

## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

*Paraphrase on Built on the Rock*

*KIRKEN DEN ER ET GAMMELT HUS, Lindeman; setting by David N. Johnson*

*The assembly stands, as able.*

### AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,  
the fountain of living water,  
the rock who gave us birth,  
our light and our salvation.

**Amen.**

*A reading from Romans:* Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore, we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. (*Romans 6:3-5*)

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism as we come before God to make public affirmation of baptism into Christ.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you that you have made us your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called us to yourself, enlightened us with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished us in the community of faith. Uphold us and all your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

**Amen.**

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God,  
the powers of this world that rebel against God,  
and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,  
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,  
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,  
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,  
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

**I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

**We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

#### **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life,  
you are the everlasting wellspring, you are the fire of rebirth.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for streams that flow  
from the Susquehanna, Conemaugh, and Juniata Rivers.

Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow.

Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you.

You are the fountain of resurrection.

Praise to you for the water of baptism and for your Word  
that saves us in this sacrament.

Breathe your Spirit into all who are baptized and into all creation.

Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears.  
 Wash away the sin within us, and drown the evil around us.  
 Satisfy all our thirst with your living water, Jesus Christ, our Savior,  
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth,  
 cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your  
 Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the  
 spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence both now  
 and forever.

**Amen.**

**BAPTISMAL HYMN**

*Baptized and Set Free* ELW 453



1 We are peo - ple cre - at - ed, cho - sen by God.  
 2 We are fed and we're nour - ished, filled and re - freshed.  
 3 We are nour - ished by wa - ter, all liv - ing things,  
 4 Now with praise and thanks - giv - ing, we join the song.



Then we're washed, ev - er gent - ly, in mer - cy and love.  
 Then our hun - ger re - turns and a - gain we are blessed.  
 and by life that the Spir - it a - bun - dant - ly brings.  
 All are wel - come! We gath - er to sing loud and strong.



Sin has pow - er no more. Je - sus o - pened the door  
 For what - ev - er the need, God is great - er in - deed:  
 As we jour - ney toward home, may your pres - ence be known:  
 Not en - slaved, but set free! From now on, all will be



to a foun - tain bring - ing heal - ing, and whole - ness and more.  
 end - less o - cean, al - ways deep - er than all of our need.  
 pre - cious riv - er, ev - er - flow - ing, now car - ry us home.  
 one in Je - sus, one in wa - ter, bap - tized and set free!

Text: Cathy Skogen-Soldner, b. 1956  
 Music: BAPTIZED AND SET FREE, Cathy Skogen-Soldner  
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## GREETING

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

**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

You are gracious and merciful, O God, slow to anger, rich in love. Receive our prayers as you have promised and uphold us by your Spirit, until all things, mended by your mercy, are made whole and well in you, through Jesus Christ, our healer and our hope.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### FIRST READING

Isaiah 28:14-16

A reading from Isaiah.

Therefore hear the word of the Lord, you scoffers who rule this people in Jerusalem. Because you have said, "We have made a covenant with death, and with Sheol we have an agreement; when the overwhelming scourge passes through it will not come to us; for we have made lies our refuge, and in falsehood we have taken shelter"; therefore thus says the Lord God, See, I am laying in Zion a foundation stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation: "One who trusts will not panic."

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM

Psalm 127

Unless the Lord builds the house, their labor is in vain who build it.

**Unless the Lord watches over the city, in vain the sentinel keeps vigil.**

It is in vain to rise so early and go to bed so late;

**vain, too, to eat the bread of toil; for you, Lord, give sleep to your beloved.**

Children are a heritage from the Lord,

**and the fruit of the womb is a gift.**

Like arrows in the hand of a warrior

**are the children of one's youth.**

Happy is the one whose quiver is full of them!

**Such a one will not be put to shame when contending with enemies in the gate.**

**SECOND READING**

1 Corinthians 3:10-15

A reading from First Corinthians.

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it.

For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—the work of each builder will become visible, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each has done. If what has been built on the foundation survives, the builder will receive a reward. If the work is burned up, the builder will suffer loss; the builder will be saved, but only as through fire.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

**GOSPEL**

Matthew 7:24-26

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus taught the crowds, saying,] “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

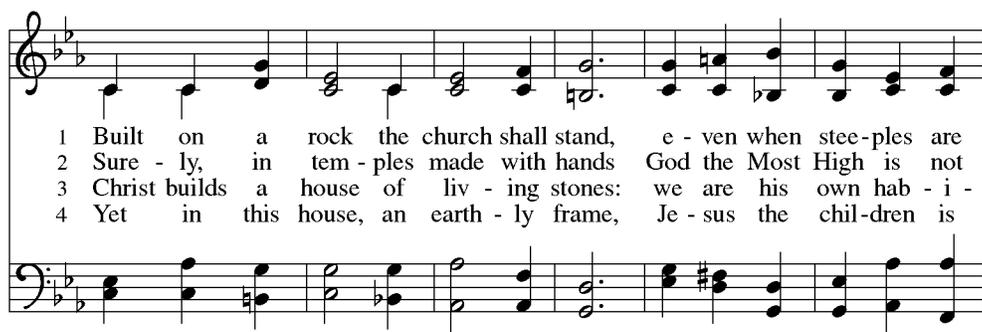
*The assembly is seated.*

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

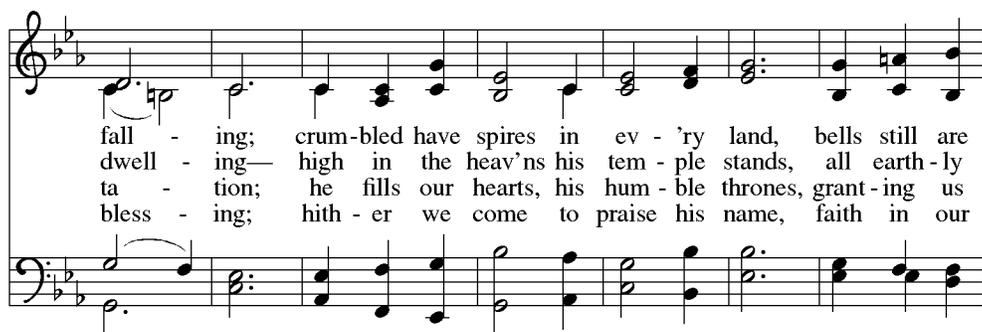
*The assembly then stands to proclaim the word of God in song.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY***Built on a Rock* ELW 652*KIRKEN DEN ER ET GAMMELT HUS, Lindeman; setting and variations by Johnson*

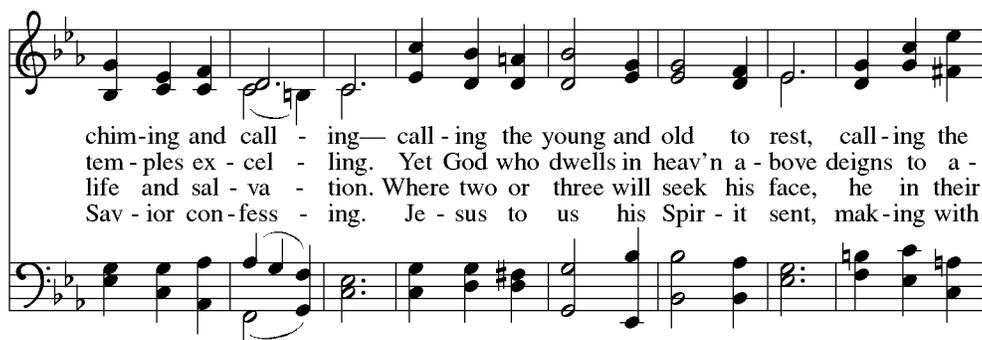
## Built on a Rock



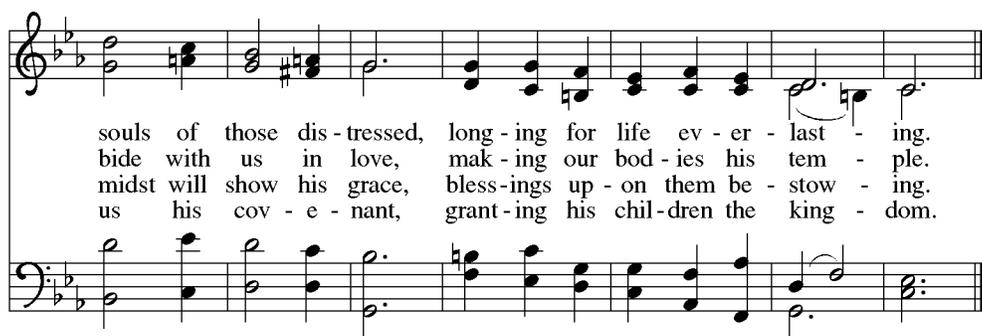
1 Built on a rock the church shall stand, e - ven when stee - ples are  
2 Sure - ly, in tem - ples made with hands God the Most High is not  
3 Christ builds a house of liv - ing stones: we are his own hab - i -  
4 Yet in this house, an earth - ly frame, Je - sus the chil - dren is



fall - ing; crum - bled have spires in ev - 'ry land, bells still are  
dwell - ing— high in the heav'ns his tem - ple stands, all earth - ly  
ta - tion; he fills our hearts, his hum - ble thrones, grant - ing us  
bless - ing; hith - er we come to praise his name, faith in our



chim - ing and call - ing— call - ing the young and old to rest, call - ing the  
tem - ples ex - cel - ling. Yet God who dwells in heav'n a - bove deigns to a -  
life and sal - va - tion. Where two or three will seek his face, he in their  
Sav - ior con - fess - ing. Je - sus to us his Spir - it sent, mak - ing with



souls of those dis - tressed, long - ing for life ev - er - last - ing.  
bide with us in love, mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.  
midst will show his grace, bless - ings up - on them be - stow - ing.  
us his cov - e - nant, grant - ing his chil - dren the king - dom.

- 5 Through all the passing years, O Lord,  
grant that, when church bells are ringing,  
many may come to hear your Word,  
who here 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."

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Carl Doving, 1867–1937, adapt.  
Music: KIRKEN DEN ER ET GAMMELT HUS, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887  
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## **PRAYER**

*The Holy Spirit prays with us and through us.*

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

In Christ Jesus we meet the God who knows our weakness and bears the wounds of the world. Therefore, let us be bold as we pray, trusting that God draws near to those in any kind of need.

*A brief silence.*

Holy One, our Rock and our Shelter, give us wisdom to build ministries with the faithfulness of Jesus, and give us humility to allow ourselves to be built as living stones in the whole community of Christ.

God of mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Establish life-giving relationships between your people and the things you have made that give us life: water, air, soil, vegetation. Send your church to model holy practices in the care of creation.

God of mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Show us how to honor those who have come before us, including the Osage, Shawandasse Tula, Massawomeck, and Susquehannock peoples who inhabited the territory of the Allegheny Synod before us. Stir up in us compassion to seek justice for all displaced peoples, refugees, and immigrants around the world.

God of mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Reveal your steadfast presence to those who suffer due to illness, anxiety, violence, or any need (*including...*). Restore your hurting people, and give them solid ground from which they can proclaim your goodness.

God of mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Send your Spirit to accompany congregations, ministers, seminarians, lay leaders, and communities who are discerning present needs and future ministries. Draw us into new life, which sometimes feels uncertain, knowing that you hold us and all things in loving care.

God of mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Unite us with partners in Montana, Kenya, across this territory, and throughout the body of Christ to tell the story of Jesus and his life for us. Strengthen the bonds that connect us to people both near and far.

God of mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks for all your faithful people throughout time and place who have built on the firm foundation of Christ, *including...*

+Lloyd Wilson

+Jim Rill

+David Fetter.

As we remember these servants of your Gospel, strengthen us to follow Christ through this world until we are carried into the harvest of eternal life, where suffering and death will be no more.

God of mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Into your wide embrace, O God, we place all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, trusting that you will receive them into your heart of mercy, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior.

**Amen.**

#### **INSTALLATION OF CONFERENCE DEANS**

*Pastor Traci Marriott, Blair-Huntingdon Conference*

*Pastor Vicki Beilfuss, Clearfield Conference*

*Pastor Mark Fischer, Johnstown Conference*

*Deacon Alicia Anderson, Nittany Conference*

*Pastor Dena Gable, Laurel Highlands Conference*

*Pastor David Wright, Bedford Conference*

#### **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

We extend a sign of peace to each other.

#### **OFFERING**

*We share with one another:*

*What brings you joy in your congregation's ministry?*

*What passion do you have for ministry that you would you like to explore with others?*

#### **THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

### **SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

### **BLESSING**

God all mighty,

God most merciful

bless us, keep us,

✝ and give us peace.

**Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL**

Be at peace. God is your Rock.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PRELUDE**

*The Church's One Foundation*

*AURELIA by Wesley; last stanza setting by David T. Clydesdale*

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