



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*
Concert Handbell Choir

"What Wondrous Love Is This" (arr. Susan E. Geschke)

▲ OPENING PRAYER

The Rev. Dr. Joseph Novak, *pastor*

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. 166

"Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" ST. FLAVIAN

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: 1 PETER 3:18-22

Dick Skaff, *lector*

▲ GOSPEL READING: MARK 1:9-15

▲ 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 9:8-17

The Rev. Dr. Joseph Novak

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

"The Promise of Life"

▲ HYMN

Hymn No. 53

"O God, Who Gives Us Life" NOEL

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

"And Can It Be?" (Wesley)
Arr. Collin Whitfield

*And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain? For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! how can it be that Thou, my God, should die for me?
Amazing love! how can it be that Thou, my God, should die for me!*

*He left his Father's throne above, so free, so infinite His grace;
emptied Himself of all but love, and bled for Adam's helpless race;
'tis mercy all, immense and free; for, O my God, it found out me.
Amazing love! how can it be that Thou, my God, should die for me!*

*No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in Him is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach the eternal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ my own.
Amazing love! how can it be that Thou, my God, should die for me! Amen.*

▲ 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. 353

"My Hope is Built on Nothing Less" SOLID ROCK

▲ 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

"Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land" (African-American spiritual/arr. Ronald A. Nelson)