

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Built on Nothing Less

August 26 & 27, 2023

AS WE GATHER

Son of a pub owner and a cabinet maker by trade, Edward Mote was a nineteenth century Englishman who came to faith in Christ as an adult and then served the last two decades of his life as a parish pastor. Although Mote is said to have never lost his touch for building furniture, he discovered a new passion in his later years: writing hymns for Christians to sing. "My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness," he wrote. "No merit of my own I claim But wholly lean on Jesus' name. On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand" (LSB 575/576:1). The story is told that the first person with whom Mote shared these words was a friend who had fallen ill and was nearing the end of her life. Mote's beautiful hymn, which Christ-followers like us continue to enjoy today, reminded God's beloved that Christ Jesus alone is the solid foundation, the mighty fortress in whom she could trust. In life and in death, our hope is built on this rock, who offers for us nothing less than His own blood and righteousness.

Reception of Holy Communion: If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

WELCOME

[Jesus said,] I am the vine; you are the branches.

Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit,
for apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:5

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #912 "Christ Is Our Cornerstone"

Christ is our cornerstone, On Him alone we build;
With His true saints alone The courts of heav'n are filled.
On His great love Our hopes we place Of present grace And joys above.

Here may we gain from heav'n The grace which we implore,
And may that grace, once giv'n, Be with us evermore
Until that day When all the blest To endless rest Are called away.

(Rise) Oh, then, with hymns of praise These hallowed courts shall ring;
Our voices we will raise The Three in One to sing
And thus proclaim In joyful song, Both loud and long, That glorious name.

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: That we may rest on Jesus and His unchanging grace, let us with
repentant hearts confess our sins in the presence of God and of one
another.

(We observe a moment of silence for personal prayers of confession.)

Pastor: How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in His
excellent Word!

People: **Heavenly Father, your Word tells us that we all have sinned and fall
short of your glory. By what we have done and by what we have
failed to do, we have lived shaky lives that falter when we do not
stand firm in you.**

Pastor: Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee!

People: **Lord Jesus, have mercy upon us. You are the rock of ages in whom we
find protection and deliverance.**

Pastor: On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand!

People: **Holy Spirit, enable us to trust the promises of your Word, confident in
the forgiveness of sins found in Christ Jesus, our solid rock. Amen.**

Pastor: Upon this your confession, I am blessed to proclaim the certainty of God's saving grace to all of you! In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, our mighty rock and fortress, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Page 204

To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless you, Father; Your holy name, we sing –
Our thanks for your great glory, Lord God, our Heav'nly King.

To You, O solebegotten, The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high.

For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever, Be worshipped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High.
In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, grant us to know your Son, Jesus Christ, to be the rock upon whom our lives are built.

People: Help us rest securely in your promises and find strength in your mighty deliverance;

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

☩ WORD ☩

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 51:1–6* ("Look to the rock from which you were hewn.") "Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD: look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. ² Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him. ³ For the LORD comforts Zion; he comforts all her waste places and makes 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. ⁴ "Give attention to me, my people, and give ear to me, my nation; for a law will go out from me, and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples. ⁵ My righteousness draws near, my salvation has gone out, and my arms will judge the peoples; the coastlands hope for me, and for my arm they wait. ⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and they who dwell in it will die in like manner; but my salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will never be dismayed.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Romans 11:33–12:8* (Do not be conformed; be transformed.)

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!³⁴ "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" ³⁵ "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" ³⁶ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen. I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷ if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 16:13–20* (“On this rock I will build My church.”)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixteenth chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰ Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN’S SONG & CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

“Let me Learn of Jesus” AGPS #156

Let me learn of Jesus; He is kind to me
Once He died to save me, nailed upon the tree.
When I go to Jesus, He will hear me pray
Make me pure and holy, take my sins away.
Let me think of Jesus; He is full of love,
Looking down upon me From His throne above.
Oh, how good is Jesus! May He hold my hand
And at last receive me To a better land.

SERMON HYMN #644 “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 every 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 every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder The 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.

Yet she on earth has union With God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion With those whose rest is won.
O blessed heav’nly chorus! Lord, save us by Your grace
That we, like saints before us, May see You face to face.

SERMON

“A Rock Solid Foundation”

Matt. 16:13-20

(Rise)

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence 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.

(Be seated)

OFFERINGS As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

(Brief silence for time of personal prayer)

Pastor: Almighty God, from you and through you and to you are all things. You have built your Church on the confession of the Gospel and have promised that the gates of hell will not overcome it.

People: Give to your Church throughout the world faith and courage to confess that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Pastor: Lord God Almighty, you transform your Church by the Holy Spirit so that she does not conform to the world, building our lives upon the rock solid foundation of your Truth.

People: Move to study your Word, to take it to heart, to be led always by your will, and to walk in faith day by day.

Pastor: O Lord, grant that the Office of the Keys may be honored among us, in order that we may confess our sin and be absolved in the name of Christ.

People: As you have so graciously forgiven us, grant that we may extend this grace by forgiving others.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, you are the God of the family. Care for all families, children, single adults and youth, and the elderly, that all might steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal.

People: Form our families by your grace and truth, and grant an increase in wisdom and grace to all who teach and learn.

Pastor: Lord God, grant that all nations and leaders might act for peace, promote godliness, and protect all who live under violence, oppression, injustice and fear.

People: Grant us to live as good citizens, obeying the law and loving our neighbors as ourselves.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, care for all victims of disaster, for those stricken by illness or infirmity, for the aged and infirm, for the grieving and for those near death. Bless, support, and be with the people of Maui as they seek to recover from a horrendous fire. Also bless and be with those who have asked our prayers; Janice, Bill, Marga, Nancy, Caitlin, Nadia, Chris, Ardis, Noah, Joyce, Guy, Mike, Don, Pat, Shirley, Tom, Jill, Janet, Norma, Vern, Amy, Cathy, Cindy, Dorothy, Helga, Carol, June, Jerry, Shirley and Sarah.

People: Give them all faith, hope and peace through Christ, our Lord.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, God of comfort and consolation, we lift before you the family and friends of Joyce Graf, whom you called home to glory. Be their comfort and stay in the midst of grief.

People: Give them and all of us hope and peace through Jesus Christ and the promised resurrection to life everlasting.

Pastor: O Lord, lead us to sincere repentance and steadfast faith, that we may not think more highly of ourselves than is right, but that we would set our hearts and minds on the things of Christ.

People: Prepare us to receive the blessed gifts of our Lord's table, that this food may keep us holy and blameless in Christ now and when He comes again.

Pastor: From you and through you and to you are all things! To you, O Father, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, be glory now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

People: 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.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

Page 210

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;

Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

HYMN #575 “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*

His oath, His covenant and blood Support me in the raging flood;

When ev’ry earthly prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. *Refrain*

When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found,

Clothed in His righteousness alone, Redeemed to stand before His throne!

Refrain

HYMN #789 “Praise and Thanksgiving”

Praise and thanksgiving, Father, we offer

For all things living, Created good:

Harvest of sown fields, Fruits of the orchard,

Hay from the mown fields, Blossom and wood.

Bless, Lord, the labor We bring to serve You

That with our neighbor We may be fed.

Sowing or tilling, We would work with You,

Harvesting, milling For daily bread.

Father, providing Food for Your children,

By Your wise guiding Teach us to share

One with another, So that, rejoicing

With us, all others May know Your care.

HYMN #619 “Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior”

The body, giv’n for me, O Savior, thy blood which Thou for me didst shed,

These are my life and strength forever. By them my hungry soul is fed.

Refrain: Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood Be for my soul the highest good!

With Thee, Lord, I am now united; I live in Thee and Thou in me.

No sorrow fills my soul, delighted It finds its only joy in thee. *Refrain*

Who can condemn me now? For surely The Lord is nigh, who justifies.

No hell I fear, and thus securely With Jesus I to heaven rise. *Refrain*

Though death may threaten with disaster, It cannot rob me of my cheer;

For He who is of death the master With aid and comfort e’er is near. *Refrain*

My heart has now become Thy dwelling, O blessed, holy Trinity.

With angels I, Thy praises telling, Shall live in joy eternally. *Refrain*

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious Savior, you are the cornerstone on whom our lives are built. We thank you for your saving blood and cleansing righteousness, which we have received in your most sacred Meal. Reign in our hearts by your Holy Spirit so that, in a world of sinking sand, we may stand on you, our solid rock; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord alone is our rock and our refuge, our fortress and our deliverer. His blessing be upon us as we go forth in His name.
The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

Preacher
Liturgist
Lectors
Organist

Pastor Harold Bender
Pastor Josh Grotelueschen
John Gieschen, Grant Gundersen
Jo Bender

CLOSING HYMN #924 “Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing”

Lord, dismiss us with Your blessing, Fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, Your love possessing, Triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us; O refresh us, Trav’ling through this wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration For Your Gospel’s joyful sound.
May the fruits of Your salvation In our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful To Your truth may we be found.

Savior, when Your love shall call us From our struggling pilgrim way.
Let not fear of death appall us, Glad Your summons to obey.
May we ever, may we ever Reign with You in endless day.

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