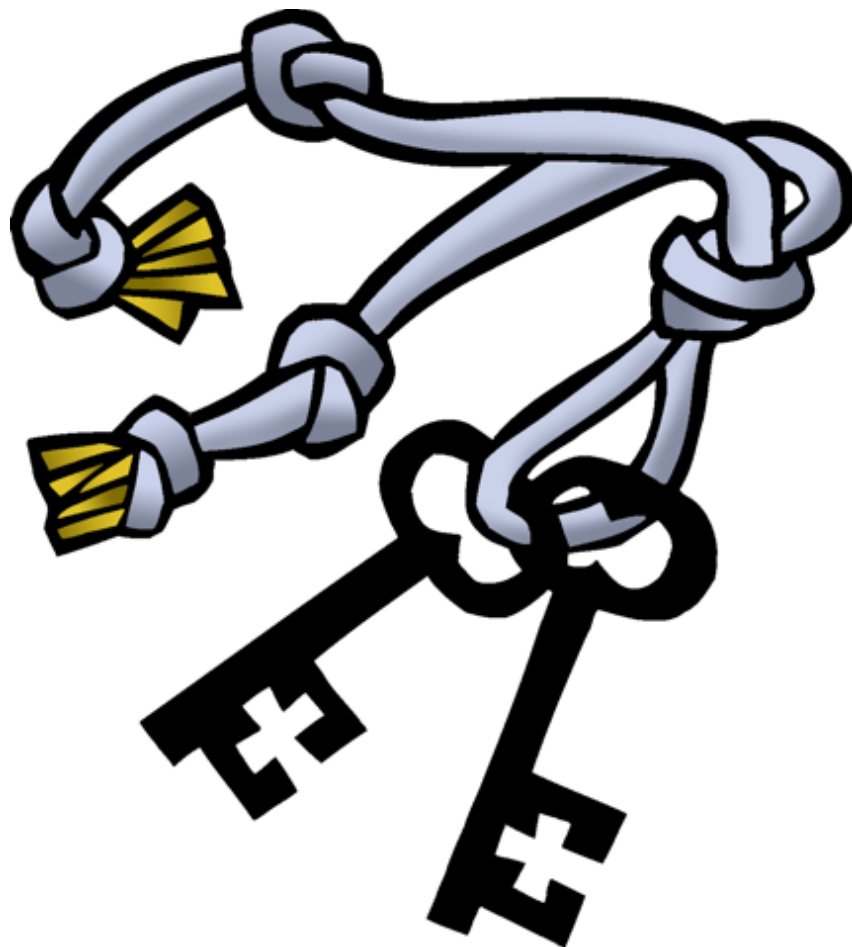


Dear members of God's family at Resurrection Church,

For the next four Sundays we read from the Gospel according Matthew about the church, about its foundation and its way of life. Though it may be hard for us to see during this pandemic, we are indeed the church, founded on the mercy of God in Christ, rightly waiting until we can visibly gather again as a body. This Sunday, if you can, join the gathering in your heart, by reading and praying together at 10 am.

RESURRECTION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



**The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 23, 2020**

Our Common Prayer at Home

You may choose to participate in this home prayer simply by using this text, or by adding into it the printed text of Pastor Linman's sermon, or by adding one or more of the clip-based worship videos, or by engaging the entire worship video.

Find a peaceful place to pray, perhaps a table. You may wish to light a candle near where you pray. One person may lead in this acclamation and then pray the Prayer of the Day.

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Then the readings for this Sunday may be read, as follows:

FIRST READING: Isaiah 51:1-6

¹Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness,
you that seek the LORD.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

²Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you;
for Abraham was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.

³For the LORD will comfort Zion;
comfort all its waste places,
and will make its wilderness like Eden,
and its desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in Zion,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation;
for a teaching will go out from me,
and my justice for a light to the peoples.
⁵I will bring near my deliverance swiftly,
my salvation has gone out
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.
⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats;
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

*This Psalm is sung or read in response to the First Reading:
Music may be found at:*

<https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20200823/playlist>

PSALM 138

¹I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with | my whole heart;
before the gods I will | sing your praise.
²I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name,
because of your steadfast | love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name and your word a- | bove all things.
³When I called, you | answered me;
you increased my | strength within me.
⁴All the rulers of the earth will praise | you, O LORD,
when they have heard the words | of your mouth.
⁵They will sing of the ways | of the LORD,
that great is the glory | of the LORD.
⁶The LORD is high, yet cares | for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty | from afar.

⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you | keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
your right | hand shall save me.
⁸You will make good your pur- | pose for me;
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever;
do not abandon the works | of your hands.

SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-8

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the sixteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son-of-Man is?” ¹⁴And they said, “Some say

John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven.¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the dominion of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”²⁰ Then Jesus sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Having read these readings, think of this:

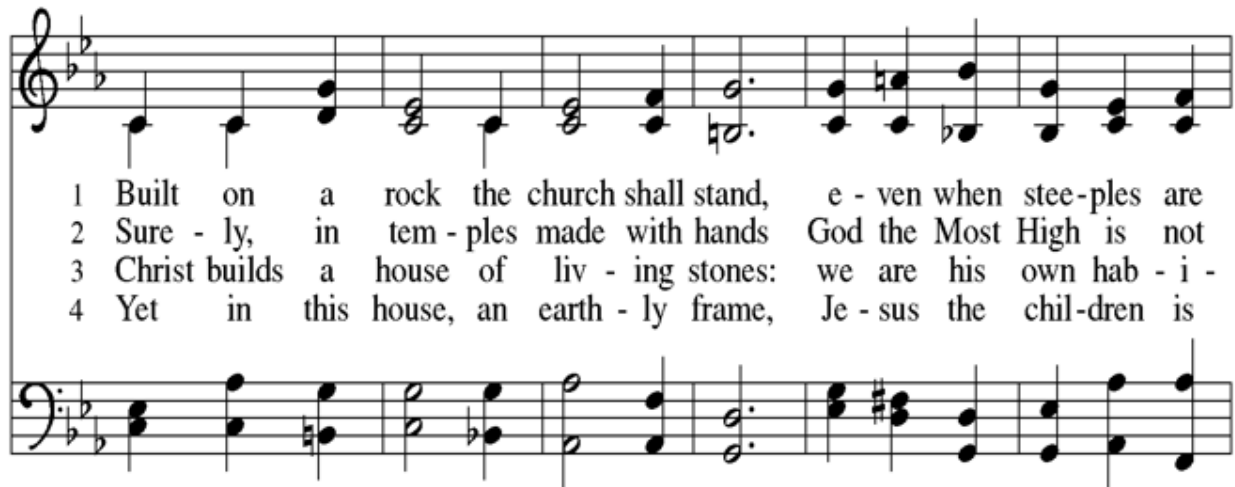
If we think with sober judgment, as Paul counsels, we are none of us reliable as a rock. But then neither was Abraham, “the rock from which” the people of God “were hewn.” Abraham believed God, but according to the stories, he also repeatedly lied. And to call Peter “the Rock” — Peter, who doubted and then denied Jesus — seems like a joke. But in Matthew, Jesus speaks blessing, mercy, and forgiveness to Peter. He speaks these also to us. Following Jesus, in our conversations with and prayers for each other, we can be using the very keys that Peter is given, forgiving and loosing one another with the actual mercy of God, the mercy that will yet make of the afflicted earth a garden of thanksgiving. The forgiving mercy of God in the crucified Christ is the Rock on which the church is built, even when all else falls and dies, the ground from which we turn in generosity to our needy neighbors, worshipping God by how we use our bodily lives.

At this point, read or listen to Pastor Linman’s Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost sermon. It may be found in the RELC News, on the RELC website, or at <https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20200823/playlist>

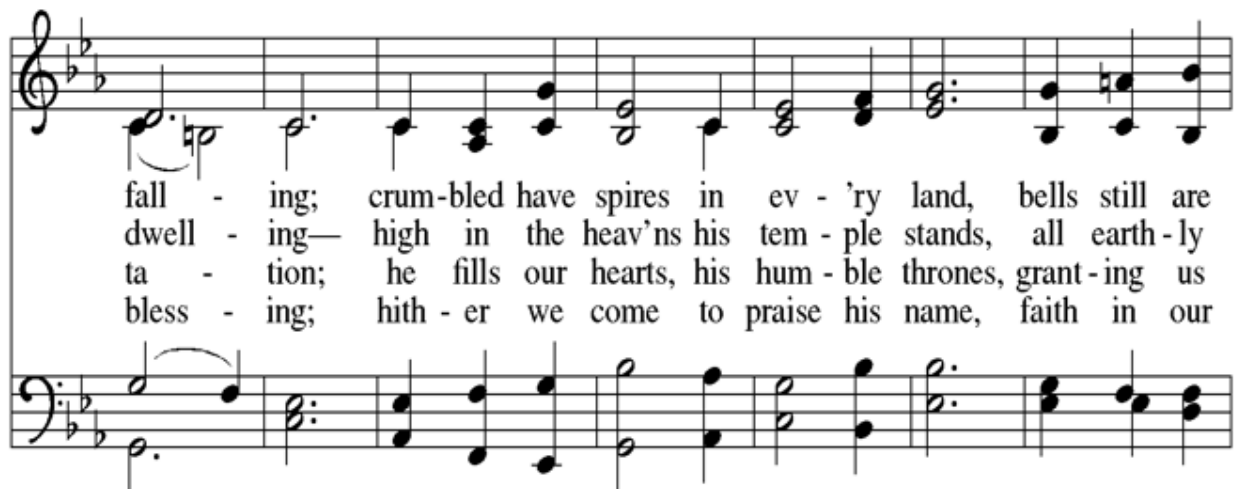
You might now sing the following hymn. Music may be found at <https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20200823/playlist>

HYMN OF THE DAY #652

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
 Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Then pray these intercessions:

Held together in one body by the Spirit of Christ, let us pray for the church and the world, responding to each petition with words from today's psalm, "your steadfast love endures forever."

A brief silence.

Bless the church, that despite the hardships experienced during this pandemic, Christians around the globe will stand firm on the Rock, who is Christ. Support Pastor Linman and our congregational committees during this difficult time. Give wisdom to churches that are considering when and how to resume their communal worship schedule.

A brief silence.

Unfailing God, hear our prayer:
your steadfast love endures forever.

Bless Protestants, who honor the writings of St. Paul; and Roman Catholics, who revere especially St. Peter; and the Orthodox and the evangelicals, that you show to each denomination its unique gifts for the building up of your church.

A brief silence.

Holy God, hear our prayer:
your steadfast love endures forever.

Bless the earth, that it be saved from ecological harm. Restore all lands and seas to the beauty and vigor that you intend. Protect animals whose habitat is endangered. Train us to be gardeners of your creation.

A brief silence.

Creator God, hear our prayer:
your steadfast love endures forever.

Bless the leaders of nations, that they govern their people with integrity and attend to the needs of the poor. Guard the United States from violence. Give clear purpose to protestors and to police. Inspire our political parties to conduct the election season with honesty and respect for all.

A brief silence.

God of justice, hear our prayer:
your steadfast love endures forever.

Bless our various means of communication, our phones, the internet, our postal service, and delivery businesses, that our communities be sustained for fruitful life together.

A brief silence.

Merciful God, hear our prayer:
your steadfast love endures forever.

Bless students, that whether in class or at home they be kept safe and able to learn. Uphold faculty and families, and protect all who will be affected by the opening of schools. Form college students to conduct themselves with maturity.

A brief silence.

Benevolent God, hear our prayer:
your steadfast love endures forever.

Bless all who are in need; all who have tested positive for the virus; the sick and the dying. We pray for the unemployed; for medical workers; for those seeking a vaccine; for those who are overwhelmed with anxiety about the future. We pray for Don Hanson, Karen Huff, Barb Jensen, Lyle Kubly, Jack Mulloy, Gretchen Zeltner, and those we name here:

A brief silence.

Compassionate God, hear our prayer:
your steadfast love endures forever.

Finally, we pray also for ourselves, that with Christ as our Rock, we can stand firm.

A longer period of silence.

Merciful God, hear our prayer:
your steadfast love endures forever.

We praise you for the lives of all your faithful people. We mourn the death of those we loved, especially Eugene Copenhaver. Bring us at the end, we pray, into the joy and gladness of life together.

A brief silence.

Eternal God, hear our prayer:
your steadfast love endures forever.

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

Now read or sing the following Hymn. Accompaniment is at <https://www.relcarlinton.org/hw/20200823/playlist>

HYMN # 654

The Church's One Foundation



1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,

she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:
by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.

From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
 one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
 Oh, bless - ed heav'n-ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,

with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
 that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839-1900
 Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810-1876

Then conclude with these prayers:

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

We thank you, O God, for your life-giving word,
for calling creation into being,
declaring forgiveness from the cross,
and delivering the spirit of rebirth.
We praise you, O God, for your word:
we praise you, O God, for your word.

Your word is a lamp lighting our path,
a mirror reflecting our selves,
a shield providing us refuge,
a fire burning for justice and truth.
Your word is sweeter than honey:
it nourishes our bodies like milk,
it sustains your people like bread.
We receive your promises, more treasured than gold.
We bless you, O God, for your word:
we bless you, O God, for your word.

Open our ears to your prophets, apostles, and saints,
and to all the cries of the needy.
Breathe into your church the mighty Spirit of Christ,
that heeding your voice of beauty and power
we are strengthened to serve wherever we are called.

To you, Father, Son, and Spirit – the Source, Word, and Breath --
we offer our thanks for your life-giving word:
we offer our thanks for your life-giving word.
Amen.
Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
On earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
And deliver us from evil,
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.**

Then speak the Blessing:

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.
Amen.



We cannot now celebrate the Holy Communion. But you can pray at your table in your home, a table which always echoes the Holy Supper. Christ is always present at your meal. Your meal is holy. Here is one prayer you might use, at breakfast, lunch, or dinner, to celebrate that presence.

**Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest,
and let this food to us be blessed.
Blessed be God, who is our Bread,
may all the world be clothed and fed.**

Readings for the Week:

Monday (Bartholomew, Apostle) John 1:43-51. **Tuesday** Romans 11:33-36.

Wednesday Isaiah 28:14-22. **Thursday** Psalm 26:1-8. **Friday** (commemoration of Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, died 430; Moses the Black, monk, martyr, died around 400) 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12. **Saturday** Jeremiah 15:10-14. **Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost** Jeremiah 15:15-21; Psalm 26:1-8, Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28.

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