

WELCOME!

We are glad to welcome you today as we gather together to worship God! Please be sure you complete the salmon insert inside your bulletin and turn it in to the usher at the time of communion.

This bulletin will assist you in participating in worship. All parts spoken by the congregation are listed in **bold print and preceded by "C:"**

There are also instructions printed in *italics* that will indicate other helpful descriptions of the service. Large Print Hymns are available. Please see an usher.

Thank you for turning off your cell phones or putting them on "silent" during the service.



*We are committed to **invite** and **welcome** all to Jesus Christ, to **equip** all with an active faith that works in real life, and together go into the world to **serve** in Jesus' name.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: Prelude and Fugue in C Major.....by J. S. Bach

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) was a devout Lutheran. He not only studied the writings of Martin Luther but also incorporated Luther's theology into his music. Especially in his cantatas and other sacred works, Bach promoted the teachings of the Reformation.

Please stand

INVOCATION, CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
[*moment of silent confession*] Gracious God,

C: **Have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our +Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

C: **Amen.**

HYMN 517 "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

APOSTOLIC 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



The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of the following notes: a quarter rest, a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a half note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note F#4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note D4, a quarter note C4. The lyrics 'Refrain This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our' are written below the staff, with hyphens under 'vic-to-ry'.

Refrain This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our



God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu -



ia. (1) Wor thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



Refrain This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our



God. Al - le - lu - ia. al - le - lu - ia. al - le - lu -



ia. (2) Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and



hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.



Refrain This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our



God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu -



ia. (3) Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and



join in the hymn of all cre - a - - tion:



Bless-ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to God and the



Lamb for - ev - er. A - - men.



Refrain This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our



God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu -



ia. (4) For the Lamb who was slain has be -



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - - ia.



Refrain This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our

68

God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

71

lu - ia.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves of music in G major (one sharp). The first staff, starting at measure 68, contains the melody for the first line of the hymn: 'God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -'. The second staff, starting at measure 71, contains the melody for the second line: 'lu - ia.'. The lyrics are written below the notes.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, you have taught us in your Son that love fulfills the law. Inspire us to love you with all our heart, our soul, our mind, and our strength, and teach us how to love our neighbor as ourselves, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It 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. But 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. No 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.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28

Now 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. For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom 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; it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



A - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life.



A - le - lu - ia. A - le - lu - ia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to the eighth chapter of John.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." They 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'?" Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

ANTHEM [8:15am and 11am services only]

Chancel Choir **"A Mighty Fortress"** arr. by David N. Johnson

*At the direction from the pastor, please stand if you are able
and join the choir on the third verse:*

**That word above all earthly power, 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 forever. Amen.**

SERMON

Pastor Seth

HYMN 654 "The Church's One Foundation"

Verse 1: Sung by all

Verse 2: Women only sing

Verse 4: Men only sing

Verse 5: Sung by all

APOSTLES' CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 THE CHURCH

Response:

P: ...Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy...

...and join their unending hymn:

HOLY HOLY HOLY

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

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.

HOLY COMMUNION

All baptized Christians who believe that Christ is present in the wine and bread for forgiveness, life, and salvation are welcome to partake of communion. Please indicate to the server if you would prefer to receive grape juice. All children and adults who prefer to receive a blessing instead of communion are welcome to come forward. Please indicate you would prefer to receive a blessing by keeping your hands folded.

BLESSING, PRAYER and BENEDICTION

HYMN 597 "My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less"

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE: Fugue on "A Mighty Fortress" by Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

Psalm 46

God's Defense of His City and People

To the leader of the Korahites, according to Alamo. A Song.

- 1 God is our refuge and strength,
a well proved help in trouble.
- 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
- 3 though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
- 4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
- 5 God is in the midst of it, the city shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.
- 6 The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
- 7 The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.
- 8 Come, behold the works of the Lord;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.
- 9 He 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."
- 11 The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

(NRSV)

Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost – October 31, 2021

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Mark 12:31)

Many complicated ideas Jesus teaches require further explanation. But not this time. The critics of Jesus have entangled him in yet another argument. They ask, “Jesus, since you are such an expert on all things, tell us, which commandment is the greatest?” You can hear exasperation in their voices. And once again Jesus astounds his critics by answering their question in a way they did not expect.

“Love God and love your neighbor.” Jesus simplifies things for us, reducing his sermons and teachings to a couple of easy-to-remember phrases. Or does he?

If you have honestly tried to love your neighbor as much as you love yourself, you know it is not an easy thing to do. What if your neighbor is quarrelsome or problematic? What if your neighbor is always trying to take advantage of you? Some people just can’t get along with anybody, and others seem to do everything they can to anger and alienate everybody else. These are difficult neighbors to love. Still, neighbor implies someone nearby, and if you try hard, you can find something lovable in the most difficult of neighbors. We have a motivation to try and get along with somebody who lives next door to us, it’s just common sense. We don’t need Jesus to command us to love them!

Loving our neighbors in the way of Jesus is not easy, not because our neighbor is unlovable, but rather because of Jesus. His life, death, and resurrection changed our ideas of loving our neighbor. Jesus showed his love toward us in not only dying on the cross for us but also in returning to the same disciples who betrayed him. His resurrection appearances are linked to his forgiveness. Christ made his enemies (us) into his beloved neighbors for whom he would do anything, even dying on a cross!

The command to love God precedes the command to love our neighbor because loving our neighbor requires we look at our neighbor as Christ looks at our neighbor. It’s hard to love our neighbors as much as we love ourselves. Maybe Jesus means here to love our neighbors as God has loved us. How did God love us? With a sacrificial, even-unto-death self-giving that is our salvation. We love because Christ first loved us. We love as those who are humbled and grateful that God called us to show God’s love to all.