



## Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church – ELCA

*"Encouraging faith and proclaiming God's love by Gathering, Growing and Giving."*

13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

*Service of the Word*

August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**This worship is being livestreamed. Your presence in the sanctuary signifies your agreeing to be on our live broadcast.**

*NOTE: **Bold text** indicates worshippers' response, and \* means please stand as able.*

PRELUDE

Michelle Young

WELCOME & MINISTRY MESSAGES

Pastor Ron Gerl

Reader: *Steve Sweeney* Acolyte: *Cade Larson* Video: *Dave Young* Ushers: *Dave Blicher & Tim Jenson*

### ***GATHERING***

- *Hymns today are in the Green and Blue books.*

\* GREETING The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **All: And also with you.**

\* GATHERING HYMN *The Church's One Foundation* LBW#369- first 4 verses

### **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 this 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.

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

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\* CONFESSIO**N** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure. Amen. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors. *Silence is kept for reflection.* Righteous God, we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

\* FORGIVENESS God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

\* PRAYER OF THE DAY 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.** Amen.

GOOD NEWS FOR KIDS

*"The Lone Ranger"*

\* HYMN OF PRAISE *Praise God from whom All Blessings Flow* #564

**Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711

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***GROWING***

**First Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6** *Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants, so now God offers comfort to Zion. God's deliverance will come soon and will never end.*

<sup>1</sup>Listen 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. <sup>2</sup>Look 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. <sup>3</sup>For 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.

<sup>4</sup>Listen 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. <sup>5</sup>I 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. <sup>6</sup>Lift 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.

*Please join in reading Psalm 67 responsively*

### **Psalm 138**

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

<sup>2</sup>**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 above all things.**

<sup>3</sup>When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.

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

<sup>5</sup>They will sing of the ways of the LORD, that great is the glory of the LORD.

<sup>6</sup>**The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly, perceiving the haughty from afar.**

<sup>7</sup>Though 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.

<sup>8</sup>**You will make good your purpose for me; O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.**

**Second Reading: Romans 12:1-8** *In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by the time in which we live but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.*

<sup>1</sup>I 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. <sup>2</sup>Do 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. <sup>3</sup>For 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. <sup>4</sup>For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. <sup>6</sup>We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; <sup>7</sup>ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; <sup>8</sup>the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

**Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20** *At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.*

<sup>13</sup>Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" <sup>14</sup>And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." <sup>15</sup>He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup>And 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. <sup>18</sup>And 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. <sup>19</sup>I 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." <sup>20</sup>Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

\* HYMN OF THE DAY *Borning Cry* WOV #770- all verses

**Borning Cry**

"I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.  
I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;  
in a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell."

"When you heard the wonder of the Word I was there to cheer you on;  
you were raised to praise the living Lord, to whom you now belong.  
If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,  
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun."

"In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,  
I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.  
When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes,  
I'll be there as I have always been, with just one more surprise."

"I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold."

"Borning Cry" was reprinted with  
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Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937 Text © 1985 John C. Ylvisaker

\*THE APOSTLES' CREED (*professed together*)

**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**

\*Or, He descended to the dead. \*\* universal

\* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

God of Sarah and Abraham, inspire your church to pursue good and right ways in its ministry. Equip us to share your compassion that unites us as one family of faith. Guide to be a better neighbor to our community. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Remind us that from the beginning of creation, you knit together a world meant for harmony. Protect and restore the wasted places to joy and gladness. Bring help to all people devastated by Hurricane Hilary in southern California as well as those on the island Maui in Hawaii. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Stir the leaders of nations and towns, militaries and courts, to respond to your teachings. Let your call for justice reach all people and bring deliverance where there is oppression. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Show your steadfast love and faithfulness to those in despair. Increase their strength, care for all who feel low, keep safe any in the midst of trouble, and protect vulnerable people from harm. In silence, we pray for all in need that come to mind...Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Encourage those who offer their gifts and talents in service to your church. Energize this congregation's rostered and lay leaders, musicians, teachers, greeters, and administrators so they may be transformed in sharing your grace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

*The OFFERING PLATE is located at the entrance of the church sanctuary. Your generous giving supports God's ministry at Shepherd of the Hill.*

\* OFFERING PRAYER God of field and forest, sea and sky, **you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

\* 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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

\* ANNOUNCEMENTS

\* BLESSING The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed ✚ bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age. **Amen.**

\* SENDING HYMN *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less* LBW #294- all verses

**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.

*Refrain* 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.

*Refrain* On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

His oath, his covenant, his blood sus-  
tain me in the raging flood; when all supports are  
washed away, he then is all my hope and stay.

*Refrain* On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

When he shall come with trumpet sound, oh,  
may I then in him be found, clothed in his righteousness  
alone, redeemed to stand before the throne!

*Refrain* On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt.

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\* DISMISSAL Go in peace. Share the harvest. **Thanks be to God.**

\* BELLS/POSTLUDE

Michelle Young

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THIS WEEK AT CHURCH AND BEYOND OUR DOORS

TODAY	8/27-	10 am	-13 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost worship with communion
		11 am	- Church Council meets in Library
MONDAY	8/28-	7 pm	- AA Meeting
TUESDAY	8/29-	4-6 pm	- Food Pantry
WEDNESDAY	8/30-	7 pm	- Confirmands and Parents meeting with Pastor
FRIDAY:	9/1-	10-Noon	- Food Pantry
SUNDAY:	9/3-	10 am	- 14 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Worship

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ***Confirmands and Parents meeting at church Wednesday 8/30 at 7 pm.***

RALLY DAY and BLESSING OF BACKPACKS- Sunday September 10<sup>th</sup> 8:45 am & 10 am.

*Sunday September 17<sup>th</sup> SOTH is serving at the Community Table in Eau Claire- details to come. Confirmands encouraged to sign up to help.*

Norge Harvest Dinner- Saturday September 16<sup>th</sup>, 3-7:30 pm @ Big Elk Creek Lutheran Church

### **SOTH Autumn Fest- October 1<sup>st</sup>, from 11 am-2 pm.**

*Volunteer and basket sign-ups in gathering area.*

SIGN UP TO HOST A SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP (do with your family or friends) Entails: Making/serving coffee, cut/serve summer sausage and cheese, and crackers (found in the church refrigerator/cabinets), and bring one treat (fruit or sweets or popcorn...you choose). Then just clean up after the event. *This is only sustainable if people volunteer 😊*

MAILING ADDRESSES for those folks who you may want to send words of care/concern.

*Please let the secretary know if you would like to be added and/or know someone who might like to be.*

- Faylene Howe 314 W Menomonie St., Elk Mound, WI 54739 (*recovering from hip surgery*)
- Evie Silvernale 3435 Fairfax St. #13, Eau Claire, WI 54701-5817 (*recovering from shoulder surgery*)

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