

**Hymn**                      **Christ is Made the Sure Foundation**                      *Harvard Univ Choir*

*Christ is made the sure foundation, / Christ the head and cornerstone,  
chosen of the Lord and precious, / binding all the church in one;  
holy Zion's help forever, / and her confidence alone.*

*All that dedicated city, / dearly loved of God on high,  
in exultant jubilation / pours perpetual melody;  
God the One in Three adoring / in glad hymns eternally.*

*To this temple, where we call thee, / come, O Lord of hosts, today:  
with thy wonted loving-kindness / hear thy people as they pray;  
and thy fullest benediction / shed within its walls always.*

*Here vouchsafe to all thy servants / what they ask of thee to gain,  
what they gain from thee forever / with the blessed to retain,  
and hereafter in thy glory / evermore with thee to reign.*

*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.**

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.**

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

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

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

**Blessing, and honor, and 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* Let us pray: O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **First Reading**

### **Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32**

The word of the Lord came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die. Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 25:1-8**

*Ad te, Domine, levavi*

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; \*

**let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

Let none who look to you be put to shame; \*

**let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.**

Show me your ways, O LORD, \*

**and teach me your paths.**

Lead me in your truth and teach me, \*

**for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.**

Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, \*

**for they are from everlasting.**

Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; \*  
**remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.**  
Gracious and upright is the Lord; \*  
**therefore he teaches sinners in his way.**  
He guides the humble in doing right \*  
**and teaches his way to the lowly.**  
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 Reading                      Philipians 2:1-13**

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel                                      Matthew 21:23-32**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Sermon**

## Hymn

## Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine!

*acapeldridge*

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! / O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, / born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.*

*Refrain:*

*This is my story, this is my song, / praising my Savior, all the day long;  
this is my story, this is my song, / praising my Savior all the day long.*

*Perfect submission, perfect delight, / visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
angels descending, bring from above / echoes of mercy, whispers of love. [Refrain]*

*Perfect submission, all is at rest, / I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
watching and waiting, looking above, / filled with his goodness, lost in his love. [Refrain]*

## 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*