



## **Sing with All the Saints in Glory:**

### **2023 Lenten Midweek Series**

Fourth Wednesday. 7 p.m.

March 22, 2023

## **Prelude – Bell**

*Lent is a time of renewal. We focus on the death and resurrection of Jesus—and in turn focus on our own death and resurrection found in baptism.*

*We who have been baptized into Christ have died to sin and are the righteous saints of God. At the same time, we know that we struggle daily with sin as we seek to follow Jesus. This is the wonderful **Lutheran** understanding of being saint and sinner simultaneously.*

## **Greeting**

P- The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C- And also with you.**

## **Gathering Song – Borning Cry, ELW 732**

*The composition of “**Borning Cry**” began in 1985, when Mr. Ylvisaker was asked to prepare a series on baptism called “Reflections” for the ALC. His Web site states: “John began work on the song before any footage for the video had been shot.*

1. I was there to hear your borning cry,  
I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,  
to see your life unfold.  
I was there when you were but a child,  
with a faith to suit you well;  
In a blaze of light you wandered off  
to find where demons dwell.
  
2. When you heard the wonder of the Word  
I was there to cheer you on;  
You were raised to praise the living Lord,  
to whom you now belong.  
If you find someone to share your time  
and you join your hearts as one,  
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme  
from dusk 'till rising sun.
  
3. In the middle ages of your life,  
not too old, no longer young,  
I'll be there to guide you through the night,  
complete what I've begun.  
When the evening gently closes in,  
and you shut your weary eyes,  
I'll be there as I have always been  
with just one more surprise.
  
4. I was there to hear your borning cry,  
I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,  
to see your life unfold.

## **Confession & Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins:*

P- Blessed is the Holy Trinity, + one God,  
who journeys with us these forty days,  
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

**C- Amen**

P- Let us acknowledge before God and one another  
our need for repentance and God's mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P- Holy God,

**C- we confess to you our faults and failings.**

**Too often we neglect and do not trust your Holy Word;  
we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;  
we spoil rather than steward your creation;  
we cause hurt though you call us to heal;  
we choose fear over compassion.**

**Forgive us, renew us, lead us,  
as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen**

P- Hear the good news:

God so loved the world that God gave his only Son,  
so that all may receive life.

This promise is for you!

God embraces you with divine mercy,  
+ forgives you in Christ's name,  
and revives you in the Spirit's power.

**C- Amen**

## Opening Prayer

P- O God, ancient and eternal,  
in Christ you make all things new.  
In baptism we have been buried with Christ  
and made citizens with the saints.  
Keep us faithful all our days,  
and at length bring us into glory.  
Through the same Jesus Christ,  
our life, our strength, and our hope.

**C- Amen**

## Song – How Firm a Foundation ELW 796

*First published in 1787, **How Firm a Foundation** appeared in Dr. John Rippon's "A Selection of Hymns," it was signed simply "K". All efforts to identify this mysterious "K", have been fruitless; and the mystery remains to this day. Dr. Rippon was pastor at Carter's Lane Baptist Church in London for sixty-three years. The tune is thought to be from an old English folk tune. Each verse was based on a passage of promises in the Bible. Verse one was based on Isaiah 41:10 {Fear not, I am with you}; verse two is based on Isaiah 43:2 {I will be with you}; verse three is based on 2 Corinthians 12:9 {My Grace is sufficient for thee}; and verse four is based on Hebrews 13:5 {I will never leave nor forsake you}.*

1 How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word!  
What more can he say than to you he has said  
who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?

2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,  
for I am your God and will still give you aid;  
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."

3 "When through fi'ry trials your pathway shall lie,  
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply.  
The flames shall not hurt you; I only design  
your dross to consume and your gold to refine."

4 "Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove  
my sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;  
and then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn,  
like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne."

## **Word**

*The Word includes two hymns and two readings associated with the specific commemorations and theme of each week.*

## **Isaiah 58:6-9**

## **Matthew 25:31-40**

## **Striving for Justice: Joseph; Oscar Romero**

*Oscar Romero was martyred while celebrating Catholic mass in 1980. Archbishop Romero was an outspoken critic of the government corruption, military abuse, and the oppression of the people of El Salvador. In Joseph we see how the holy family became refugees at the hands of a tyrant ruler. In our baptism we pledge to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.*

## **Offering Song – Lord Jesus, Think on Me ELW 599**

*This [hymn about repentance](#) is based on a work by Synesius of Cyrene, Bishop of Ptolemais, is from the 5th century. Originally in Greek (Μνώεο Χριτέ) it was translated to English by Allen Chatfield (d 1876).*

1 Lord Jesus, think on me,  
and purge away my sin;  
from selfish passions set me free  
and make me pure within.

2 Lord Jesus, think on me,  
by anxious thoughts oppressed;  
let me your loving servant be  
and taste your promised rest.

3 Lord Jesus, think on me,  
nor let me go astray;  
through darkness and perplexity  
point out your chosen way.

4 Lord Jesus, think on me,  
that, when the flood is past,  
I may the eternal brightness see  
and share your joy at last.

## **Offering Prayer**

P- God of good gifts,

**C-receive these and our offerings as we present them in faithful service  
for the sake of your gospel. Amen**

## Prayers for Those Who Are Deceased

P- For those who have died, such as Oscar Romero.

Almighty and eternal God,

**C - from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted,  
either by death or life:**

**hear our prayers and thanksgivings  
for all whom we remember this day;  
fulfill in them the purpose of your love;  
and bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P- For those who have died in active service.

O God of truth and justice,

**C- we hold before you those men and women  
who have died in active service:**

**in Iraq, in Afghanistan and elsewhere.**

**As we honor their courage and cherish their memory,  
may we put our faith in your future;  
for you are the source of life and hope,  
now and forever. Amen.**

P- At a bereavement.

Father, you know our hearts and share our sorrows.

**C- We are hurt by our parting from those whom we loved:  
when we are angry at the loss we have sustained,  
when we long for words of comfort,  
yet find them hard to hear,  
turn our grief to truer living,  
our affliction to firmer hope  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P- Lord, have mercy

**C- on those who mourn**

**who feel numb and crushed**

**and are filled with the pain of grief,**

**whose strength has given up**

**You know all our sighing and longings:**

**be near to us and teach us to fix our hope on you**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P- Lord, do not abandon us in our desolation.

**C- Keep us safe in the midst of trouble,**

**and complete your purpose for us**

**through your steadfast love and faithfulness,**

**in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

P- Our eyes, Lord, are wasted with grief;

you know we are weary with groaning.

**C- As we remember our death**

**in the dark emptiness of the night,**

**have mercy on us and heal us;**

**forgive us and take away our fear**

**through the dying and rising of Jesus your Son. Amen**

### **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.**

### **Concluding Prayer**

P- 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 and our Savior.

**C- Amen**

### **Sending Song – I Love to Tell the Story ELW 661**

1 I love to tell the story  
of unseen things above,  
of Jesus and his glory,  
of Jesus and his love.  
I love to tell the story,  
because I know it's true;  
it satisfies my longings  
as nothing else would do.

Refrain:

I love to tell the story;  
'twill be my theme in glory  
to tell the old, old story  
of Jesus and his love.

2 I love to tell the story:  
how pleasant to repeat  
what seems, each time I tell it,  
more wonderfully sweet!  
I love to tell the story,  
for some have never heard  
the message of salvation  
from God's own holy word. [Refrain]

3 I love to tell the story,  
for those who know it best  
seem hungering and thirsting  
to hear it like the rest.  
And when, in scenes of glory,  
I sing the new, new song,  
I'll sing the old, old story  
that I have loved so long. [Refrain]

### **Sending**

P- Christ Jesus dwell in our hearts through faith,  
as we are being rooted and grounded in love,  
strengthened by the Spirit,  
and filled with all the fullness of God.

**C- Amen**

P- Go in peace. Serve in love.

**C- Thanks be to God.**

**People to keep in your prayers this week:**

**Joyce Jurgens**

**Marilyn Folkerts**

**Cora Church**

**Ernest Zimmerman**

**Brianna Podtburg**

**Dorothy Parde**

**Gary Ideus**

**And anyone else on your heart and in your minds!**

**Servicemen Deployment**

**Please keep Jon & Emily & Ada Gronewold in your prayers.** Jon and others from his National Guard Unit are being deployed to Germany for up to a year. Keep them and their extended families in your prayers. We will be posting a mailing address when he gets to Germany.

**Please Keep Quintin Hartig also in your prayer.** Along with his parents. Son of Cally & Jerod Ideus and John Hartig. He has been deployed to Kuwait and will be stationed there for about a year. His address for letters and packages is as follows:

SGT Quintin Hartig  
2-130FAR/C TRP 1-134<sup>th</sup>  
APO, AE 09366

**Thank you for all the youth and adults** that helped get the Church, Fellowship Hall and Parish Hall basement ready for the WELCA Ingathering and for Easter! Many hands make light work! (Two and a half hours of hard work!  $37 \times 2.5 \text{ hrs} = 92.5$  hours of cleaning) **Here is a list of all the volunteer helpers: again, a BIG THANK YOU!**

Hudson Fikar	Jayden Wiese	Bella Burr
McCoy Peters	Nicole Davison	Brenda Gronewold
Sandi Davison	Savannah Mahler	Lisa Riha
Kent Mahler	Kameron Riha	Cindy Parde
Cale Behrens	Henry Garton	Max Behrens
Kyson Kolm	Doug Parde	DeAnn Oltman
Michele Kolm	Terry Oltman	Pastor Jer
Cindy Jurgens	Iris Wiese	Rose Gronewold
Neal Meints	Alan Folkerts	Michael Busboom
Art Schuster	Paul Remmers	Connor Mason
Rhonda Fossler	Sandi Johnson	Elnora Lenners
Lynette Dorn	Karen Gilbreath	Linda Hooper
Annette Wiese.		

(Sorry if anyone is missed this is the list I was given)