

WORSHIP FOCUS

The Church will stand forever. Nothing can keep our Redeemer from upholding his promised salvation. Neither false expectations nor the gates of hell, neither an Egyptian army nor a flowing river, not even the great tribulation of the end times will keep our God from preserving his Church.

SERVICE FOR TODAY
DIVINE SERVICE 1

Opening Hymn – 239

Glory Be to God the Father

**Glory be to God the Father,
Glory be to God the Son,
Glory be to God the Spirit,
Great Jehovah, Three in One!
Glory, glory While eternal ages run!**

**Glory be to him who loved us,
Washed us from each spot and stain;
Glory be to him who bought us,
Made us kings with him to reign!
Glory, glory To the Lamb that once was slain!**

**Glory to the King of angels,
Glory to the Church's King,
Glory to the King of nations;
Heav'n and earth, your praises bring!
Glory, glory To the King of glory sing!**

**Glory, blessing, praise eternal!-
Thus the choir of angels sings;
Honor, riches, pow'r, dominion!-
Thus its praise creation brings.
Glory, glory, Glory to the King of kings!**

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-89, alt.

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

C: Amen.

Confession of Sins

P: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.



C Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy
on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us. A - men.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

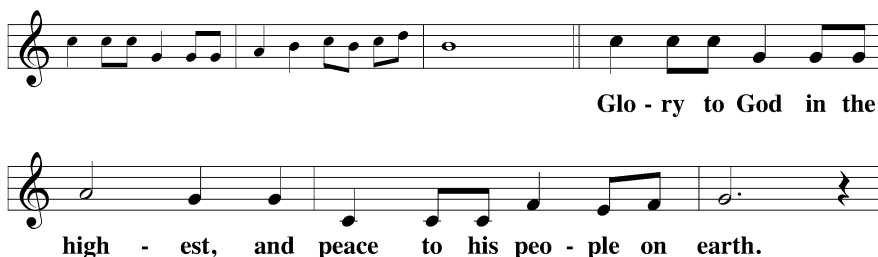
C: Amen.

Prayer and Praise

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord!

GLORY TO GOD

Gloria in Excelsis



Glo - ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and




Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we




praise you for your glo - ry! Glo - ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly



Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the



Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer, re -

ceive our prayer. Glo - ry to God in the

high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. For

you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the

Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,

Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the

glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. Glo - ry to God in the

high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God!

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray . . .

PRAYER OF THE DAY (*Spoken together*)

Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



First Lesson

Joshua 4:1-9

¹When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the LORD told Joshua, ²“Take twelve men from the people, one man from each tribe, ³and give them the following orders: ‘Pick up twelve stones from here in the middle of the Jordan, from the place where the feet of the priests are standing securely. Carry them over with you and put them at the place where you will stay tonight.’”

⁴So Joshua called the twelve men whom he had selected from the people of Israel—a man from each tribe. ⁵Joshua said to them, “Go to the middle of the Jordan in front of the ark of the LORD your God, and each man is to lift up one stone on his shoulder. The number will correspond to the number of the tribes descended from the sons of Israel, ⁶so that this may be a sign among you when your children ask in the future, ‘What do these stones mean for you?’ ⁷Then you shall respond to them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off in front of the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD. When the ark passed through the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones will serve as a permanent memorial for the people of Israel.”

⁸So the people of Israel did just as Joshua had ordered. They picked up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, corresponding to the number of the tribes descended from the sons of Israel, as the LORD had instructed Joshua. They carried the stones over with them to their lodging place and deposited them there. ⁹Joshua also set up twelve stones in the middle of the Jordan at the spot where the feet of the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant had stood. The stones are there to this day

Psalm 34 (*Sing the refrains, speak the verses responsively*)

Refrain



Taste and see that the LORD is good;*
blessed are they who take refuge in him.

The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous*
and his ears are attentive to their cry.

The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him,*
and he delivers them.

Refrain

The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them;*
he delivers them from all their troubles.

The LORD is close to the brokenhearted*
and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

The LORD redeems his servants;*
no one who takes refuge in him will be condemned.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

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Second Lesson

Romans 11:33-36

³³Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how untraceable his ways! ³⁴“For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his adviser?” ³⁵“Or who has first given to God that he will be repaid?” ³⁶For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.

Verse of the Day

Alleluia. Jesus Christ has destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. Alleluia. (1 Timothy 1:10b)



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20



C] Glo-ry be to you, O Lord! Glo-ry be to you, O Lord!

¹³When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

¹⁴They said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

¹⁵He said to them, "But you, who do you say that I am?"

¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

¹⁷Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not overpower it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰Then he commanded the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.



C] Praise be to you, O Christ! Praise be to you, O Christ!

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

Hymn of the Day – 529 v.1-3,5

Built on the Rock

**Built on the Rock the Church shall 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 distressed,
Longing for rest everlasting.**

Surely in temples made with hands
God, the Most High, is not dwelling;
High above earth his temple stands,
All earthly temples excelling.
Yet he who dwells in heav'n above
Chooses to live with us in love,
Making our bodies his temple.

We are God's house of living stones,
Built for his own habitation.
He through baptismal grace us owns
Heirs of his wondrous salvation.
Were we but two his name to tell,
Yet he would deign with us to dwell
With all his grace and his favor.

Grant then, O God, your will be done,
That, when the church bells are ringing,
Many in saving faith may come
Where Christ his message is bringing:
"I know my own; my own know me.
You, not the world, my face shall see.
My peace I leave with you always."

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872, abr.; tr. Carl Döving, 1867-1937, alt.

Sermon

Romans 11:33-36

Don't Second Guess God!

The image shows three staves of musical notation in treble clef with a common time signature (C). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a common time signature 'C' in a box. The lyrics are: 'Cre - ate in me a pure heart, O God, and re -'. The second staff continues: 'new a right spir - it with - in me.'. The third staff concludes: 'Do not cast me a - way from your pres - ence or'.

C Cre - ate in me a pure heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me.
Do not cast me a - way from your pres - ence or

take your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
 store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -
 hold, up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Prayers & 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.

Closing Hymn – 333

Abide, O Dearest Jesus

**Abide, O dearest Jesus, Among us with your grace
 That Satan may not harm us Nor we to sin give place.**

**Abide, O dear Redeemer, Among us with your Word
 And thus now and hereafter True peace and joy afford.**

**Abide with heav'nly brightness Among us, precious Light;
 Your truth direct and keep us From error's gloomy night.**

**Abide with richest blessings Among us, bounteous Lord;
 Let us in grace and wisdom Grow daily through your Word.**

**Abide with your protection Among us, Lord, our Strength,
 Lest world and Satan fell us And overcome at length.**

**Abide, O faithful Savior, Among us with your love;
 Grant steadfastness and help us To reach our home above.**

Text: Josua Stegmann, 1588-1632; tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, alt.

P: Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your Holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.



Serving Us Today:

Preacher: Pastor Thomas W. Kneser

Organist: Nancy Perez

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