# Ante Communion Service for August 23, 2020

**Proper 16A** 

## Hymn Built on a Rock

National Lutheran Choir

Built on the Rock the Church doth stand, / Even when steeples are falling; Crumbled have spires in every land, / Bells still are chiming and calling, Calling the young and old to rest, / Calling the souls of those distressed, Longing for life everlasting.

Not in our temples made with hands, / God, the Almighty is dwelling; High in the heavens His temple stands, / All earthly temples excelling. Yet He who dwells in heav'n above / deigns to abide with us in love, Making our bodies His temple.

We are God's house of living stones, / Builded for His own habitation; He fills our hearts, His humble thrones, / Granting us life and salvation. Were two or three to seek His face, / He in their midst would show His grace, Blessings upon them bestowing.

Yet in this house, an earthly frame, / Jesus the children is blessing; Hither we come to praise His name, / faith in our Savior confessing. Jesus His Spirit to us sent, / making with us His covenant; Granting His children the kingdom.

Through all the passing years, O Lord, / grant that, when the church-bells are ringing, Many may come to hear God's Word / where He this promise 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.

Celebrant Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, the fountain of living water,

the rock who gave birth, our light and our salvation. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,

and from whom no secrets are hid:

Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A moment of silence for self-reflection

Celebrant Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

People Gracious God, have mercy on us. We confess that we have sinned against you

in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors

as ourselves. We are truly sorry, and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;

that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your name. Amen.

Celebrant Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit+. Amen.

Celebrant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit

be with you all.

People And also with you.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our holy house, and for all who offer their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

First Lutheran Church - Duluth, MN - Virtual Choir

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Worthy is Christ the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God. For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.

Alleluia. Alleluia.

Celebrant Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### First Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6

Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the Lord.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug.

Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him,

but I blessed him and made him many. For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord;

joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.

Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope.

Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath;

for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats;

but my salvation will be for ever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Psalm 138** Confitebor tibi

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; \*

before the gods I will sing your praise.

I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your Name, \*

because of your love and faithfulness;

For you have glorified your Name \*

and your word above all things.

When I called, you answered me; \*

you increased my strength within me.

All the kings of the earth will praise you, O Lord, \*

when they have heard the words of your mouth.

They will sing of the ways of the Lord, \*

that great is the glory of the Lord.

Though the Lord be high, he cares for the lowly; \*

he perceives the haughty from afar.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; \*

you stretch out your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

The Lord will make good his purpose for me; \*

O Lord, your love endures for ever; do not abandon the works of your hands.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. World without end. Amen.

#### Second Lesson Romans 12:1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-- what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Thanks be to God.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Matthew 16:13-20

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. Glory be to you, Lord Christ

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter,

and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

#### Sermon

## Hymn The Church's One Foundation

Choir of Trinity College Cambridge

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord; she is his new creation by water and the Word: from heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride; with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth, her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth; one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food, and to one hope she presses, with ev'ry grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder, men see her sore 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.

Mid 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 hath union with the God the Three in One, and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won: O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we, like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

#### Nicene Creed Said by all.

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made of one being with the Father. Through Him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come

in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### **Prayers of the People**

Celebrant With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church,

those in need, and all of God's creation. In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the peace and unity of the world;

That a spirit of respect may grow among nations and peoples.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For all who love God and trust in Christ, that divisions may cease;

And that all may be one as you and the Father are one.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick the friendless, and the needy.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence. The People may add their own petitions.

Hear us, Lord; For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. Silence.

We will exalt you, O God our King; And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence. Lord, let your loving kindness be upon them. Who put their trust in you.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we pray together:

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

We pray together for Christ's presence:

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the bread and wine.

I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul.

Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart.

I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Celebrant: While we long to receive the sacrament of Christ's Body,

*People*: We become the sacrament of Christ's Body.

Celebrant: Let your lives be manna to feed our hunger for communion.

People: The love we share becomes bread for the world.

## **Blessing and Dismissal**

The Lord Bless You and Keep You [Rutkin], Westminster Choir College