12TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 23, 2020

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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A Liturgy of Doubt and Hope

Worship in a traditional order drawing on along with words of doubt and hope from Scripture, poets, and writers.

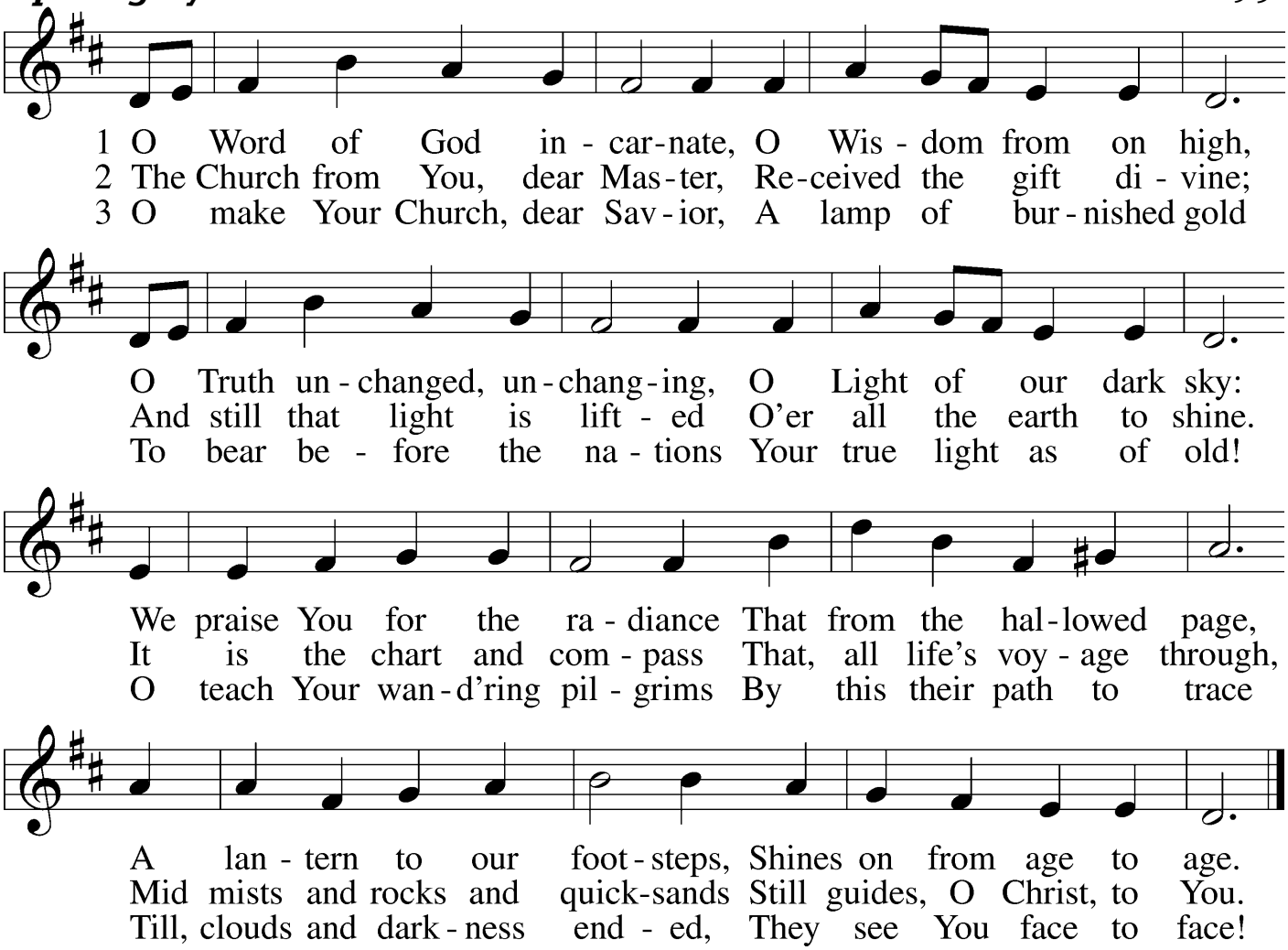
Encouragement in the Time of a Pandemic

All: We will get through this.
We will get through this together.
We will get through this by the grace and mercy of God.

Words of Truth in the Time of National Lament & Repentance

All: We will face this.
We will face this together.
We will face this by the grace and mercy of God.

The Sorrowful Saint
Scott Erickson

Opening Hymn ***O Word of God Incarnate*** *LSB 523*

Invocation

Jude 1-2,20-22,25

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.
P: To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ:
May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.
C: To the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord,
be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority,
before all time and now and forever. Amen.
P: We come to be built up in our most holy faith,
building one another up through the Word of God.
God the Father calls on us to have compassion on one another:
C: "Have mercy on those who doubt."
P: God the Son calls on us to support one another
as we wait for His mercy that leads to eternal life:
C: Jesus is able to keep us from stumbling
and to present us blameless before the presence of his glory
with great joy. Amen.

Confession of Sins

Based on "Emmanuel" by Aaron Niequist

P: Can we just admit together that we're not fine?
C: Because I'm not fine, and you're not fine.
P: Can we just admit together that we're afraid?
C: Because I'm afraid, and you're afraid.
P: Can we just admit together that we have doubts?
C: Because I have doubts, and you have doubts.
P: Can we just admit together that we're not free?
C: Because I'm not free, and I want to be.
P: If you're not free, then call out to God with me:
C: Emmanuel,
God with us today,
We humbly call out Your Name:
Emmanuel,
As near as our need,
As close as the air that we breathe,
Emmanuel.
Lord, have mercy.
P: Can we just admit together that we have failed?
C: Because I have failed, and you have failed.
P: Can we just admit that our hands aren't clean?
C: And our hearts aren't clean, and they'll never be.

P: Until we're freed, and mercy sings.

C: Emmanuel,
God with us today,
We desperately cling to Your Name:
Emmanuel,
As near as our need,
As close as the air that we breathe.
Emmanuel.
Lord, have mercy. Amen.

Absolution (Forgiveness)

Based on liturgy by Bernie Seter and "Emmanuel" by Aaron Niequist

P: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, which means He does not desire your death. But rather He calls you to turn from your wicked ways and find life in the life of Christ. He has had mercy upon you. He graciously forgives your sins through the death and resurrection of Your Lord Jesus Christ. He strengthens you by the power of the Holy Spirit to amend your sinful lives according to His will, and will keep you in His grace until that day when He will take you to be with Him for eternity. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, in His stead and by His command, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.
Emmanuel,
God with us today,
In thanksgiving we praise Your Name:
Emmanuel,
Who came near so we are freed,
As close as the Word that we hear.
Emmanuel.
The Lord has had mercy on us.

P: Now we can admit together that we've failed,

C: Because I am forgiven, and you are forgiven.

P: Now we can admit together that our hands aren't clean,

C: Because Jesus made me clean, and He made you clean.

P: If you're now free, then call out to God with me:

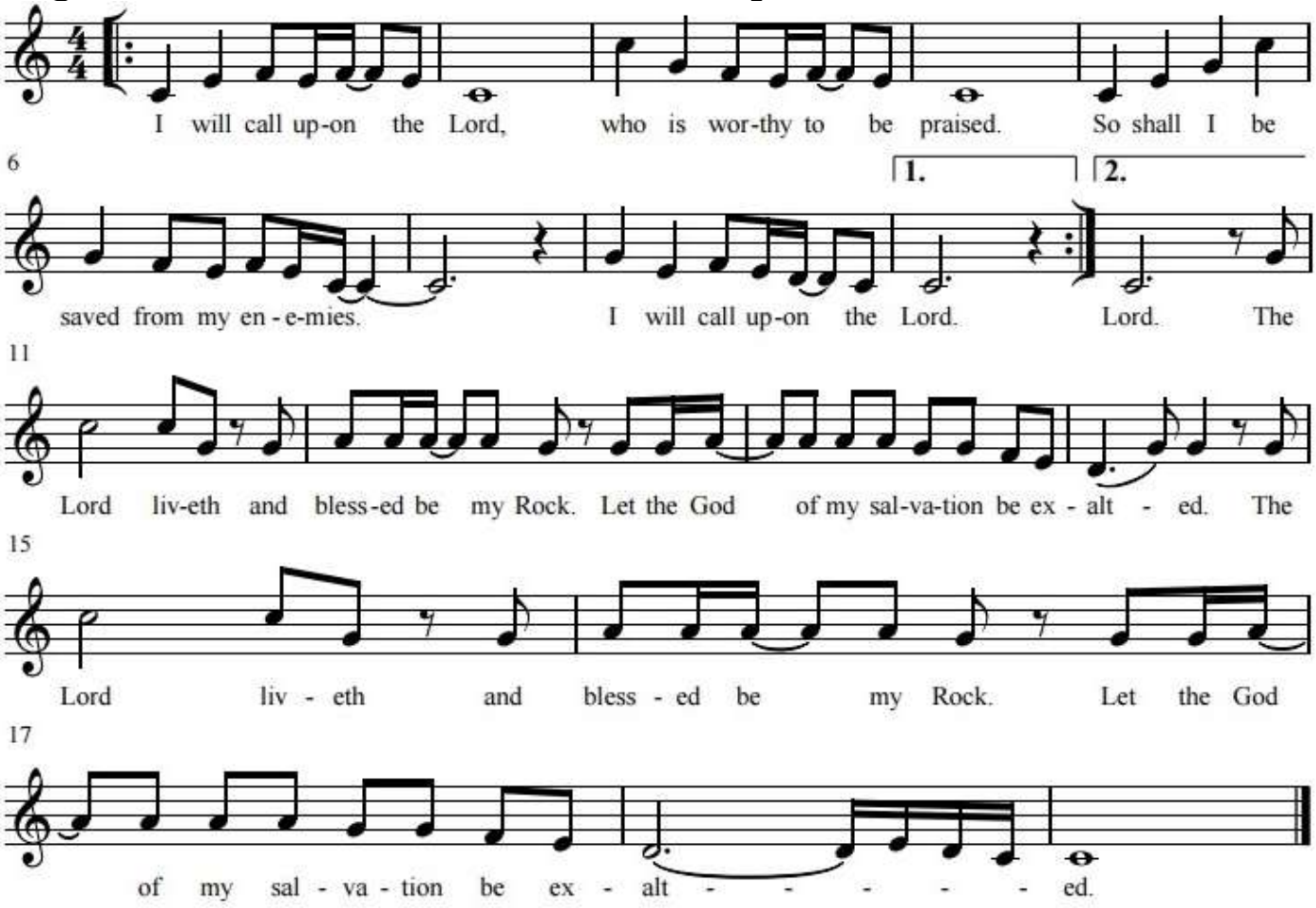
C: Emmanuel,
God with us today,
In thanksgiving we praise Your Name:
Emmanuel.
The Lord has had mercy on us. Amen.

Pax Domini (The Peace of the Lord)

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

C: And also with you.

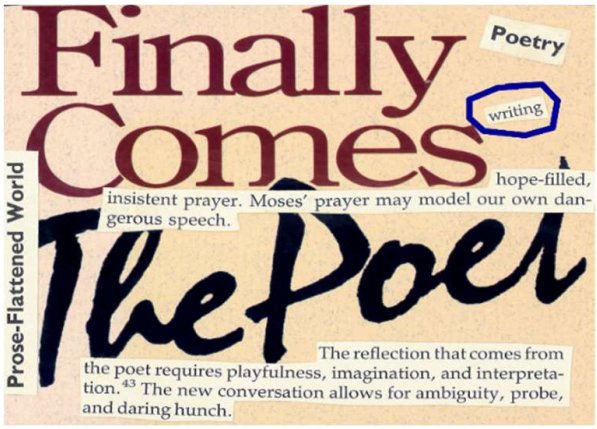
- Please share the peace of the Lord with any family members at home.
- If you are on the Facebook Live page, please share the Lord's peace in the comments.

Song of Praise ***I Will Call Upon the Lord***

Collect (Prayer of the Day)

P: 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.

SABBATICAL PRACTICES: Poetry, Reflection, Prayer, Writing: The Things Might Scare You About Sabbatical



TODAY'S SABBATICAL MOMENT:

WRITING

Anthem ***Farther Along*** ***Adult Choir***

- *Use the anthem's music and words to help you to meditate on God's Word and His truth for you today. Maintain this as meditative time.*

Tempted and tried we're oft made to wonder
Why it should be thus all the day long,
While there are others living about us,
Never molested tho' in the wrong.

Farther along we'll know all about it,
Farther along we'll understand why;
Cheer up, my brother, live in the sunshine,
We'll understand it all by and by.

When death has come and taken our loved ones,
It leaves our home so lonely and drear;
Then do we wonder why others prosper,
Living so wicked year after year.

Farther along we'll know all about it,
Farther along we'll understand why;
Cheer up, my brother, live in the sunshine,
We'll understand it all by and by.

When we see Jesus coming in glory
When He comes from His home in the sky;
Then we shall meet Him in that bright mansion,
We'll understand it all by and by.

Farther along we'll know all about it,
Farther along we'll understand why;
Cheer up, my brother, live in the sunshine,
We'll understand it all by and by.

Old Testament Reading ***Job 19:1–6, 20–27(ESV)***

[In chapter 18, Bildad, one of his friends who came to bring the suffering Job comfort, says Job must have done something wicked for God to have punished Job in such terrible ways. Bildad says that the wicked will die and be forgotten]

Job answered [Bildad] and said:

2 "How long will you torment me
and break me in pieces with words?
3 These ten times you have cast reproach upon me;
are you not ashamed to wrong me?
4 And even if it be true that I have erred,
my error remains with myself.
5 If indeed you magnify yourselves against me
and make my disgrace an argument against me,
6 know then that God has put me in the wrong
and closed his net about me.

20 "My bones stick to my skin and to my flesh,
and I have escaped by the skin of my teeth.

21 "Have mercy on me, have mercy on me, O you my friends,
for the hand of God has touched me!
22 Why do you, like God, pursue me?
Why are you not satisfied with my flesh?

23 "Oh that my words were written!
Oh that they were inscribed in a book!
24 Oh that with an iron pen and lead
they were engraved in the rock forever!
25 For I know that my Redeemer lives,
and at the last he will stand upon the earth.
26 And after my skin has been thus destroyed,
yet in my flesh I shall see God,
27 whom I shall see for myself,
and my eyes shall behold, and not another.
My heart faints within me!

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Epistle (New Testament Letter) ***Romans 11:33—12:2(ESV)***

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.

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.

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

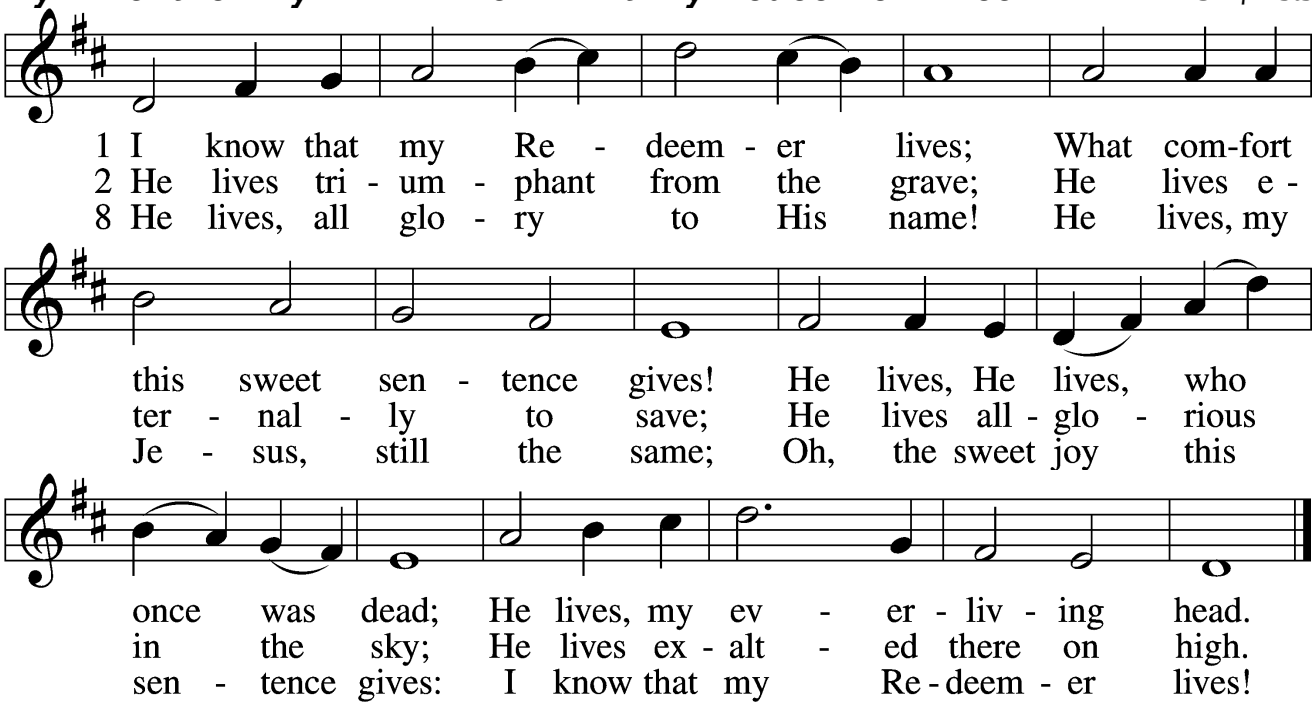
Holy Gospel ***Matthew 16:13–20(ESV)***

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

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

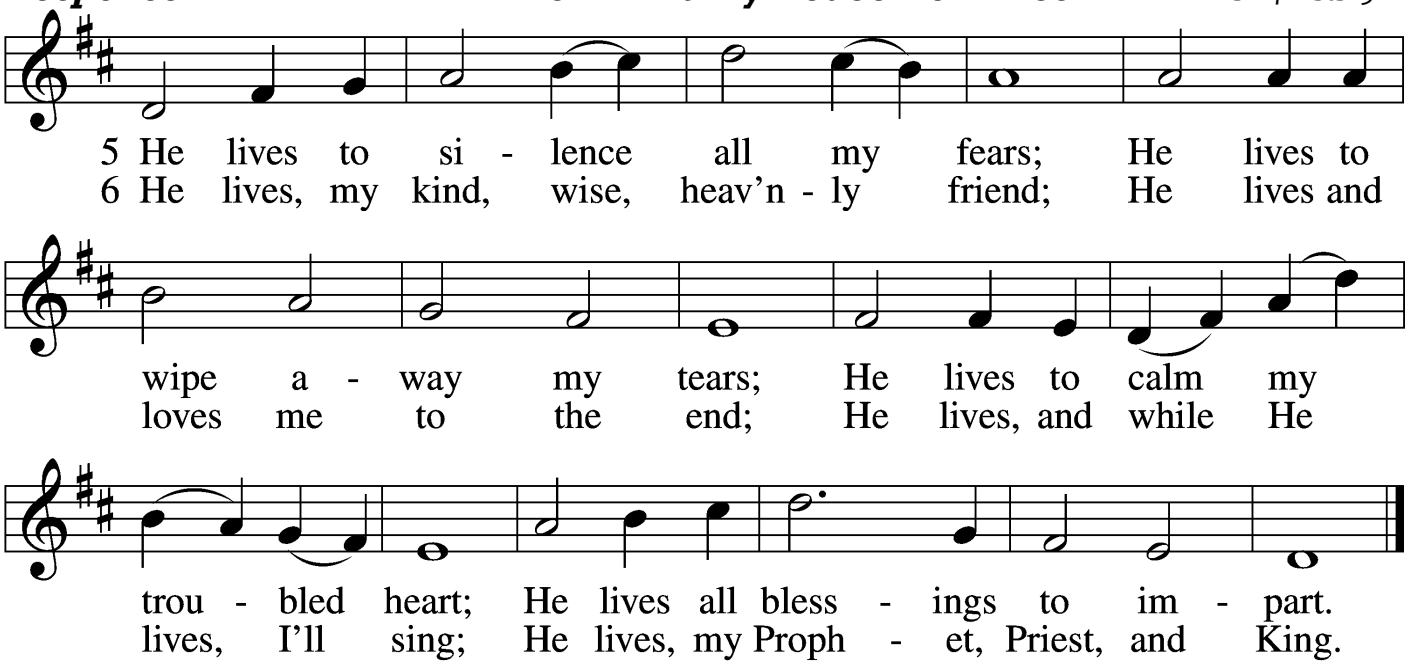
Hymn of the Day ***I Know That My Redeemer Lives*** *LSB 461 sts. 1–2, 8*



Sermon ***"Write This Down in the Face of Empty Words"*** ***Job 19:1-6,20-27***

*Our **Pray-Eat-Love** framework is meant to give a memorable, simple, easily identifiable, cyclical way to speak about what we are doing together as a gathering of brothers and sisters in Christ on God's Kingdom mission.*

- *To **PRAY** is to seek God's Word which creates, builds, and refreshes our faith.*
- *To **EAT** is to develop authentic friendships with the people around us, to share life with them.*
- *To **LOVE** is to look for opportunities to have deeply personal, spiritual conversation with our friends.*

Response ***I Know That My Redeemer Lives*** *LSB 461 sts. 5–6*

Confession of Faith (adapted from the Apostles' Creed) *First Nations Version*

Our Father and Creator, the One Above Us All,
made all things in the world above and the earth below.

Jesus, his special born Son,
was fathered by the Holy Spirit
and was born into this world through a virgin named Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, a ruler of the Roman people,
who had him nailed to a tree pole, the cross, where he bled to death.
He was buried and then went down to the world of the dead.
On the third day he came back to life, never to die again.
He returned to his Father in the world above
and sat down at his powerful right hand.
One day he will return to this earth to make the final decision
about the eternity of the living and the dead.

After he went to the world above,
Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to us from the Father,
to live in and through us.
There is only one holy and world-wide group of believers in Jesus
—a Sacred Family called his Church.
All of the Holy Spirit's holy people sit together equally in this Family

and share his Sacred Food at his table.
He has forgiven us and set us free from all of our broken ways,
and all who trust in him, even though they cross over to death,
will be brought back to life again,
to a life that will never end. Amen.

Prayers of the Church

based on Langston Hughes' poem "Prayer [2]"

P: Gather up
in the arms of your mercy
C: The sick, the depraved
The desperate, the tired,
P: All the scum
of our weary city.
Gather up
C: In the arms of your mercy.
P: Gather up
C: In the arms of your love—
P: Those who expect
C: No love from above.
P: For them—for us—
C: We pray now.

***** Jesus reached out to people considered by others to be "scum". We reach out to all people. And we ourselves may even feel like "scum" sometimes.
But look at how God responds with love.

Pastor then offers the Prayers of the Church

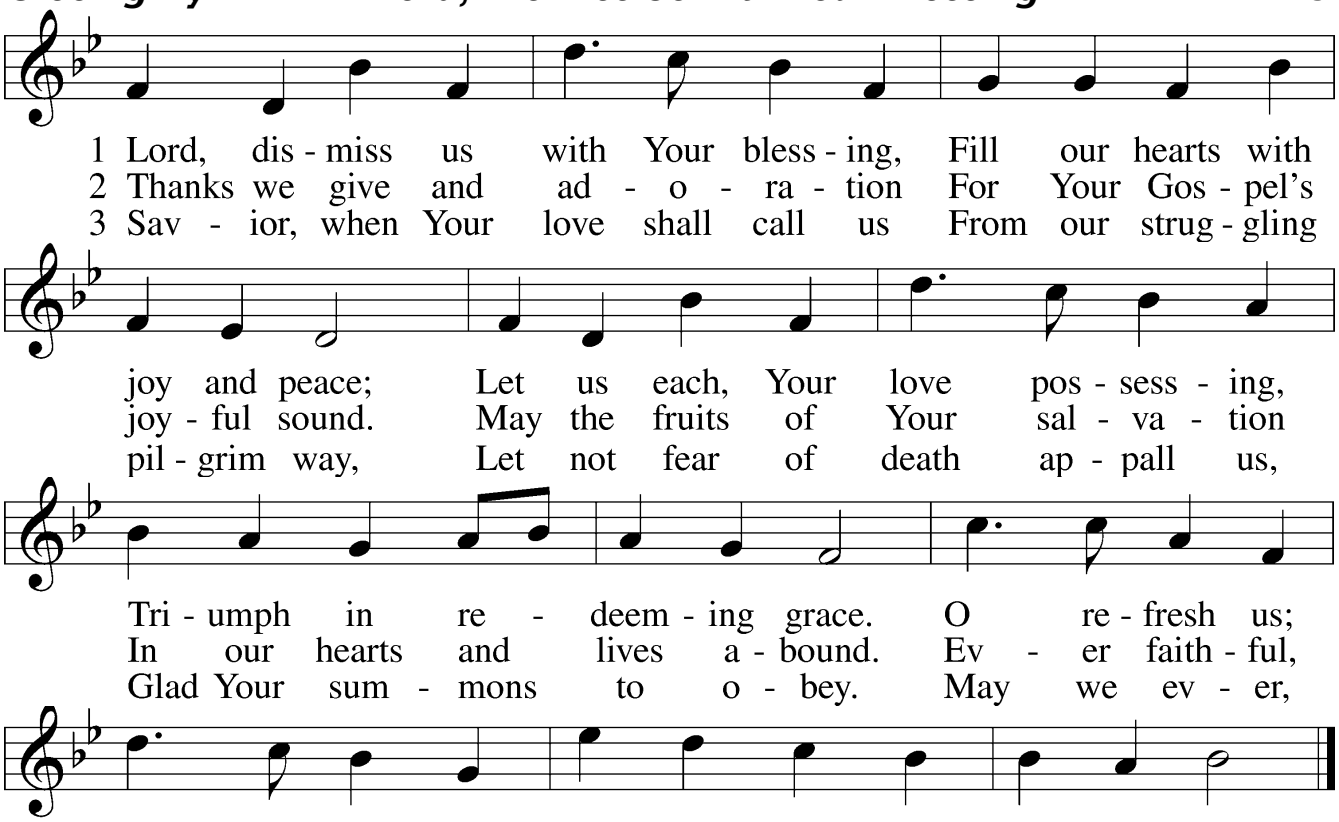
The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:
All: 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.

Benediction (Blessing)

Colossians 1:19-20

P: God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Jesus Christ, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross. You are reconciled to God the Father, through the work of God the Son, and kept in this faith by God the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

Closing Hymn ***Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing*** *LSB 924*

Announcements

ALTAR FLOWERS ARE PROVIDED BY:

A BETHEL MEMBER IN GRATITUDE TO ALL WHO ARE WORKING HARD TO PROVIDE WEEKLY WORSHIP

Acknowledgements

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