



# GATHERING

## GREETING AND WELCOME

The Rev. Dr. Joseph Novak, *pastor*

Our help is in the name of the LORD,  
**who made heaven and earth.**

## PRELUDE

Collin Whitfield, *organist*

"Praise to the Holiest in the Height" (arr. David Blackwell)

## ▲ OPENING PRAYER

The Rev. Dr. Joseph Novak

God, our Creator,  
from nothing you made our world.

**You formed us, love us,  
and give us all that we need.**

God, our Redeemer,  
you rescued us from sin.

**You have given us new life  
and hope of healing to the world.**

God, our Comforter,  
you are with us always.

**You comfort us, renew us,  
and guide us into your truth.**

Almighty God, for your gracious love for us, we praise you. **Amen.**

## ▲ PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Hymn No. 49

"The God of Abraham Praise" (LEONI)

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Paul Ytterock, *pastor*

**Lamb of God, we are burdened: We do not love you as we should.**

We forget our dependence on you and do not honor you.

Instead of glorifying you, we try to bring ourselves glory.

**Lamb of God, we are burdened: We do not love others as we should.**

We hurry through our days and miss opportunities to be your hands and feet.

We judge quickly and respond thoughtlessly.

**Lamb of God, we are burdened: We do not love ourselves as we should.**

We disparage our appearances, criticize our best efforts, and misuse our bodies.

**Lamb of God, we are burdened: We are weighed down by the bad things done to us.**

We hold grudges, harbor bad feelings, and believe lies told about us.

**Lamb of God, we are burdened: We are overwhelmed by sin.**

O Christ, you know our pain and suffering, indeed it is by *your* wounds we are healed.

**Take our burdens, we pray, and free us from sin. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## ▲ SHARING OF PEACE

## THE WORD

### ▲ GATHERING SONG

Hymn No. 698  
TAKE ME AS I AM

*Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;  
Set your seal upon my heart and live in me. (2X)*

### CHILDREN'S SERMON + BLESSING

#### REFRAIN

Hymn No. 838  
PROMISES

*Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior;  
standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God!*

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### NT READING: ROMANS 4:13-25

Gloria Nealy, *lector*

#### ▲ GOSPEL READING: MARK 8:31-38

#### ▲ REFRAIN

Hymn No. 838  
PROMISES

*Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior;  
standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God!*

#### OT READING: GENESIS 17:1-7, 15-16

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#### REFRAIN

Hymn No. 838  
PROMISES

*Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior;  
standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God!*

#### SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Joseph Novak

"A Promise of a Future"

#### ▲ HYMN

Hymn No. 51

"To Abraham and Sarah" LLANFYLLIN

## OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

### ▲ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*Heidelberg Catechism, Q.66  
Second Helvetic Confession, 89*

**This is God's gospel promise:  
to grant us forgiveness of sins and eternal life  
by grace because of Christ's one sacrifice accomplished on the cross.**

**The Gospel is truly glad and joyous news.  
In its announcement we hear the truth that God has now performed  
what he promised from the beginning of the world.**

**For God has given to us his only Son and in him,  
we are reconciled with the Father, we receive the remission of sins,  
the hope of all perfection, and the blessed assurance of everlasting life.**

## INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

### OFFERING + CHORAL ANTHEM

"We Walk by Faith" (arr. Kenneth T. Kosche)

*We walk by faith and not by sight; no gracious words we hear  
From Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke; but we believe Him near.*

*We may not touch His hands and side, nor follow where He trod;  
But in His promise we rejoice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"*

*Help then, O Lord, our unbelief; and may our faith abound  
To call on You when You are near and seek where You are found:*

*That, when our life of faith is done, in realms of clearer light  
We may behold You as You are, with full and endless sight.*

### ▲ PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here below;  
praise God above ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

O God, who keeps promises:  
**Hear our prayers.**

## DEPARTING

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### ▲ HYMN

Hymn No. 741

"Guide My Feet" GUIDE MY FEET

#### ▲ CHARGE

#### ▲ CHORAL BENEDICTION

*In the shadow of the cross, we remember love.  
In the shadow of the cross, we remember hope.  
In the shadow of the cross, we remember grace.  
Go in peace, and remember.*

#### ▲ POSTLUDE

"Take Up Thy Cross, the Savior Said" (arr. Brian Solomons)