Pederson

Ushers

Todd Gould
Holly Keenan

Reader

Char Lemkee

Acolyte

Eli Brast

Communion Assistants

Dwight Tilford

Choir Director

Sally Campbell

Pianist/Organist

Gary Elmquist