



SERVICE ORDER

Sunday, 27 August
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Pastor Mark Gierus' Last Service



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Almighty and eternal God,
help us to grow in faith, hope, and love.
Make us love what you command,
and give to us what you promise.
We ask this through your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

OPENING SENTENCE: MATTHEW 16: 15-16

*Then Jesus asked them, "but who do you say I am?"
Simon peter spoke up, "you are the messiah, the son of the living god."*

**Then Jesus asked them, "but who do you say I am?"
Simon peter spoke up, "you are the messiah, the son of the living god."**

INVOCATION

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

HOW SHALL I CALL YOU?

How shall I call You? Maker of heaven,
Poet of sunset and painter of sky; Father almighty
who's running to find us, giving His Son
who must suffer and die.

*Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Spirit,
Let's sing it again and again.
Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Spirit,
for ever and ever. Amen.*

How shall I call You? Lover of children,
Shepherd and teacher and brother and friend;
healer of blind man and healer of leper:
You are beginning and middle and end.

*Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Spirit,
Let's sing it again and again.
Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Spirit,
for ever and ever. Amen.*

How shall I call You? Spirit of comfort,
cloud in the daytime and fire in the night;
Guide as we wander, protector in danger,
Listener and Helper and giver of sight.

*Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Spirit,
Let's sing it again and again.
Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Spirit,
for ever and ever. Amen.*

How shall I call? Master and servant,
Lord of the seasons and Lord of the years;
faithful and constant in loving and mercy,
giver of laughter and taker of tears.

*Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Spirit,
Let's sing it again and again.
Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Spirit,
for ever and ever. Amen.*

CONFESSION

*Let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins,
and ask Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.*

Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor helpless sinner, confess to You all my sins, and repent of all the evil I have done. I have deeply displeased You and deserve Your punishment in time and in eternity. But I am sorry for my sins, and I ask You, for the sake of the holy innocent sufferings and death of Your dear Son Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me. Amen.

*Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He has given the right to become children of God, and has given them His Holy Spirit. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all. **Amen.***

PSALM 124

¹ If the LORD had not been on our side – let Israel say –

² if the LORD had not been on our side when people attacked us,

³ they would have swallowed us alive when their anger flared against us;

⁴ the flood would have engulfed us, the torrent would have swept over us,

⁵ the raging waters would have swept us away.

We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers.

⁶ Praise be to the LORD, who has not let us be torn by their teeth.

⁷ We have escaped like a bird from the fowler's snare;
the snare has been broken, and we have escaped.

⁸ Our help is in the name of the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers.

**Glory to the Father and the Son
and the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever.
Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray for the church.

[silence]

**Thank you, Jesus Christ,
the Son of the living God,
that you have established your church on earth
and opened the door to your Father's presence.**

**Build us up as your church
on the sure foundation of faith in you.**

**For you live and reign
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.**

Amen.

BIBLE READING

FIRST READING: Exodus 1:8–2:10 The slavery of Israel and the birth of Moses

⁸Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt. ⁹'Look,' he said to his people, 'the Israelites have become far too numerous for us. ¹⁰Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country.'¹¹ So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labour, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh. ¹²But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites ¹³and worked them ruthlessly. ¹⁴They made their lives bitter with harsh labour in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their harsh labour, the Egyptians worked them ruthlessly.¹⁵ The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah, ¹⁶'When you are helping the Hebrew women during childbirth on the delivery stool, if you see that the baby is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live.' ¹⁷The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live. ¹⁸Then the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and asked them, 'Why have you done this? Why have you let the boys live?'¹⁹ The midwives answered Pharaoh, 'Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive.'²⁰ So God was kind to the midwives and the people increased and became even more numerous. ²¹And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own.²² Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: 'Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live.' **2** Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, ²and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When

she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. ³ But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket^[a] for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. ⁴ His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. ⁵ Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the river-bank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. ⁶ She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. 'This is one of the Hebrew babies,' she said. ⁷ Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?' ⁸ 'Yes, go,' she answered. So the girl went and got the baby's mother. ⁹ Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you.' So the woman took the baby and nursed him. ¹⁰ When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses,^[b] saying, 'I drew him out of the water.'

After the reading

This is the Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Romans 12:1–8 The basis of ethics, and advice on gifts

12 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will. ³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your^[a] faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead,^[b] do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

After the reading

This is the Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE

Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

*(Jesus said:) You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church,
and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.*

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13–20 Peter declares Jesus to be the Christ

Before the reading

Glory be to You, O LORD.

¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say the Son of Man is?’ ¹⁴ They replied, ‘Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ ¹⁵ ‘But what about you?’ he asked. ‘Who do you say I am?’ ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’ ¹⁷ Jesus replied, ‘Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you that you are Peter,^[a] and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades^[b] will not overcome it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be^[c] bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be^[d] loosed in heaven.’ ²⁰ Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

After the reading

This is the gospel of the LORD.

Praise be to You, O Christ.

Lord Jesus Christ,

thank you for revealing yourself as the Son of God.

Help us always to confess and proclaim you.

Amen.

THIS I BELIEVE (THE CREED)

Our Father everlasting The all creating One

God Almighty Through Your Holy Spirit

Conceiving Christ the Son Jesus our Saviour

**I believe in God our Father I believe in Christ the Son
I believe in the Holy Spirit Our God is three in One
I believe in the resurrection That we will rise again
For I believe in the Name of Jesus**

**Our judge and our defender Suffered and crucified
Forgiveness is in You Descended into darkness
You rose in glorious life Forever seated high**

**I believe in God our Father I believe in Christ the Son
I believe in the Holy Spirit Our God is three in One
I believe in the resurrection That we will rise again
For I believe in the Name of Jesus**

**I believe in You I believe You rose again
I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord**

**I believe in life eternal I believe in the virgin birth
I believe in the saints' communion And in Your holy Church
I believe in the resurrection When Jesus comes again
For I believe in the Name of Jesus**

**I believe in God our Father I believe in Christ the Son
I believe in the Holy Spirit Our God is three in One
I believe in the resurrection That we will rise again
For I believe in the Name of Jesus**

Ben Fielding | Matt Crocker

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TAKE MY LIFE, AND LET IT BE

**Take my life, and let it be, Consecrated, Lord, to thee;
Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be, swift and beautiful for thee.**

**Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my king.
take my lips, and let them be, Filled with the message from thee.**

**Take my silver and my gold; not a mite I would withhold.
Take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose.**

**Take my will and make it thine: It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart; it is thine own, it shall be thy royal throne.**

**Take my love; my Lord, I pour at your feet its treasure-store.
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.**

FRANCES RIDLEY HAVERGAL, 1836-79, ALT.

SERMON

At this point you may wish to Listen to Sermon,
or Read and Discuss the Sermon
For Church YouTube Channel ([click here](#))
The Sermon online may be different to the manuscript.
For LCA Worship Resources ([click here](#))

THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION

**The Church's one foundation Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation By water and the Word:
From heaven He came and sought her To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.**

**Elect from every nation, Yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses With every grace endued.**

**Though with a scornful wonder Men see her sore oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder, By heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping, Their cry goes up, 'How long?'
And soon the night of weeping Shall be the morn of song.**

**Mid toil and tribulation, And tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation Of peace for evermore;
Till with the vision glorious Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious Shall be the Church at rest.**

Yet she on earth hath union With God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion With those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,
Like them the meek and lowly, On high may dwell with Thee.

Samuel John Stone (1839-1900)
Public Domain

OFFERING PRAYER

*Thank you, Lord, for giving faith
to us and to your whole church,
and for the gift of forgiveness.*

Help us in gratitude to offer ourselves in your service.

*Lead us to work in harmony with one another,
using the gifts you have given us for the common good.*

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*God brought Peter to confess Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God. So let us
bring our requests to God as we pray for the church and the world.*

Heavenly Father, thank you for your marvellous mercy which adopted us into your true Israel by baptism, and which works faith in Christ through the gospel. Send messengers to take this good news to the Jews, and to all who neglect their baptism, and bring them to repentance and faith.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

We are weak Lord, but you are strong. Protect your church and build its faith so that we may not despair in times of trouble, but be sure that not even death and hell can overcome what you build. And so protect and strengthen all who suffer persecution for their faith, and in particular all Jewish Christians.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Guide the ministers of your church, that they may use your authority to forgive sins with wisdom and compassion. Bring each person to know the gifts you have given them, and to serve your church accordingly.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Thank you for the public services our church is able to offer – schools and early childhood facilities; aged care and welfare services. Bless those who benefit from these and those who serve in them.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Unite all the members of our families in faith and devotion to you Lord. Thank you for the faithful families of this congregation and for their service to your church, and give each a clear sense of their gifts and calling.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Heal and help the sick, O Lord, and support those with disabilities. Meet the needs of all we know who are in trouble and whom we now name in our hearts... (brief silence)

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, move us to offer ourselves in service to you, so that your love may be seen also through us. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours
now and forever. Amen.**

BLESSING

Let us bless the LORD.

God be praised forevermore.

The LORD bless us and keep us.

The LORD make His face shine on us and be gracious to us.

The LORD look upon us with favour, and give us peace.

Amen!

GROWING FAITH AT HOME BLESSING

May the Lord make you strong and brave to speak up for him.

May the Lord make you strong and brave to speak up for him.

WORDS OF SENDING

Go in peace

and humbly serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

AS WE STEP FROM THE EDGE OF MORNING

**As we step from the edge of morning, feet can't tell where to take us;
here's a light that will shine for ever, here's the light that will guide us:**

Jesus, please watch over us; Jesus, please take care of us.

**Trouble comes, and we search for safety, we forget that you hold us;
fill our minds so that we remember, say once more that you love us:**

Jesus, please watch over us; Jesus, please take care of us.

**Danger meets us at every moment, death is never in hiding;
you are stronger than any danger, you are stronger than dying:**

Jesus, please watch over us; Jesus, please take care of us.

**In your life is the Father's welcome, in your death there is freedom;
be our life and our death for ever, be our new resurrection:**

Jesus, please watch over us; Jesus, please take care of us.

Robin Mann 1949- (1979)

HYMNS AND SONGS

First reading (a): Exodus 1:8 - 2:10

LHS

519 While yet the morn is breaking* G4
525 Awake, my soul, and with the sun
G9
862 As we step from the edge of
morning GS

AT

43 How shall I call you?
101 As we step from the edge of
morning

Second reading : Romans 12:1-8

LHS

119 Come down, O Love divine G9
346 Forth in Thy name, O Lord, I go G5
358 Renew me, O eternal Light* G3
373 Lord, speak to me that I may
speak* G5
377 Take my life, and let it be* G6

526 Glory to Thee who safe hast kept
GS (819)
844 Sent out by God's blessing G6

AT

265 Take us now, we are yours
372 Teach me your way
373 Bound by love

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

LHS

70 Stricken, smitten and afflicted* G3
179 Christ alone is our salvation* G3
188 Built on a rock the Church doth
stand* G4
191 The Church's one foundation G4
248 Christ is made the sure foundation
G6
421 Our Father, Thou in heaven above*
G5

454 Ye servants of God, your master
proclaim G6

795 They knew who he was GS
901 Our Father, you from heaven
above G5

AT

31 God forgave my sin
146 They knew who he was
244 We have seen the Word of life