

A photograph of three sparrows perched on a vertical, light-colored branch. The sparrows are small, with brown and yellow streaked plumage. They are positioned vertically along the branch, with one at the top, one in the middle, and one at the bottom. The background is dark and out of focus. The text "You are of more value than many sparrows" is overlaid on the right side of the image in a white, serif font. Below the text, the reference "MATTHEW 10:31" is written in a smaller, orange-brown font. A solid gold-colored vertical bar is on the left side of the image.

You are  
of more  
value  
than  
many  
sparrows

MATTHEW 10:31



## Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Saturday, June 24, 2023 ~ 5:00 pm

Sunday, June 25, 2023 ~ 9:00 am

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*God does not promise that the path of the disciple will be easy. Jeremiah feels the pain of rejection from those who do not want to hear what he has to say. Jesus declares that his words may bring stark division. Even so, we need not be afraid for God accounts for each hair on our heads. Though we may experience rejection, frustration, division, and death, God's grace and love make us a new creation each day. Marked with the cross and filled with holy food, we are sent from worship to witness to Christ in the world.*

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors. Merciful God, **we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Righteous God,

**we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

### GATHERING SONG

*"How Firm a Foundation"*

ELW # 796

## 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.

## KYRIE

*Refrain*



Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev'-ry day.



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im-passioned re-sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . . for
- 4 For your Spir-it to guide; that you cen-ter our lives in the



u-ni-ty of all; for  
hun-gry and the poor; that  
friends and fam-i-ly; for  
wa-ter and the word; that you



this ho-ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,  
we may live out . . . . . truth and jus-tice and grace,  
life and for love, . . . . . for our work and our play,  
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod-y and blood,

*Continues on next page*



let us pray to the Lord,

let us pray to the Lord.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### FIRST READING: Jeremiah 20:7-13

A reading from Jeremiah.

<sup>7</sup>O LORD, you have enticed me,

and I was enticed;

you have overpowered me,

and you have prevailed.

I have become a laughingstock all day long;

everyone mocks me.

<sup>8</sup>For whenever I speak, I must cry out,

I must shout, "Violence and destruction!"

For the word of the LORD has become for me

a reproach and derision all day long.

<sup>9</sup>If I say, "I will not mention him,

or speak any more in his name,"

then within me there is something like a burning fire

shut up in my bones;

I am weary with holding it in,

and I cannot.

<sup>10</sup>For I hear many whispering:

"Terror is all around!

Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"

All my close friends

are watching for me to stumble.

"Perhaps he can be enticed,

and we can prevail against him,  
and take our revenge on him.”

<sup>11</sup>But the LORD is with me like a dread warrior;  
therefore my persecutors will stumble,  
and they will not prevail.

They will be greatly shamed,  
for they will not succeed.

Their eternal dishonor  
will never be forgotten.

<sup>12</sup>O LORD of hosts, you test the righteous,  
you see the heart and the mind;  
let me see your retribution upon them,  
for to you I have committed my cause.

<sup>13</sup>Sing to the LORD;  
praise the LORD!  
For he has delivered the life of the needy  
from the hands of evildoers.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

#### **PSALM: Psalm 69:7-18**

<sup>7</sup>Surely, for your sake I have suffered reproach,  
and shame has covered my face.

<sup>8</sup>**I have become a stranger to my own kindred,  
an alien to my mother's children.**

<sup>9</sup>Zeal for your house has eaten me up;  
the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.

<sup>10</sup>**I humbled myself with fasting,  
but that was turned to my reproach.**

<sup>11</sup>I put on sackcloth also,  
and became a byword among them.

<sup>12</sup>**Those who sit at the gate murmur against me,  
and the drunkards make songs about me.**

<sup>13</sup>But as for me, this is my prayer to you, at the time you have set, O LORD:  
“In your great mercy, O God, answer me with your unfailing help.

<sup>14</sup>**Save me from the mire; do not let me sink;  
let me be rescued from those who hate me and out of the deep waters.**

<sup>15</sup>Let not the torrent of waters wash over me, neither let the deep swallow me up;  
do not let the pit shut its mouth upon me.

<sup>16</sup>**Answer me, O LORD, for your love is kind;  
in your great compassion, turn to me.**

<sup>17</sup>Hide not your face from your servant;  
be swift and answer me, for I am in distress.

<sup>18</sup>**Draw near to me and redeem me;**  
**because of my enemies deliver me.**

## SECOND READING: Romans 6:1b-11

A reading from Romans.

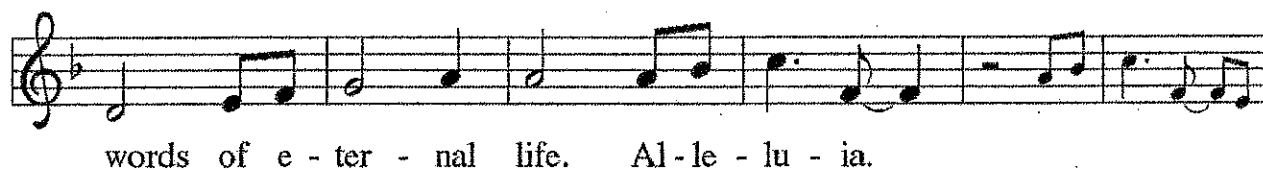
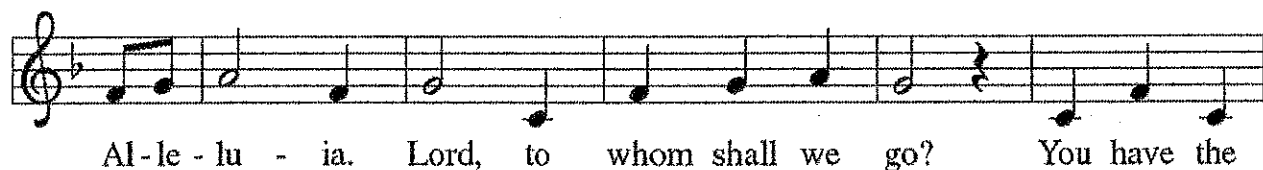
<sup>1b</sup>Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup>By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? <sup>3</sup>Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>Therefore we have been buried with 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.

<sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup>For whoever has died is freed from sin. <sup>8</sup>But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup>The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. <sup>11</sup>So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## **GOSPEL: Matthew 10:24-39**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the twelve:] <sup>24</sup>“A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; <sup>25</sup>it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

<sup>26</sup>“So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. <sup>27</sup>What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. <sup>28</sup>Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. <sup>29</sup>Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. <sup>30</sup>And even the hairs of your head are all counted. <sup>31</sup>So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

<sup>32</sup>“Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; <sup>33</sup>but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

<sup>34</sup>“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

<sup>35</sup>For I have come to set a man against his father,  
and a daughter against her mother,  
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;

<sup>36</sup>and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

<sup>37</sup>Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; <sup>38</sup>and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup>Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**      *“When Our Song Says Peace”*

**ELW # 709**

## **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 INTERCESSION

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

## OFFERING

## OFFERING SONG

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.

Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me

with your free Spir - it. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,

and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

## OFFERING PRAYER

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the harvest.  
Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE





## THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SHARE IN OUR WORSHIP

| <b>SATURDAY</b>             | <b>5:00 pm Worship Service</b>           |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <b>Ushers</b>               | Gary & Joni King                         |
| <b>Reader</b>               | Gary & Joni King                         |
| <b>Communion Assistants</b> | Gary & Joni King                         |
| <b>Counters</b>             | <i>Not finalized at time of printing</i> |

| <b>SUNDAY</b>               | <b>9:00 am Worship Service</b> |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Ushers</b>               | Chad, Evan, & Christian Keppy  |
| <b>Reader</b>               | Jim Schneider                  |
| <b>Communion Assistants</b> | Chad, Evan, & Christian Keppy  |
| <b>Counters</b>             | Dan & Deanna Nielsen           |

|                          |                                |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Choir Director</b>    | Susan Becker                   |
| <b>Organist</b>          | Teri Wittkowski & Susan Becker |
| <b>Jubilation Leader</b> | Neal Becker                    |





## Evil? I Renounce It!

**T**he service of Holy Baptism asks baptismal candidates, parents, and sponsors to reject sin in a series of renunciations:

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Those assembled respond: “I renounce them!” (*ELW*, p. 229)

In today’s gospel, Jesus warns the disciples about what sorts of evil, risks, and divisions may be ahead for them. Discipleship has already cost them their intended vocations, and the road ahead includes conflicts that will split families and may cost them their lives. Such was the reality in ancient days when taking on Roman authority.

Today, risks for living out faith still exist, especially in countries without freedom of religion. But most of us have difficulty imagining what resistance to our faith would look like. One look at the morning news reminds us that evil is rampant in our world. We resist evil when we raise our voices against violence, when we march against inequality, when we welcome and house the stranger new to our country and community, and when we fight for the rights of Black and brown and LGBTQ+ siblings. Some among us tackle systemic racism and corruption in workplaces and institutions—often at great risk.

This passage from Matthew is difficult and disturbing, yet there is gospel in it. Jesus tells those who follow him not to fear, and that we undertake this mission of mercy with vulnerability and dependence on a most gracious God. Amid the risks, despite the uncertainty, the gospel is to be proclaimed “in the light” and “from the housetops” (Matthew 10:27), for it is the most powerful tool we have against the evil of this world.

## How Firm a Foundation



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,  
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,  
 3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,  
 4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!  
 for I am your God and will still give you aid;  
 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.  
 my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said  
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
 The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign  
 and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,

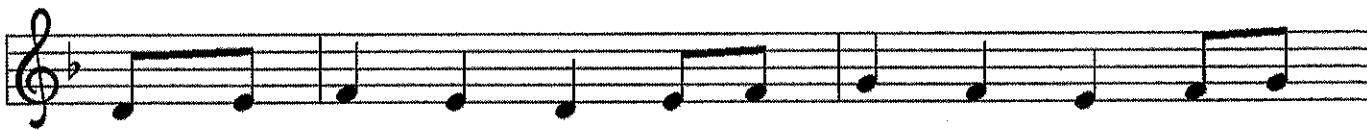


who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?  
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."  
 your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."  
 like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.

Music: FOUNDATION, Early American

# When Our Song Says Peace



1 When our song says peace and the world says war, we will  
2 When our song says free and the world says bound, we will  
3 When our song says home and the world says lost, we will



sing de spite the world. We will trust the song, for we sing of God,  
sing de spite the world. We will trust the song, for we sing of God,  
sing de spite the world. We will trust the song, for we sing of God,



who breaks the spear and sword and stills the storm of war.  
who opens pris - on doors and sets the cap - tives free.  
who brings us home at last, and gives a song to all.

**Text:** Richard Leach, b. 1953

Music: JENKINS, Thomas Pavlechko, b. 1962

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## We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus



1 We are bap-tized in Christ Je - sus, we are bap - tized in his death;  
2 In the wa - ter and the wit-ness, in the break-ing of the bread,  
3 Glo-ry be to God the Fa - ther, glo-ry be to Christ the Son,



that as Christ is raised vic - to - rious, we might live a brand new life.  
in the wait - ing arms of Je - sus who is ris - en from the dead,  
glo - ry to the Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er three and ev - er one;



And if we have been u - nit - ed in a dread-ful death like his,  
God has made a new be - gin-ning from the ash - es of our past;  
as it was in the be - gin-ning, glo - ry now re-sounds a - gain



we will all be re - u - nit - ed, for he lives.  
in the los - ing and the win - ning we hold fast.  
in a song that has no end - ing. . . . A - men.

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937

Music: OUIMETTE, John C. Ylvisaker

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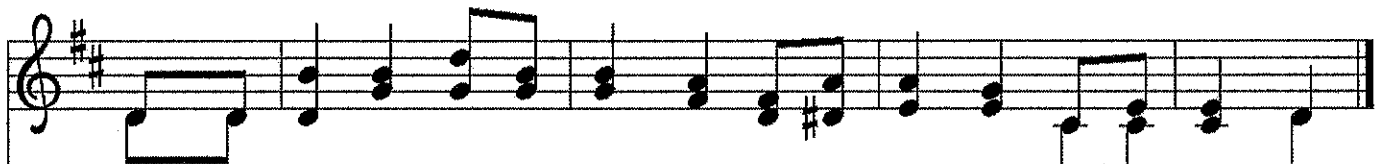
# Children of the Heavenly Father

## *Tryggare kan ingen vara*



*Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,*

- 1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
- 2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour-ish.
- 3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;
- 4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil-dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



*stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kän - da näs - tet.*  
 nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.  
 From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.  
 un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.  
 his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.



Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870-1958  
 Music: TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA, Swedish folk tune  
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