

## Welcome to Worship

St. Mark Lutheran Church

Anchorage, Alaska

March 22, 2020

Rev. Carol A. George, Pastor

Mel Vesco, Vicar

### Welcome

### Greeting

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

### Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

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

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen**

### **Entrance Hymn – How Firm a Foundation**

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!  
What more can He say than to you He hath said,  
who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?

2 "In every condition, in sickness, in health,  
in poverty's vale, or abounding in wealth,  
at home and abroad, on the land, on the sea,  
as days may demand, shall thy strength ever be."

3 "Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed,  
for I am thy God and will still give thee aid.  
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand."

4 "When through the deep waters I call thee to go,  
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;  
for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,  
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress."

5 "When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,  
My grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply.  
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design  
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine."

6 "The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose  
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no never, no never forsake!"

Source: Hymns to the Living God #241

## Call to Worship

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!

**His faithful love endures forever.**

Let all Israel repeat:

**“His faithful love endures forever.”**

<sup>3</sup> Let Aaron’s descendants, the priests, repeat:

**“His faithful love endures forever.”**

<sup>4</sup> Let all who fear the Lord repeat:

**“His faithful love endures forever.”**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray, Lord of love...

**you have taught us that love is your greatest commandment. Teach us to love as unconditionally as you love us. Amen.**

## Children’s Message

### First Reading

2 Peter 1:16-21

<sup>16</sup> For we were not making up clever stories when we told you about the powerful coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We saw his majestic splendor with our own eyes <sup>17</sup> when he received honor and glory from God the Father. The voice from the majestic glory of God said to him, “This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy.”<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>18</sup> We ourselves heard that voice from heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain.

<sup>19</sup> Because of that experience, we have even greater confidence in the message proclaimed by the prophets. You must pay close attention to what they wrote, for their words are like a lamp shining in a dark place—until the Day dawns, and Christ the Morning Star shines<sup>[b]</sup> in your hearts. <sup>20</sup> Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the

prophet's own understanding,<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>21</sup> or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God.

Psalm 118: 8-9, 19-29

- <sup>8</sup> It is better to take refuge in the Lord  
than to trust in people.**
- <sup>9</sup> It is better to take refuge in the Lord  
than to trust in princes.**
- <sup>19</sup> Open for me the gates where the righteous enter,  
and I will go in and thank the Lord.**
- <sup>20</sup> These gates lead to the presence of the Lord,  
and the godly enter there.**
- <sup>21</sup> I thank you for answering my prayer  
and giving me victory!**
- <sup>22</sup> The stone that the builders rejected  
has now become the cornerstone.**
- <sup>23</sup> This is the Lord's doing,  
and it is wonderful to see.**
- <sup>24</sup> This is the day the Lord has made.  
We will rejoice and be glad in it.**
- <sup>25</sup> Please, Lord, please save us.  
Please, Lord, please give us success.**
- <sup>26</sup> Bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
We bless you from the house of the Lord.**
- <sup>27</sup> The Lord is God, shining upon us.  
Take the sacrifice and bind it with cords on the altar.**
- <sup>28</sup> You are my God, and I will praise you!  
You are my God, and I will exalt you!**
- <sup>29</sup> Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!  
His faithful love endures forever.**

**Gospel** Mark 12: 28-34 (New Living Translation!)

<sup>28</sup> One of the teachers of religious law was standing there listening to the debate. He realized that Jesus had answered well, so he asked, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"

<sup>29</sup> Jesus replied, “The most important commandment is this: ‘Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. <sup>30</sup> And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’ <sup>31</sup> The second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ No other commandment is greater than these.”

<sup>32</sup> The teacher of religious law replied, “Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth by saying that there is only one God and no other. <sup>33</sup> And I know it is important to love him with all my heart and all my understanding and all my strength, and to love my neighbor as myself. This is more important than to offer all of the burnt offerings and sacrifices required in the law.”

<sup>34</sup> Realizing how much the man understood, Jesus said to him, “You are not far from the Kingdom of God.” And after that, no one dared to ask him any more questions.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ!**

**Homily – How Firm a Foundation – Reverend Carol George**

**Hymn of the Day**

**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] On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
all other ground is sinking sand,  
all other ground is sinking sand.

[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] On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
all other ground is sinking sand,  
all other ground is sinking sand.

[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] On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
all other ground is sinking sand,  
all other ground is sinking sand.

### **The Apostles Creed**

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

### **Prayers of the People**

Beloved friends, in this season of repentance and healing, we accept God's invitation to be ever-mindful of the needs of others, offering our prayers on behalf of God's community in the church and the world.

*A brief silence.*

Turn us from ourselves and towards our neighbors, God of love; teach your church how to love like you would have us love. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Help us learn how to better live in harmony with our environment, God of love; bring healing where the earth is damaged. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant wisdom and compassion to our leaders, God of love; keep us from over-consumption and injustice. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bring comfort and peace to those in turmoil, God of love; strengthen the fainthearted and bind up the brokenhearted. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heal those in any pain (especially,...), God of love; fill them with the knowledge of your presence and care for them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless our community through teachers, parents, foster parents, first responders, and other examples of loving the neighbor, God of love; watch over them and keep them in your care. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

***Here a time of silence will occur as we lift the prayers of our heart to God.***

Encourage us through the example of the saints, God of love; sustain us with your love shown throughout the generations. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Fill us with your strength to resist the seductions of our foolish desires and the tempter's vain delights, that we may walk in obedience and righteousness, rejoicing in you with an upright heart. **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

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**

**Sending Song – Go my children with my blessing (ELW 543)**



1 “Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.  
2 “Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.  
3 “Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.  
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.  
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.  
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own.”  
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.”  
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free.”

**VISION STATEMENT**

Rooted in Christ, we will invite all to experience God's grace, grow as Christ's disciples, and make a positive difference in our community and world.

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**