

“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday



Gathering in God’s Presence

Prelude — “Festival Processional”

Robert Wetzler

Doug Schuldt, trumpet

Welcome

***Affirmation: You Call Us to Service**

You call us to service; to be your eyes and ears,
hands and voice in this, your world.

To open our eyes not only
to the beauty and love which you create,
but the injustice, hate, and suffering
that humankind generates.

To open our ears not only
to the chattering of this coming week,
but the searching,
fears and questioning of all whom
we shall meet.

To open our hands not only
to those we choose our lives to share,
but in welcome, love, and fellowship
to all who you draw near.

To open our mouths not only
to speak platitudes and simple words,
but the truths you lay upon our hearts.

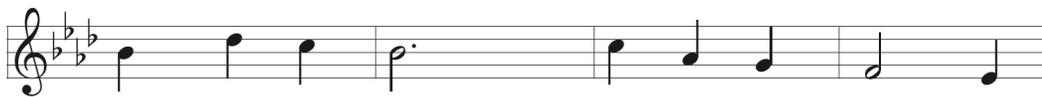
**You call us to service,
to be your eyes and ears,
hands and voice in this, your world.**



1 God’s work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
2 God’s work, our feet: trav - ’ling to - geth - er,
3 God’s work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread’s on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - ’ring the cold.
run - ning the race with God’s fu - ture the goal.
claim - ing God’s love for the lost and the least.
gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God’s love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your Gos - pel.

Gathering Hymn: You may have noticed that some of our recent hymns have indicated All Creation Sings with a hymn number. This hymnal was published at the end of 2020 as a supplement to our red hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* or ELW.

This hymn by Wayne Wold won a 2019 contest for a hymn to specifically uplift God’s Work, Our Hands as the ELCA’s mission.

*Prayer of the Day

May God be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

Draw your church together, O God, into one great company of disciples, together following our teacher Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving in Christ’s mission to the world, and together witnessing to your love wherever you will send us; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Hearing & Responding to Scripture

A Reading from Hebrew Scriptures — Isaiah 50:4-9a

4The Lord God has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.
5The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.
6I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out
the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

7The Lord God helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
8he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
9It is the Lord God who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 116 — spoken responsively by verse

1I love the Lord, who has | heard my voice,
and listened to my | supplication,
2for the Lord has given | ear to me
whenever | I called.
3The cords of death entangled me;
the anguish of the grave | came upon me;
I came to | grief and sorrow.
4Then I called upon the name | of the
Lord:
“O Lord, I pray you, | save my life.”

5Gracious is the | Lord and righteous;
our God is full | of compassion.
6The Lord watches over | the innocent;
I was brought low, | and God saved me.
7Turn again to your rest, | O my soul.
for the Lord has dealt | well with you.
8For you have rescued my | life from death,
my eyes from tears, and my | feet from stumbling;
9I will walk in the presence | of the Lord
in the land | of the living.

A Reading from the Epistles — James 3:1-12

1Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. 2For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. 3If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. 4Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. 5So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! 6And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. 7For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, 8but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

9With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God.
10From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so.
11Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? 12Can a fig tree, my
brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation** — hymn no. 513

“Listen, God Is Calling”

***Gospel** — Mark 8:27-38

The Gospel of Mark, the 8th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

27Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” 28And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” 29He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” 30And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

31Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

34He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. 36For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? 37Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? 38Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon — “Teach the Faith through Words and Actions”

Pastor Bill Nelsen

***Hymn** —

“Work in the Kin-dom”
Sung to the tune BUNESSAN

Work in the kin-dom
helping our neighbors,
People of varied races and lands.
Jesus, the servant, set an example,
healing and feeding all with his hands.

God's world is broken,
people are needy,
hungry and grieving, hurt and afraid.
Jesus, the teacher, demonstrates mercy,
showing disciples how to give aid.

Work with your neighbor;
care for creation;
Pray for your foes; form kindred anew.
Jesus, the leader, gives the commandment:
“Love one another as I love you.”

God's work is waiting,
our hands are ready;
here in the kin-dom we must align.
Jesus, the Day-star, guide our path onward,
give us the spark to let our light shine!

***Affirmation of Faith — “You Call Us to Service”**

**We believe in God the Creator,
who created and is creating everything:
the universe, the world, the plants and animals, and us;
each of us, unique, individual and beloved of God.**

**We believe in God the Christ,
who saved and is saving everything:
the universe, the world, the plants and animals, and us:
each of us; unique, individual and beloved of the Christ.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who guided and is guiding everything:
the universe, the world, the plants and animals, and us;
each of us, unique, individual and beloved of the Spirit.**

**We believe that this one God in three persons,
is present among us,
working directly in our lives
and the lives of all who are born into this world,
striving to bring us back into harmony
with all creation and with God:
forgiving, healing, touching everyone,
never rejecting any who willingly receive
this freely offered gift of love and grace and eternal life.**

***Prayers of Intercession**

Trusting God at work in and among us, we raise our hearts and voices in prayer for the needs of the world.

For your work in the church, we give thanks. Plant and tend relationships among faith communities, both ecumenical and interfaith, that in faithful listening, speech, and action, our hands work to bear fruit for the sake of all in need. God of grace, we pray, **hear us when we call.**

For your work in creation, we give thanks. Sustain peoples and places affected by climate change, ecological devastation, and natural disasters, and guide decision-makers to prioritize the well-being of our planet. Send your people to care for those devastated by recent fires and hurricanes. God of all life, we pray, **hear us when we call.**

For your work among the nations, we give thanks. Direct leaders in paths of honest service, that both their words and actions are carried out on behalf of those whom they serve. We mourn with those fleeing violent leadership around the world, especially in Afghanistan. Give us courage to stand against all forms of inhumanity. God of righteousness, we pray, **hear us when we call.**

For your work in places of need, we give thanks. Sustain all who are wearied by unemployment or lack of adequate food or housing, that we advocate for relief and just policy. Bring healing to all who are sick

through the skillful hands and compassionate hearts of physicians, nurses, therapists and caregivers. God of restoration, we pray, **hear us when we call.**

For your work in this worshiping community, we give thanks. Bless the service projects of this day and throughout the year. Foster deeper connections among those who serve and a spirit of accompaniment as we work alongside those in our community. Strengthen our faith, that we trust God moving in and among us. God of love, we pray, **hear us when we call.**

Receive these and all our prayers, Gracious God. We pray in the name of Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit the prayer that Christ 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.

Offering

Please leave an offering in the basket outside the sanctuary, mail a check to the office, or give online: <https://tithe.ly/give?c=283920>.

Departing to Serve God's World

Announcements

*Blessing and Sending for Mission

Friends in Christ: Today we give thanks to God and seek God's blessing as we are sent out to do God's work in our world.

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.

You made the whole earth for your glory; all creation praises you.

We lift our voices to join the songs of heaven and earth
in thanksgiving for the many blessings you have given us.

Renew in us the commitment

to use our gifts in the service of others, and especially of those in need.

Let us be your hands to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless,

clothe the naked, comfort the weary and outcast,

welcome the stranger, care for creation,

and be loving neighbors to all people.

Sending of People

Bless those who go out from here to work toward a better world.

Prosper the work of their hands.

Bless those who receive the fruits of their labor,

and may those who are sent receive blessings in return.

May the gifts they use and share be signs of your love to all people.

Food, sustenance

Bless the Blizzard Meals about to be made.

May those who receive them be nourished and strengthened,
and may these gifts be a sign of your love to all people.

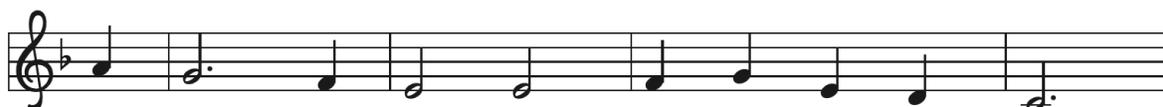
To you, O God, be glory and honor through your Son, Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in your church and in the world, now and forever. **Amen.**

***Sending Hymn** — no. 991, from *All Creation Sings*

“Go to the World”



1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.
2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - 'ry place.
3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;
4 “Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,



Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,
Go live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace.
the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.
for I am with you till the age shall end,



bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.
Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.
As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.
when all the hosts of glo - ry cry, A - men!”



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Teach the faith through words and actions. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

***Postlude** — “Nun Danker Allen Gott” (from *Cantata No. 79*)

Johann Sebastian Bach
Doug Schuldt, trumpet

Acknowledgements

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Worship Assistants

Interim Pastor: Bill Nelsen
Director of Music: Emily Bruflat
Musician: Doug Schuldt

Greeter/Reader: Analise Rivas
Ushers: Bob Shoemaker

Announcements

- Altar flowers are given today in memory of John Scharf by Mary Ann Scharf.
- Calleigh needs more sunday school teaching subs and confirmation mentors - email cc.flcstp@gmail.com to volunteer.
- Next Sunday is Rally Day & Stewardship Kick-off. Please join in the fun and pick up your volunteer packet in person!
- Please join us after the service today to prepare blizzard meals in celebration of *God’s Work, Our Hands* Sunday! For those of you helping to clear brush and pull weeds, please find Bill Kautt in the gathering space.

Prayers

We pray for our teachers, professors, and students as they begin a new school year!

We pray for the families of those who have recently died: Tom Stenson and Bob Isenberg

We pray for the family of Patrica Duenwald whose mother Alice Hagen recently passed away.

We pray for those who have recently undergone surgery: Erika Schuldt, Glen Stryker

We lift up prayers for those on our long-term list: Gwen Weldon, Tom and Deb Johnson, Tom Michels,

Dick Muesing, Abigail Christenson, Betty Gustafson, Elgene Lund, Chuck Petry, Bob Cady, Marion

Peterson, Joan Williams, Myrene Bunge, Marion Peterson, and Urusla McRostie, and for all those

families continuing to adjust to the loss of loved ones.