**October 29th, 2023 Reformation Sunday – Email/At Home Missal**

**The ZOOM link for today’s service, which opens at 9.30 am on October 29th, 2023, can be found here:**

**Sunday Worship October 29th, 2023 09:30 am ZOOM room opens; service begins at 10:00 am.**

**Join Zoom Meeting click here:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83858523329?pwd=UUpVdCtkTDB0MWhTVkhjSmxvWjFnUT09>**

**Meeting ID: 838 5852 3329 Passcode: 629887**

**You don’t have to have a computer or internet to connect to any of our church Zoom services; you can also just call in on one of these numbers (long distance charges may apply): (All Canadian numbers). You can also access the ZOOM from your telephone by using the “One tap mobile” option:**

**+12042727920,,83858523329#,,,,\*629887# Canada**

**+14388097799,,83858523329#,,,,\*629887# Canada**

**Dial by your location:**

**+1 778 907 2071 Canada**

**+1 780 666 0144 Canada**

**+1 204 272 7920 Canada
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**+1 587 328 1099 Canada**

**+1 647 374 4685 Canada
+1 647 558 0588 Canada**

**Meeting ID: 838 5852 3329 Passcode: 629887**

**Find your local number:** [**https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kz0pHIt5i**](https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kz0pHIt5i)

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**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 29th – NOVEMBER 5th 2023:**

**Here is the YouTube link for the service from last Sunday, October 22nd, 2023:** [**https://youtu.be/j8d63DLCIro**](https://youtu.be/j8d63DLCIro)

**\*\*Technical difficulties account for the poor video quality this week. We apologize for the inconvenience.**

1. **…………………………………**
2. **Coming Events** *(save these dates)* ***bold print - events being held here at St. Peter’s***
3. Nov. 1 **Bible Study at 10:30 am**
4. Nov. 4 Menno Singers ‘Now I lay me down to Peace,’ First United Church (Waterloo) at 7:30 pm.
5. Nov. 9 Trillium United Church – Aging Well *(an interactive workshop with Ruth Thompson, lunch to*
6. *follow)* 10:30 - Noon
7. **Nov. 5 Worship followed by fellowship time** *(remember a loved one who has passed away since Nov. 5,*
8. *2022, please sign their name on the list on the table in*
9. *the narthex. You are also invited to bring a photo of them*
10. *to be placed in a special display.)*
11. Nov. 12 Bless this Night – Vespers 23’ at 5:30 pm (*Martin Luther University College)*
12. Nov. 12 Baroque and Beyond; A Musicians Fundraiser *(St. Jacobs Mennonite Church)*
13. Nov. 18 Christmas Bazaar (Too Good to be Through) (9:00 am – 2:00 pm)
14. Dec. 8 Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol at 7:30 pm
15. Dec. 10 Menno Singers, Mennonite Mass Choir Handel’s Messiah *(Centre in the Square)*
16. **Dec. 17 Pulled Pork Lunch & Silent Auction following Worship**
17.

## The Life of St. Peter’s for the week of October 29 – November 5, 2023

1. Monday 6:00 pm TOPS - R.F.F. *(Art Room)*
2. Tuesday 7:00 pm Scouts - R.F.F. *(Scout Room, Art Room, Fellowship Hall)*
3. Wednesday **10:30 am Bible Study** *(Art Room)*
4. Thursday
5. Friday
6. Saturday 09:00 am Windjammers Practice
7. **1:30 pm Choir Practice** *(Sanctuary)*
8. Sunday **10:00 pm Worship Service** – A passage from **1 Kings 18: [17-19] 20-39**
9. *(Elijah calls fire from heaven on Mount Carmel to reveal God’s presence)*
10. **…………………………………**

**Pastoral Visit:** Pastor Laura is available for visits by appointment by calling the church office, 519-653-4721. Whether you have a particular pastoral concern or would just like some one-to-one time to get to know Pastor Laura, she would love to meet with you.

**…………………………………**

**Prayer List:** Bill, Don, Tammy, Alice, Don, Lynn, Helen, Sharon, Donald, Shirley, Clara, Carol, Jeff, Aaron, Mackenzie, Rhett, Linda, Jan, Ken, Robin, Lee, Maria, Deborah, Fred, Anne.

**…………………………………**

**We need you to help feed our neighbourhood!** The freedom Centre has joined with Cambridge Community Table to offer a meal to our community twice a month on Tuesday night. We need volunteers: Food Preparation, set up, take down, meet and Greet. Every hour you can give once or twice a month. Call for information 519-591-6518 or email rosemary@freedomcentre.ca.

**…………………………………**

**Gaza Humanitarian Emergency** – CLWR and the Humanitarian Coalition are responding to the humanitarian emergency unfolding in Gaza. Please join us in prayer and consider making a gift to provide critical life-saving aid to those affected. To find out more or to donate, please visit <clwr.org/gaza> or call 1-800-661-2597 (Mon-Fri 8:30am -4:00pm CST).

**…………………………………**

**Weekly Bible Study**: This will take place on Wednesdays at 10:30 am in the Art Room, beginning **November 1, 2023**. Everyone is welcome!

**…………………………………**

**Menno Singers** and artistic director Brandon Leis present ‘Now I lay me down to Peace,’ at First United Church (16 William St, Waterloo) on Saturday, **November 4** at 7:30pm. The concert features the Faure Requiem, the Thompson Peaceable Kingdom and 3 Nocturnes by Elder. $25 Adults. $5 Children/Students. Tickets available on-line or at the door (cash or credit)  [www.mennosingers.com](http://www.mennosingers.com)

**…………………………………**

**All Saints Sunday – November 5th, 2023** – a time when we remember those who have gone before us. Your loved one need not have been a congregational member to be included in our remembrances. A candle will be lit in their memory during the regular worship service. You are also invited and encouraged to bring or send a photo of a loved one to be placed in a special display. The photo can be of anyone, whether they died last year or longer ago. These precious souls remain in our hearts. Please sign their name on the list, or call the church office at 519-653-4721

**…………………………………**

**Aging Well: November 9, 2023** – Increase your Health Span on a budget. An interactive workshop with Ruth Thompson, holistic Nutritionist and Author. Trillium United Church 10:30 am – Noon (Lunch to follow).

1. **…………………………………**

**Bless this Night – Vespers ’23:** Evening Prayer Honouring God's Holy Darkness with interfaith & cross-cultural Storytellers for adults & children. Sundays at 5:30 pm at Martin Luther University College. **Nov. 12**: 2:00 pm Racial Justice Dialogue, 4:00 pm potluck, 5:30 Vespers; **Nov. 19**: 2:00 pm Print Making Workshop, 4:00 pm potluck, 5:30 pm vespers. Kids are invited to wear pajamas.

**…………………………………**

**Sunday, November 12, 2023, 7:00pm** – St Jacobs Mennonite Church (1310 King St. N, St Jacobs) is hosting **Musicians of the KW Symphony in a Fundraising Concert entitled ‘Baroque and Beyond... A Musicians’ Fundraiser.’** This concert of Baroque music will be conducted by Andre Feher and feature Ian Whitman on solo bass and guest soprano Bethany Horst.

**…………………………………**

**Sunday, December 10, 2023, 3:00pm. Menno Singers and Mennonite Mass Choir present Handel’s Messiah**  with artistic director Brandon Leis, a 230 voice choir, soloists Bethany Hörst (soprano), Jennifer Enns Modolo (mezzo soprano), Owen McCausland (tenor) and Nathan Keoughan (baritone) along with orchestra members of the former KW Symphony. Tickets are on sale now at the Centre in the Square Box Office. [www.centreinthesquare.com](http://www.centreinthesquare.com)

**……………………………….**

**Presiding Pastor: Rev. Laura Sauder**

**Organist & Director of Music: Bradley Moggach**

**Assisting Minister: Barb Burden**

**Reader: Barb Jones**

**Welcome remarks**

**Call to Worship**:

***Congregational Response****:* ***We praise you for your glory***

P: Let us awaken our hearts to the presence of God, saying,

P: God before us, behind us, above us, upholding us…

P: God with us, among us, beside us, befriending us…

P: God within us, flowing through us, animating, harmonizing…

*Source: Brian D. McLaren, We Make the Road by Walking. Jericho Books: NY, 2014. Appendix I.*

**Land Acknowledgement**

**P**: Knowing that you are always present with us, it is with good and grateful hearts that we speak these words:

***C: We acknowledge that the land upon which we live, work, play, and worship, is the same land upon which the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, and the Attawandaron (or Neutral) peoples first lived, worked, played, and prayed to Creator. Unlike us, they revered the land, calling the earth upon which they stood, Mother Earth. They cared for the earth as they would care for their mother. Let us take an example from our Indigenous forbears and neighbours, and show gratitude to our Mother Earth. May we be ever mindful of what she has provided for us, even to the next seven generations.***

**Gathering Hymn: ELW # 596 ‘My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less’**

1 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,***

 ***all other ground is sinking sand.***

2 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***

3 His oath, his covenant, his blood

 sustain me in the raging flood;

 when all supports are washed away,

 he then is all my hope and stay. ***Refrain***

4 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***

*(Title: My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less; Text:**Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt.; Public Domain; Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868; Public Domain; Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Greeting**:

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

***C: And also with you.***

**Prayer of Confession**

Blessed be God,

the one who forms us,

☩ Jesus who bears the cross,

the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

***C: Amen.***

Let us bow before God in humility,

confessing our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Steadfast and faithful God,

***C: you have revealed the ways of justice,***

***yet we fail to follow you.***

***We are overwhelmed***

***by the world’s violence and suffering.***

***We are afraid to risk what we have***

***for the sake of others.***

***For the harm we have caused,***

***known and unknown, forgive us.***

***For the unjust demands we place on others***

***and your creation, forgive us.***

***For the ways we turn away***

***from you and our neighbor, forgive us.***

***Lead us back to you***

***and set us on the right path;***

***in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.***

***Amen.***

Beloved in Christ,

God’s justice stretches beyond all understanding.

God’s compassion is beyond compare.

In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.

In ☩ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

***Amen.\****

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**Theme Time**

**Prayer of the Day:**

God of re-formation and renewal, when we find ourselves challenged by change, help us to find wisdom and strength in you, our source of peace and life. Amen.

**Acclamation: ELW # 682 ‘To God Our Thanks We Give’**

To God our thanks we give,

to God our thanks we give,

to God our thanks we give,

our thanks to God we give.

*(Title: To God Our Thanks We Give; Text & Music: Botswanan traditional, as taught by Daisy Nshakazongwe; tr. I-Loh, b. 1936;*

**Reader**:

A passage **1 Kings 12:1-17, 25-29.** May we be equipped by these words to walk in love for God, ourselves, our neighbours, all people, and all God’s creation. **(Brief pause)**

Rehoboam went to Shechem where all Israel had come to make him king. When Jeroboam, Nebat’s son, heard the news, he returned from Egypt where he had fled from King Solomon. The people sent and called for Jeroboam, who along with the entire Israelite assembly went and said to Rehoboam,“Your father made our workload very hard for us. If you will lessen the demands your father made of us and lighten the heavy workload he demanded from us, then we will serve you.”

He answered them, “Come back in three days.” So the people left.

King Rehoboam consulted the elders who had served his father Solomon when he was alive. “What do you advise?” Rehoboam asked. “How should I respond to these people?”

“If you will be a servant to this people by answering them and speaking good words today,” they replied, “then they will be your servants forever.”

But Rehoboam ignored the advice the elders gave him and instead sought the counsel of the young advisors who had grown up with him and now served him. “What do you advise?” he asked them. “How should we respond to these people who have said to me, ‘Lighten the workload your father demanded of us’?”

The young people who had grown up with him said to him, “This people said to you, ‘Your father made our workload heavy; lighten it for us!’ Now this is what you should say to them: ‘My baby finger is thicker than my father’s entire waist! So if my father made your workload heavy, I’ll make it even heavier! If my father disciplined you with whips, I’ll do it with scorpions!’”

Jeroboam and all the people returned to Rehoboam on the third day, just as the king had specified when he said, “Come back to me in three days.” The king then answered the people harshly. He ignored the elders’ advice and instead followed the young people’s advice. He said, “My father made your workload heavy, but I’ll make it even heavier! My father disciplined you with whips, but I’ll do it with scorpions!”

The king didn’t listen to the people because this turn of events came from the Lord so that he might keep the promise he delivered through Ahijah from Shiloh concerning Jeroboam, Nebat’s son. When all Israel saw that the king wouldn’t listen to them, the people answered the king:

“Why should we care about David?
    We have no stake in Jesse’s son!
Go back to your homes, Israel!
    You better look after your own house now, David!”

Then the Israelites went back to their homes, and Rehoboam ruled over only the Israelites who lived in the cities of Judah

Jeroboam fortified Shechem at Mount Ephraim and lived there. From there he also fortified Penuel. Jeroboam thought to himself, The kingdom is in danger of reverting to the house of David. If these people continue to sacrifice at the Lord’s temple in Jerusalem, they will again become loyal to their master Rehoboam, Judah’s king, and they will kill me so they can return to Judah’s King Rehoboam. So the king asked for advice and then made two gold calves. He said to the people, “It’s too far for you to go all the way up to Jerusalem. Look, Israel! Here are your gods who brought you out from the land of Egypt.” He put one calf in Bethel, and the other he placed in Dan. (CEB)

The Living God is with us. **C: And with all creation! Thanks be to God.**

**Engaging with the Story**

**1 Kings 12:1-17, 25-29**

Following Solomon’s death there should have been a straightforward coronation for his son Rehoboam who was the rightful heir to the throne. But this time of transition – this change – creates space for the northern tribes to make some demands of their soon-to-be king. They didn’t like how his father Solomon had treated them – basically as slave labour – but they’re hopeful that a new leader might bring new possibilities for them. They offer their allegiance on the condition that he treat them more leniently than his father did.

Rehoboam does a good thing by asking for time – 3 days – to discern his response to their request. But that’s about the only good thing we can really say about Rehoboam in this story. Because rather than heeding the advice of his senior advisors to acquiesce to the demands – to be a servant leader, in the end he goes along with his friends’ advice to not only deny the request, but to double down on the harsh treatment.

Not surprisingly, the northern tribes have had enough of this kind of leadership, and they revolt. And so it would be that the united kingdom – the twelve tribes of Israel who came together under David’s reign – would divide into two. The northern tribes become the kingdom of Israel under the leadership of Jeroboam, and the southern tribes the kingdom of Judah under Rehoboam.

Now Jeroboam is another interesting character. Things start out well for him. He was God’s chosen one to lead the northern tribes. And yet Jeroboam doesn’t seem to trust in his own God-given leadership. His worry is that the people are still going to the temple in Jerusalem to offer sacrifices. He’s worried that because of this they will change their loyalty back to Rehoboam. So he too consults advisors, which leads him to make a couple of golden calves so people could worship closer to home (because that worked so well the first time, right?).

Two men who are very different kinds of leaders, and who have two very different faults, but they hold something in common. Not once, in their exercise of leadership do they consult God. Nowhere in today’s story do we see these men turning to God for wisdom or guidance as they deal with changes and challenges to their leadership. And this would be far from the last time that the people of God would lose sight of God’s wisdom and guidance.

Today is Reformation Sunday – the day in the church when we commemorate Martin Luther’s posting of the 95 Theses on the church door in Wittenburg, setting in motion a series of events that would lead to the splintering of the Western Christian church, but also, it’s renewal. This act didn’t come out of nowhere. Luther was spurred to action by the sale of indulgences: pieces of paper that promised those who bought them would avoid purgatory (the place it was believed Christians went for purification before entering heaven).

Of course, it’s unlikely that all the church leaders believed indulgences could do what they promised – at least the leaders at the very top. Conveniently, they didn’t start selling indulgences until they ran out of money to build St Peter’s Basilica – the big new fancy church in Rome.

It takes a brave person – or perhaps a foolish person – to take on an institution as powerful as the church was at that time. Luther was probably a bit of both – both brave and foolish. But even more so, he was faithful. It was through the study of scripture that Luther came to know for himself the power of God’s grace in his own life. It was only because Luther and his fellow reformers relied on God that they were able to have the influence and bring about the changes that they did.

Because this path sure didn’t make life easy or smooth or Luther. At one point he has to go into hiding because his life was in such danger. Relying on God’s promises didn’t make life easy for Luther, but it made possible new life for the church and her people.

You don’t need me to tell you that things aren’t smooth or easy for the church today. In our lifetimes the Lutheran Church in North America has been on the decline in terms of size and influence. But as my colleague Pastor Erik Reedman Parker writes in his blog, The Millennial Pastor, “The decline of North American churches in the past few decades is not a never ending trend. But I do think God is using this time to help us shed our baggage… God is letting us experience decline long enough to finally die to our memories and nostalgia of the glory days and realize that the only thing the church ever had was the good news of Christ’s death and resurrection. All we ever were at our best are communities grounded in Christ’s new life given for us.”1

I will confess that over the summer I was feeling really down about our financial situation. A $40,000+ deficit is not something we can carry for very long. And yet, over these last weeks and months I have also experienced a renewed sense of God’s presence with us. I can’t help but feel that God is not finished with us just yet. But I’m also not sure if *we’re* done shedding *our* baggage.

The church of the future will not and cannot look the same. This moment is calling us to think differently about what sustainable ministry looks like. And we don’t know yet what that is for us here, in this moment. What I do believe is that if we want to find out, the path forward is going to look a lot less like Rehoboam and Jeroboam, and more like Luther. Less about us and what we want and what we think we need, and more about God and what God wants and what God knows we need.

On this Reformation Sunday, may the Spirit help us to trust, to risk, and to lean on God’s promises to bring new life out of death. May we rest in the beautiful promise that our hymn of the day proclaims: that God’s ways are not the world’s ways. Thanks be to God! AMEN

1 <https://millennialpastor.ca/2017/10/24/reformation-500-the-next-500-years>

**Hymn of the Day: ELW # 709 ‘When Our Song Says Peace’**

1 When our song says peace and the world says war,

we will sing despite the world.

We will trust the song, for we sing of God,

who breaks the spear and sword

and stills the storm of war.

2 When our song says free and the world says bound,

we will sing despite the world.

We will trust the song, for we sing of God,

who opens prison doors

and sets the captives free.

3 When our song says home and the world says lost,

we will sing despite the world.

We will trust the song, for we sing of God,

who brings us home at last,

and gives a song to all.

*(Title:**When Our Song Says Peace; Text: Richard Leach, b. 1953; Text © 1997 Selah Publishing Co., Inc. www.selahpub.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Music: Thomas Pavlechko, b. 1962; © 2003 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Prayers of Intercession:**

A:Trusting in the transformative power of God’s loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

God our parent, you call us your children and have made us siblings through your son Jesus. Heal the church’s many divisions, bring understanding and peace where there has been contention and strife, and unite us in one body through the love of Christ. God of grace, ***C:*** ***hear our prayer.***

God our creator, your hands have made the heights of the mountains, the depths of the sea, and the life that animates all creation. Bring relief to areas harmed by wildfires, floods, storms, and human carelessness. Renew the face of the earth. God of grace, ***C:*** ***hear our prayer.***

God our ruler, the nations rage and the kingdoms shake, but your word stands fast forever. Let your justice and peace roll down like waters wherever there is strife, injustice, war, or religious conflict (*especially we pray for the people of Gaza – we pray for a ceasefire and for your peace to come*). God of grace, ***C:*** ***hear our prayer.***

God our champion, you are our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble. Draw near to all who suffer (*especially we pray for Maria, all your beloved children on our prayer list, and those we name before you now aloud or in the silence of our hearts…*). Be their rest and comfort. God of grace, ***C:*** ***hear our prayer.***

God our reformer, you make all things new. Free us from complacency, open us to unexpected ways, and kindle zeal in us for the future. Stir in us a desire for ***your*** wisdom, as we respond to the changes and challenges around us. God of grace, ***C:*** ***hear our prayer.***

God our unity, we pray for our siblings in Christ: for the people of Fairview Seniors Community and their chaplain Niamh *(pronounced ‘Neeve’)* Brown; for the people of St Paul’s Lutheran Church, Bridgeport, and their pastor Mario Hryniewicz. God of grace, ***C:*** ***hear our prayer.***

Spirit of wisdom, we pray for those who proclaim your story in our midst each week through the reading of scripture: Barbara, Bonnie, Austin, Barb J, Kim, Helga, and John. Be with them and encourage them in their walk of faith. God of grace, ***C:*** ***hear our prayer.***

Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.\***

**Share the peace of Christ:**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

***C: And also with you.***

**Offering**

**Offering Hymn: ELW # 692 ‘We Are an Offering’**

**Chorus 1**

We lift our voices

We lift our hands

We lift our lives up to You

We are an offering

Lord use our voices

Lord use our hands

Lord use our lives they are Yours

We are an offering

**Bridge**

All that we have

All that we are

All that we hope to be

We give to You

We give to You

**Chorus 2**

We lift our voices

We lift our hands

We lift our lives up to You

We are an offering

We are an offering

*(Title: We Are an Offering; Text & Music: Dwight Liles, b. 1957; © 1984 Word Music, LLC. All rights reserved. Used By Permission.*

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**Offering Prayer:**

A: God of power, God of plenty,

all things belong to you.

We bring your gifts to the table,

that all might be fed.

Form us into the body of your Beloved,

Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.\*

You are invited to prepare your table with bread and wine, or crackers and juice, whatever is available to you, so that you may participate in the meal.

**Meal: Click here for the communion liturgy from worship on YouTube:**

[**https://youtu.be/ViXmTzRsfU4**](https://youtu.be/ViXmTzRsfU4)

**Great Thanksgiving: ACS Setting 12: ‘Dialogue…’ (page 36) (spoken)**

The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C: It is right to give our thanks and praise**

**ELW Setting 8: ‘Preface…’ (Sundays)**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,

through our Savior Jesus Christ;

who on this day overcame death and the grave,

and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,

with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**ELW Setting 8: ‘Holy, Holy, Holy…’ (page 190 )**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of pow’r and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory, full of your glory.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**\*

**Thanksgiving at the Table:**

On the night before he showed us the full extent of his love,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

 Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**The Lord’s Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those

who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

**Invitation to Communion:**

This is Christ’s table. All are welcome here to receive God’s abundant gifts of love, mercy, grace, and forgiveness.

I invite those at home, and those in the building communing by fellowship cup, to take your bread or cracker as we say together, “The body of Christ, given for us.”

And, as we take our cup we say, “The blood of Christ, shed for us.”

**Communion Music: ELW Setting 8 - Lamb of God *(page 187)***

**ELW # 785 ‘When Peace like a River *(It is Well with My Soul)*’**

**ELW Setting 8 - Lamb of God *(page 187)***

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;**

**have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;**

**have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;**

**grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.\***

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**ELW # 785 ‘When Peace like a River *(It is Well with My Soul)*’**

1 When peace like a river attendeth my way,

 when sorrows like sea billows roll,

 whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,

 it is well, it is well with my soul.

***Refrain***

***It is well (it is well)***

 ***with my soul, (with my soul,)***

 ***it is well, it is well with my soul.***

2 Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,

 let this blest assurance control,

 that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,

 and has shed his own blood for my soul. ***Refrain***

3 He lives--oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;

 my sin, not in part, but the whole,

 is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more.

 Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! ***Refrain***

4 Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight,

 the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,

 the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;

 even so it is well with my soul. ***Refrain***

*(Title: When Peace like a River (It Is Well with My Soul); Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828-1888; Public Domain; Music:* *Philip P. Bliss, 1838-1876; Public Domain; Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

P: May the body and blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ strengthen you, and keep you, in his grace.

***C: Amen.***

**Prayer after Communion:**

A: Blessed be your name, O God,

for we have feasted on your Word,

Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.

Strengthened by this food,

send us to gather the world to your banquet,

where none are left out and all are satisfied.

In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.\*

**Blessing:**

Oh God, may we receive your blessing,

through sharing your blessings beyond borders.

May we receive your gifts,

from those who carry nothing.

May we recognize you,

in people we do not know

and may we all find a safe home and peace in you

who had no place to lay your head.\*

The God of all grace + bless us now and forever.

Amen

*\*Source: Claudio Carvalhaes, “Liturgies from Below.” Page 47.*

**Sending Hymn: ELW # 505 ‘A Mighty Fortress Is Our God’ *(verses 1, 2 & 4)***

1. A mighty fortress is our God,

a bulwark never failing;

our helper frees us from the flood

of mortal ills prevailing.

For still our ancient foe,

forsworn to work us woe,

with guile and dreadful might

is armed to wage the fight:

on earth there is no equal.

2. If we in our own strength confide,
our striving turns to losing;
the righteous one fights by our side,
the one of God’s own choosing.
You ask who this may be:

Christ Jesus, it is he,

the Lord of hosts by name.
No other God we claim!
None else can win the battle.

4. God’s Word shall stand above the pow’rs,
shall end all their thanksgiving.
The Spirit and the gifts are ours,
for God with us is living.
Let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also;
though all of these be gone,
they yet have nothing won.
The kingdom’s our forever!

*(Title: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God; Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Frederick H. Hedge, 1805-1890, alt.; Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Music: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; Public Domain; Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Dismissal:**

P: We are a community /

Of learners and seekers /

Alive in God’s story of creation.

A: Let us go forth in joy and peace to love and serve God and our neighbours.

***C: Thanks be to God.\****

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