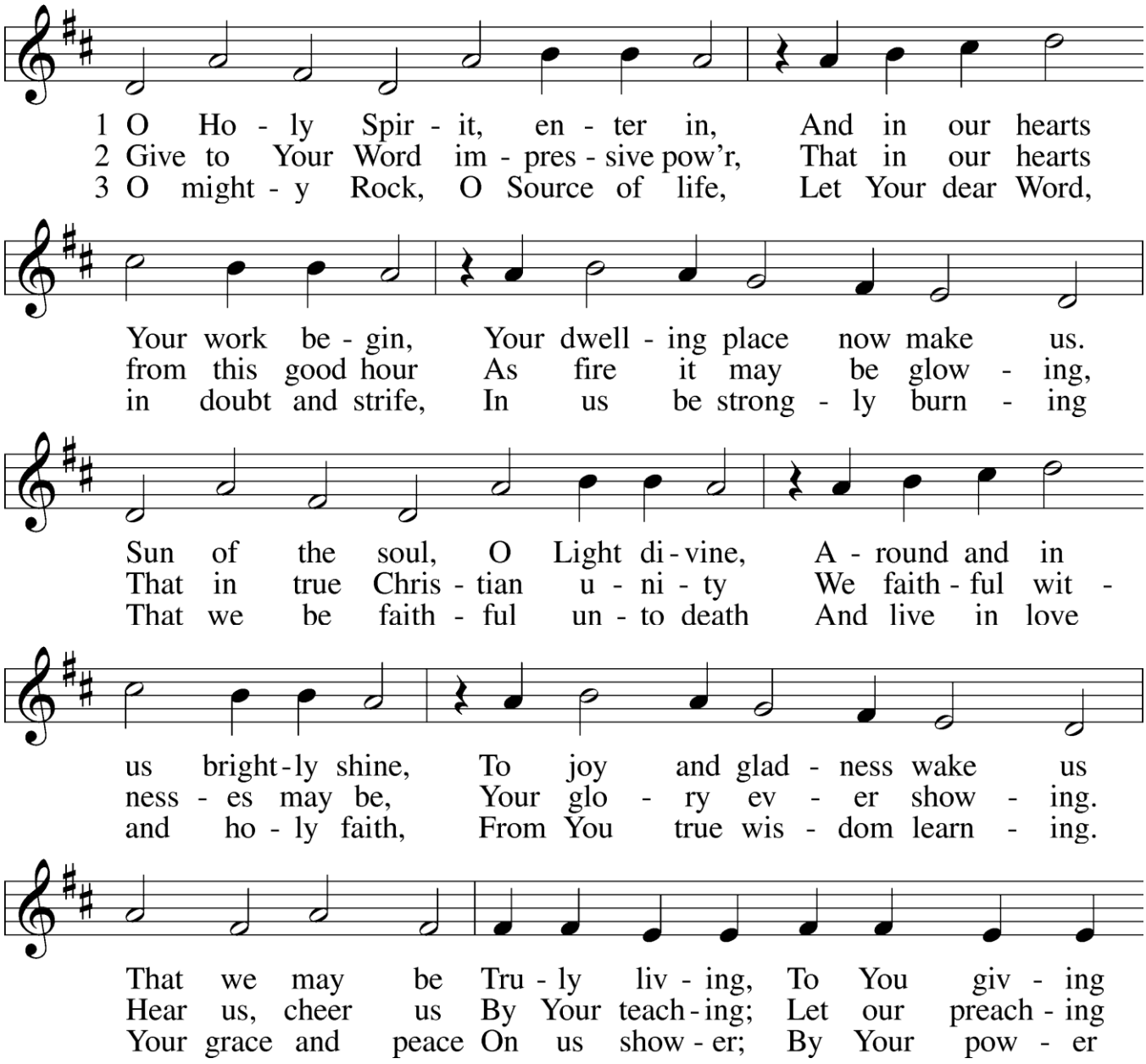
Home Worship Service for

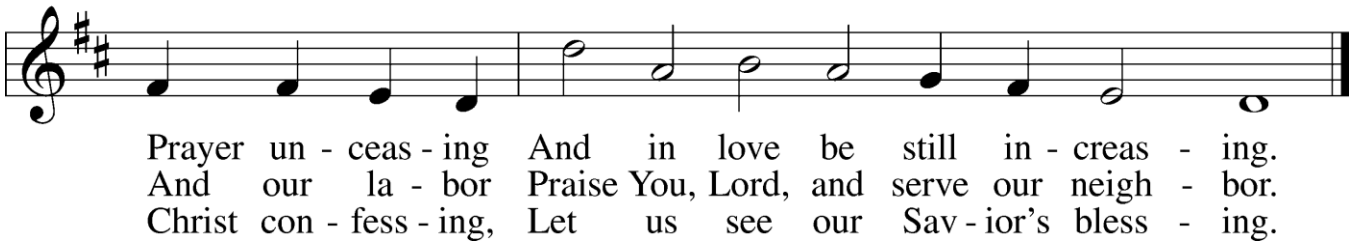
The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 23, 2026

Our secular world wants you to believe that questions about faith and religion are unimportant. It is easy to hold this false notion when life is carefree and mortality is ignored. In the end, everyone must ponder ultimate questions about right and wrong, life and death, God and Satan. One of the most important questions ever asked was spoken by Jesus, "Who do you say that I am?" How you answer that question will change your life now and for eternity. May we join with Peter and the Apostles by boldly answering, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

O Holy Spirit, Enter In

Lutheran Service Book 913, Lutheran Worship 160, The Lutheran Hymnal 235





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L In the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

L Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.** *(Psalm 124:8)*
L Who can discern his errors? Forgive my hidden faults.
C **Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me**. *(Psalm 19:12, 13)*
L If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord who could stand?
C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.** *(Psalm 130:3–4)*
L Let us, confess before God that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and as His people let us take refuge in His infinite mercy seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, saying:
C **God, be merciful to me, a sinner, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.** *(Luke 18:13)*
L Almighty God, merciful Father, in Your holy Church, You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C **Amen.**

Introit Psalm 2:6–7; Psalm 117; antiphon: Psalm 115:18

L But we will bless the Lord
from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the Lord!
C **As for me, I have set my King**
on Zion, my holy hill.
L I will tell of the decree:
The Lord said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you."
C **Praise the Lord, all nations!**
Extol him, all peoples!
L For great is his steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!
C **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.
L But we will bless the Lord
from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the Lord!

Kyrie

L O Lord, **C** **Have mercy on us.**
L O Christ, **C** **Have mercy on us.**
L O Lord, **C** **Have mercy on us.**

Gloria in Excelsis ~ Glory to God in the Highest

L Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
C **Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father: We worship You, we give You thanks, and we praise You for Your glory.**
L Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, You are Lord and God, You are the Lamb of God:
C **Lord Jesus Christ, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**
L Lord Jesus Christ, You are seated at the right hand of the Father; and we ask you to graciously receive our prayer.
C **For You alone are the Holy One,**
You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect of the Day

L Let us pray: Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess Him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

Isaiah 51:1–6

1 "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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.

L Fear the Lord, you his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing!
C **Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.**

Psalm 138

L [1]I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise;
C **[2]I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word.**
L [3]On the day I called, you answered me; my strength of soul you increased.
C **[4]All the kings of the earth shall give you thanks, O LORD,**
for they have heard the words of your mouth,
L [5]and they shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD.
C **[6]For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly, but the haughty he knows from afar.**
L [7]Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life;
you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and your right hand delivers me.
C **[8]The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.**
Do not forsake the work of your hands.

Romans 11:33—12:8

[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.

[12:1]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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Verse of the Day Ephesians. 2:19b–20

L Alleluia, Alleluia. You are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets; Alleluia.

C **Alleluia, Alleluia. Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone. Alleluia.**

Matthew 16:13–20

L The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 16th chapter.

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

13When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the
Son of Man is?" 14And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of
the prophets." 15He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ,
the Son of the living God." 17And 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. 18And 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. 19I 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." 20Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

The Apostles' Creed

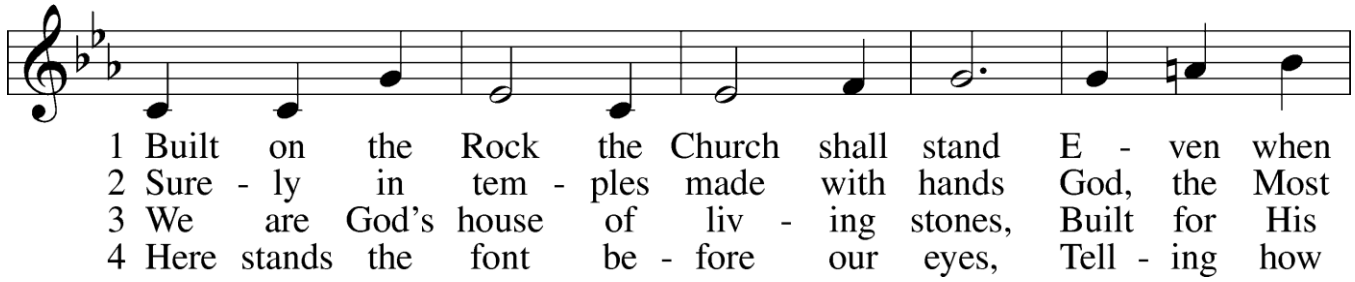
C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,**
maker of heaven and earth.

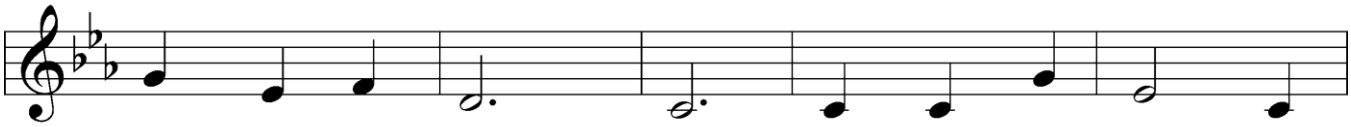
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the 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

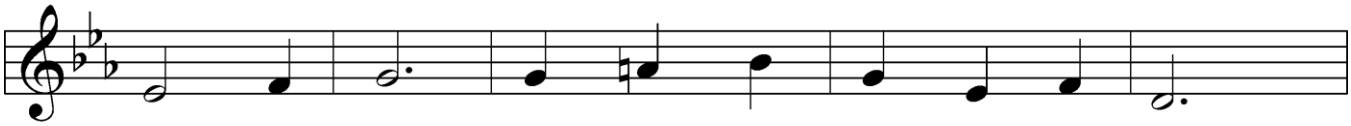
Built on the Rock

Lutheran Service Book 645, Lutheran Worship 291, The Lutheran Hymnal 467

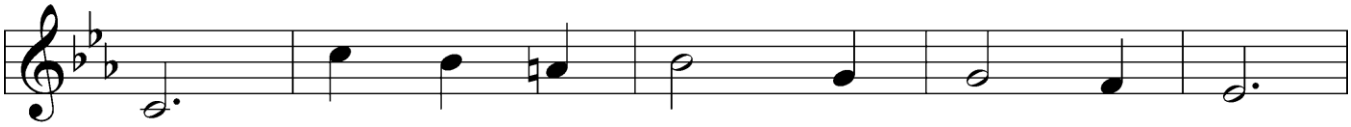




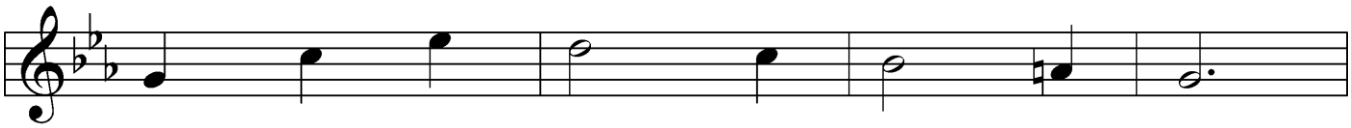
stee - ples are fall - ing. Crum - bled have spires in
High, is not dwell - ing; High a - bove earth His
own hab - i - ta - tion. He through bap - tis - mal
God has re - ceived us. The al - tar re - calls Christ's



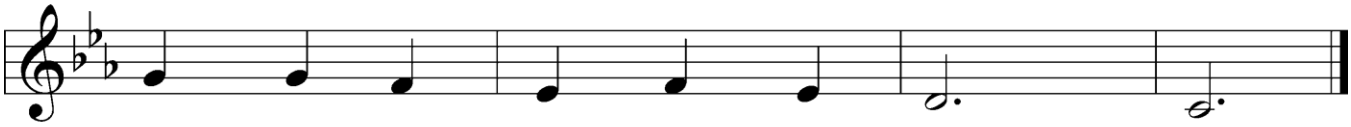
ev - 'ry land; Bells still are chim - ing and call -
tem - ple stands, All earth - ly tem - ples ex - cel -
grace us owns Heirs of His won - drous sal - va -
sac - ri - fice And what His Sup - per here gives



ing, Call - ing the young and old to rest,
ling. Yet He who dwells in heav'n a - bove
tion. Were we but two His name to tell,
us. Here sound the Scrip - tures that pro - claim



But a - bove all the souls dis - tressed,
Choos - es to live with us in love,
Yet He would deign with us to dwell
Christ yes - ter - day, to - day, the same,



Long - ing for rest ev - er - last - ing.
Mak - ing our bod - ies His tem - ple.
With all His grace and His fa - vor.
And ev - er - more, our Re - deem - er.

5 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. Amen."

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Devotional thoughts:

If you haven't noticed, the mid-term elections are this year. With the political ads and news reports, it's hard not to notice. The primaries have already taken place. Soon, television and social media will be awash in political advertising. And if that is not enough, before long you will be receiving calls from pollsters who want to know what you think about this or that candidate.

There was a time when I would have felt honored to be included in a poll. I would have been happy to share my views, but no one ever asked. Now public opinion surveys are so common, that I sometimes receive more than one call a night. They have become so intrusive that I seldom choose to participate.

In many ways, polling is valuable. It's good for advertisers, political parties, and the news media to know public opinion. It helps to sell products, promote candidates, and discover what citizens believe about significant issues facing our country. However, it is also essential to remember that public opinion is often wrong when it comes to vital facts. Such is the case in our Gospel lesson for today.

Jesus asks the question, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" Jesus uses the term "Son of Man" to refer to Himself about 80 times in the Bible. By this expression, Jesus indicates that He is fully a man but much more. It is a title of the Messiah from the Old Testament that combines the ideas of a servant who will suffer and die for all people and the exalted Son of Man who will reign for all eternity.

The Gospel of Matthew was written for readers who were fully acquainted with the Old Testament and should understand what Jesus meant by this title. Mark and Luke wrote for people who may not have a strong background in the Jewish faith. They render Jesus' question this way, "Who do people say that I am?"

The disciples were in a good position to answer this question. Countless people had come to hear Jesus and seek healing from Him. Thousands had been fed when the disciples distributed loaves and fish blessed by Jesus. They certainly had their fingers on the pulse of public opinion when it came to Jesus.

There seemed to be four main answers to the question, "Who do people say that I am?" In the minds of the people, Jesus could be John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, or simply one of the other prophets. I wonder how that would have been reported on the evening news.

"This just in. Current polling indicates that 38% of eligible voters consider Jesus to be John the Baptist. 29% judge Him to be Elijah, 17% think He is Jeremiah, and 16% regard Him as one of the other prophets. John the Baptist seems to have an insurmountable lead at this point."

Here we can see the weakness of public opinion polls. People can be 100% wrong! Jesus was none of these individuals. John the Baptist had been a great preacher like Jesus. Elijah had worked great miracles like Jesus. But Jesus was neither. Jesus was so much more as we learn when Jesus asks His disciples, "But who do you say that I am?"

Contrary to all public opinion, Peter jumps in with the absolutely right answer, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." How could He be anything less? He walked on the water. He calmed the seas. He raised the dead. He healed the sick. He gave sight to the blind. He made the lame to walk and the deaf to hear. He was indeed the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

We teach young people to resist peer pressure yet we often forget as adults that the crowds can be dangerously wrong. As Christian people, we ought never to submit our ideas concerning morality to the test of public opinion. Our actions should never be swayed by mobs in the street. Our faith should not be dictated by culture, social media, or trendy celebrities.

We stand apart from the unbelieving world and trust that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Rather than the din of the nightly news, we listen to the good news of great joy clearly proclaimed by angels to shepherds, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11).

Peter's confession of faith was shared by all the disciples. We share the same confession with him, "Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God." From the very beginning, the Christian Church has been built on the rock of this confession. The storms and thunder of public opinion may rage against it, but nothing can move us from this rock of our salvation. Even the gates of hell shall not prevail against the Church built by Jesus upon the rock of this confession. Our Savior, the Son of the Living God, will one day bring us to be with Him for all eternity!

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).

God's richest blessings to you in Christ.

Prayers

L 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. To Your Church throughout the world grant the faith and courage to confess that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

C **Amen.**

L Lord God Almighty, You transform us by the Holy Spirit so that we would not conform to the world. Move Your people to make bold proclamations of thanksgiving, that they may tell of all Your wondrous deeds.

C **Amen.**

L O Lord, grant that we may confess our sin and receive forgiveness in the name of Jesus. As You have so graciously forgiven us, grant that we may also forgive others.

C **Amen.**

L Lord, guide and give wisdom to our nation and its leaders, and to all judges and magistrates. Protect those who serve us as firefighters, police, disaster workers and medical personnel. Protect those in harm's way because of the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East that cause innocent men, women, and children to suffer.

C **Amen.**

L Visit us in Your compassion, O Lord. Deliver the sick from their infirmity, the troubled from their afflictions, the grieving from their sorrow, and the dying from their fear. May all who cry to You receive grace sufficient for their needs according to Your will. Help each of us to bear our crosses with patience and grace.

C **Amen.**

L Righteous Lord, lead us to repentance and faith, that we might not think more highly of ourselves than is right, but set our hearts and minds on the things of God. You have redeemed us in Christ and declared us to be righteous and holy in Him. Graciously grant that we may offer to You our very selves as living sacrifices, that we may glorify You in all we think, say and do. Grant to us the grace of Your Holy Spirit, that we may be led into all truth and be steadfast in the confession of Christ; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

C **I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

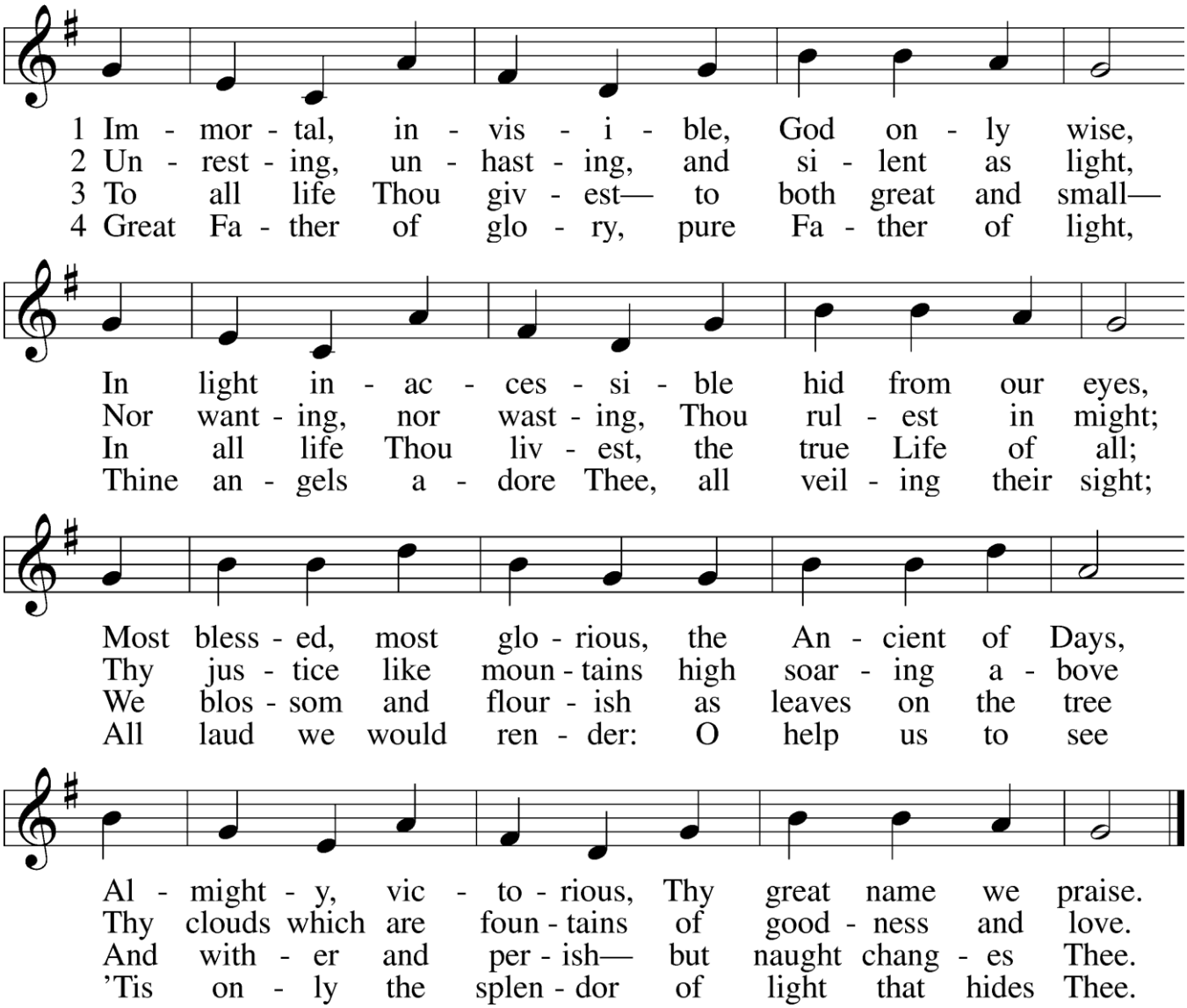
C **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

L Let us bless the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

L The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.
C **Amen**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Lutheran Service Book 802, Lutheran Worship 451, The Lutheran Hymnal n/a



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Service Notes:

One person may serve as Leader or this may be shared with a number of individuals.

Read one or more of the lessons. Hymns may be sung or read. Use as much or little of this service as you would like.

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Enhancing Your Worship
Meditating on God's Word and Works

I will meditate on your wondrous works. Psalm 119:27
My eyes are awake through the night watches,
That I may meditate on Your word. Psalm 119:148 NKJV

The Week of
The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 24—29, 2026

Introduction

Most modern forms of mediation turn a person inward. Biblical meditation turns a person outward toward what God has said and done especially what He has said and done through Jesus for our salvation.

Each Sunday has its own special theme directing us to meditate on God's word and actions. This theme is found in the Propers of the Day (the parts of the service that change week to week). From Advent through the Easter season these themes focus our attention on the life of Jesus from His birth to His death and resurrection. There is always much more in the propers than can be covered in any Sunday service. God willing, I will use the propers for Sunday to provide you with a devotion each day to help you mediate on what God has done for you.

Monday

L In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Verse of the Day Ephesians. 2:19b–20

L Alleluia, Alleluia. You are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets; Alleluia.
C **Alleluia, Alleluia. Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone. Alleluia.**

Introit Psalm 2:6–7; Psalm 117; antiphon: Psalm 115:18

L But we will bless the Lord
from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the Lord!
C **As for me, I have set my King**
on Zion, my holy hill.
L I will tell of the decree:
The Lord said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you."
C **Praise the Lord, all nations!**
Extol him, all peoples!
L For great is his steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!
C **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.
L But we will bless the Lord
from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the Lord!

Kyrie

L O Lord, C **Have Mercy on us.**
L O Christ, C **Have Mercy on us.**
L O Lord, C **Have Mercy on us.**

Our introit sets the theme for this week: Jesus is the Son of the Living God. It is recorded in Psalm 2:7, "The Lord said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you."

In this time of turmoil, we would do well to also read Psalm 2:1-5 concluding with verses 6 & 7.

1 Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?
2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together,
against the Lord and against his Anointed, saying,
3 "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us."
4 He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.
5 Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying,
6 "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill."
7 I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you.

This Psalm often comes to mind when I learn of foolish plans made by earthly rulers who think that they can outsmart God and defy His decrees and eternal will. According to verse 4, God simply sits in heaven and laughs at their foolishness.

God has set His King on Zion! He has made His only-begotten Son to be King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He has been crowned with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne.

All the evil plans of the world will come to nothing. They will all fall apart. God's Church, His people, who have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb will remain forever. The gates of hell will not prevail against it.

L Let us pray. O Lord, our God, in times of distress and turmoil here on earth, remind us again that you laugh at the foolishness of earthly leaders who believe that they can defy your will. Grant us faith to trust in your steadfast love and faithfulness through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God world without end.
C **Amen.**

Tuesday

L In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Verse of the Day Ephesians. 2:19b–20

L Alleluia, Alleluia. You are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets; Alleluia.
C **Alleluia, Alleluia. Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone. Alleluia.**

L Let us pray. Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess Him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

Ours is not the first generation to challenge the concept of truth. John records this encounter between Jesus and Pilate.

Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." Pilate said to him, "What is truth?" (John 18:37-38).

Why is it that so many people want truth to be variable? Why do they reject the idea of absolute truth? The answer is found in our sinful nature. Humans rebel against anything that stands in the way of their own selfish desires. Have you ever been in front of an impatient driver and heard the blast of a horn 10 microseconds after the light turned green? Nothing should be allowed to get in our way, not traffic, not truth!

Traffic laws are ignored at our peril. So also, truth should be ignored at our peril. Rejecting truth means rejecting God. Rejecting God means rejecting life.

Jesus is the truth! In the Sermon on the Mount, He spoke clearly about sin. He taught frankly about death and judgment.

He also is the Life! He gave up His life on the cross so that we may live eternally. He is the Way, the only Way, to eternal life. May we never reject Him!

Prayer: Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess Him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Wednesday

L In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Verse of the Day Ephesians. 2:19b–20

L Alleluia, Alleluia. You are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets; Alleluia.
C **Alleluia, Alleluia. Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone. Alleluia.**

Psalm 138

L [1]I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise;
C **[2]I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word.**
L [3]On the day I called, you answered me; my strength of soul you increased.
C **[4]All the kings of the earth shall give you thanks, O LORD,**
for they have heard the words of your mouth,
L [5]and they shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD.
C **[6]For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly, but the haughty he knows from afar.**
L [7]Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life;
you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and your right hand delivers me.
C **[8]The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.**
Do not forsake the work of your hands.

Throughout most of history, God's people have been surrounded by unbelievers. So it was in the time of King David. Yet despite being surrounded by false gods and false religion, David was determined to sing his praises to the true God.

We live in a time when our mainstream culture is bold in attacking God's people and our faith. We may

become hesitant to publicly praise our Lord and Savior. Yet, like David, we are moved to give thanks to God for His steadfast love and faithfulness.

God has not abandoned us to sin and death. Rather, He sent His only-begotten Son so that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In the midst of trouble, He preserves us.

Whatever your situation, David reminds us that the Lord has a purpose for you. He may not have revealed it to you, but you can be certain that He will fulfill His purpose for you. We are convinced that His ultimate purpose for us is to experience His steadfast love forever!

Prayer: O Lord, grant us the opportunity and ability to sing Your praises in every circumstance. Let us never forget that Your ultimate will for us is to spend eternity with You, in your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Thursday

L In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Verse of the Day Ephesians. 2:19b–20

L Alleluia, Alleluia. You are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets; Alleluia.
C **Alleluia, Alleluia. Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone. Alleluia.**

Isaiah 51:1–6

1 "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.

A song from my youth begins with this lyric: "The road is long with many a winding turn." You may feel this way sometimes as you try to live a life that is pleasing to God.

The title of this song is "He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother." It is a ballad written by Bobby Scott and Bob Russell and became a worldwide hit for The Hollies in 1969.

Isaiah records God's word for those who are growing weary in well-doing. He points us to Abraham and Sarah and the outcome of their lives of faithfulness. He points us to the comfort given to His people throughout the ages. He provides joy and gladness to those who live in the garden of the Lord.

Our greatest strength in times of weariness is the salvation that is ours in Christ Jesus. He is our Good Shepherd who leads us beside the quiet waters and into green pastors. He gently leads us and protects us with His rod and staff until we shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Prayer: O Lord God, thank You for the strength to do Your will and carry our brother's burdens. Grant us the grace to be faithful to you as we strive to live righteous lives in service to our Savior Jesus who gives us eternal life. Amen.

Friday

L In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Verse of the Day Ephesians. 2:19b–20

L Alleluia, Alleluia. You are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets; Alleluia.
C **Alleluia, Alleluia. Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone. Alleluia.**

Romans 11:33—12:8

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.

12:1 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.

There is enough material in this small section of Romans for countless sermons! It begins with the words chosen as the gradual for many weeks during the season of Pentecost. God's wisdom and knowledge are so far beyond our comprehension that no one can begin fully to know the mind of the Lord.

The only way we can begin to receive this knowledge is through His divine revelation to us. The most perfect revelation of God's wisdom and knowledge is Jesus Christ!

It seems irrational to humans that the Creator of the Universe would send His Son to die for sinful people. Yet that is the inscrutable way of God!

It seems irrational that death on the cross would lead to resurrection and life eternal. Yet that is the inscrutable way of God!

In light of God's inscrutable grace, may we present ourselves to Him as a living sacrifice. May we not be conformed to this world but transformed into a mind that seeks what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Prayer: O God, thank You for revealing to us Your divine plan of salvation through faith in Christ. Grant us the desire and ability to live lives that are a living sacrifice to You through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Saturday

L In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Verse of the Day Ephesians. 2:19b–20

L Alleluia, Alleluia. You are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets; Alleluia.
C **Alleluia, Alleluia. Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone. Alleluia.**

Gradual Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.

L Fear the Lord, you his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing!
C **Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.**

Kyrie

L O Lord, C **Have Mercy on us.**
L O Christ, C **Have Mercy on us.**
L O Lord, C **Have Mercy on us.**

Stone is the most common building material in the holy land. Because of this, many structures remain from ancient times. There are places where you can see and explore buildings by Herod the Great or the Romans. The massive stones of the Temple Mount are a testimony to their construction prowess.

In the small town of Capernaum on the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee, you will find a 4th-century synagogue built on the foundation of an older building from Jesus' day. Between the synagogue and the shoreline, you will find the remains of a house identified by many as the home of St. Peter.

This is the house where Jesus often stayed in Capernaum. It is the place where Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law. It is the house where four men lowered a paralytic through the roof for Jesus to heal.

It is easy to see why Peter writes that we "like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house." There are many famous church buildings in the world. Because they are where the family of God gathers, we often

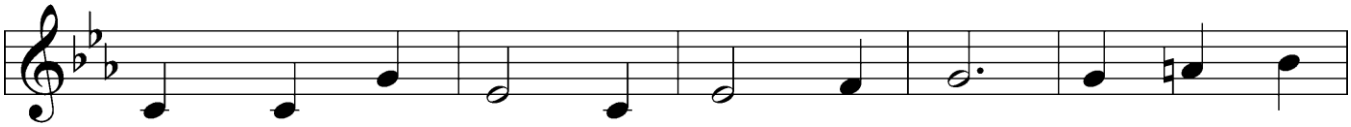
simply refer to them as churches. Yet the real church is not a building made with stones but one made with living stones, the people of God.

You and I are the Church. Buildings may crumble but the church remains strong because it is built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone. This Church will remain for all eternity. In it, God dwells with His people because He has made us His own in Christ.

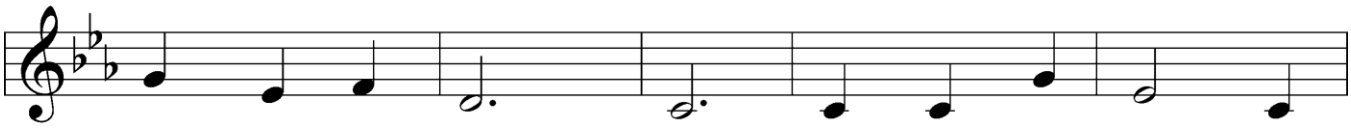
Prayer:

Built on the Rock

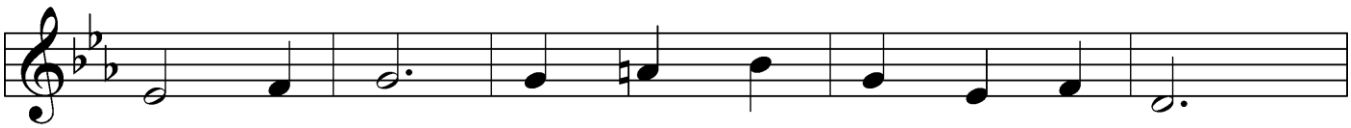
Lutheran Service Book 645, Lutheran Worship 291, The Lutheran Hymnal 467



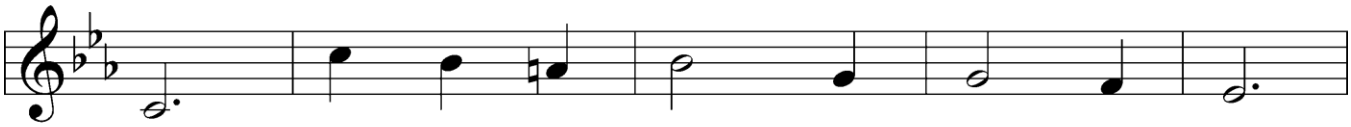
1 Built on the Rock the Church shall stand E - ven when
2 Sure - ly in tem - ples made with hands God, the Most
3 We are God's house of liv - ing stones, Built for His
4 Here stands the font be - fore our eyes, Tell - ing how



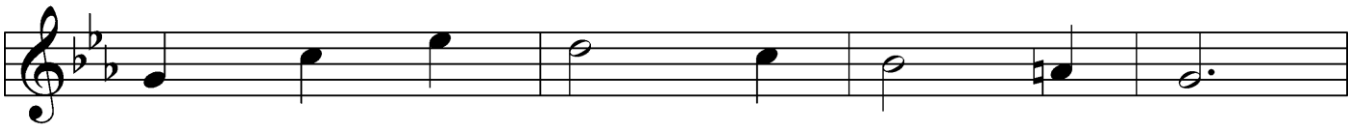
stee - ples are fall - ing. Crum - bled have spires in
High, is not dwell - ing; High a - bove earth His
own hab - i - ta - tion. He through bap - tis - mal
God has re - ceived us. The al - tar re - calls Christ's



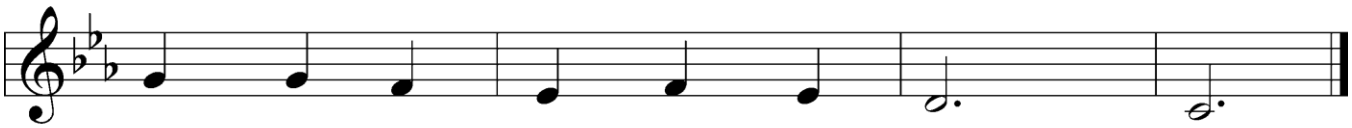
ev - 'ry land; Bells still are chim - ing and call -
tem - ple stands, All earth - ly tem - ples ex - cel -
grace us owns Heirs of His won - drous sal - va -
sac - ri - fice And what His Sup - per here gives



ing, Call - ing the young and old to rest,
ling. Yet He who dwells in heav'n a - bove
tion. Were we but two His name to tell,
us. Here sound the Scrip - tures that pro - claim



But a - bove all the souls dis - tressed,
Choos - es to live with us in love,
Yet He would deign with us to dwell
Christ yes - ter - day, to - day, the same,



Long - ing for rest ev - er - last - ing.
Mak - ing our bod - ies His tem - ple.
With all His grace and His fa - vor.
And ev - er - more, our Re - deem - er.

5 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. Amen."

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