

# GOD'S EMPIRE VS. THE WORLD'S EMPIRE

**AUGUST 11 - 8AM**

**ACTS**



Hearing assisted devices are available at the sound booth.

## **PRELUDE**

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## **OPENING HYMN**

*"Jesus Shall Reign"*

**ELW 434**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray... Lord,

**teach us how to pray. We don't always need to know what to pray for, but we do so desperately need to pray. We need to pray for others; to pray about the dangers that beset us as a nation and as a world. Help us to open our hearts and be honest before you. We know that in the mystery of prayer, a mystery that we cannot fathom, something is happening that makes possible the activity of your Spirit to work in unusual ways, ways that otherwise would never happen. We pray that that would be so today. In Christ's name, Amen.**

## **CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

## **COMMUNION HYMN**

*"All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly"*

**ELW 461**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

## **A READING FROM ACTS 12:1-24**

<sup>1</sup>About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. <sup>2</sup>He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. <sup>3</sup>After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. (This was during the festival of Unleavened Bread.) <sup>4</sup>When he had seized him, he put him in prison and handed him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover. <sup>5</sup>While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him. <sup>6</sup>The very night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. <sup>7</sup>Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his wrists. <sup>8</sup>The angel said to him, "Fasten your belt and put on your sandals." He did so. Then he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." <sup>9</sup>Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening with the angel's help was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. <sup>10</sup>After they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him. <sup>11</sup>Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting." <sup>12</sup>As soon as he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many had gathered and were praying. <sup>13</sup>When he knocked at the outer gate, a maid named Rhoda came to answer. <sup>14</sup>On recognizing Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed that, instead of opening the gate, she ran in and announced that Peter was standing at the gate. <sup>15</sup>They said to her, "You are out of your mind!" But she insisted that it was so. They said, "It is his angel." <sup>16</sup>Meanwhile Peter continued knocking; and when they opened the gate, they saw him and were amazed. <sup>17</sup>He motioned to them with his hand to be silent, and described for them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he added, "Tell this to James and to the believers." Then he left and went to another place. <sup>18</sup>When morning came, there was no small commotion among the soldiers over what had become of Peter. <sup>19</sup>When Herod had searched for him and could not find him, he examined the guards and ordered them to be put to death. Then he went down from Judea to Caesarea and stayed there. <sup>20</sup>Now Herod was angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon. So they came to him in a body; and after winning over Blastus, the king's chamberlain, they asked for a reconciliation, because their country depended on the king's country for food. <sup>21</sup>On an appointed day Herod put on his royal robes, took his seat on the platform, and delivered a public address to them. <sup>22</sup>The people kept shouting, "The voice of a god, and not of a mortal!" <sup>23</sup>And immediately, because he had not given the glory to God, an

angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died.<sup>24</sup> But the word of God continued to advance and gain adherents.

THE WORD OF THE LORD. THANKS BE TO GOD.

## ACTS OF RESURRECTION

### REFLECTION

Pastor John Anderson

### SONG OF THE DAY

*"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"*

ELW 504

### OFFERING PRAYER

### APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray...

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creator God, our refuge and strength, we confess we are complicit in the evils of our age. Breathe on us as we commit ourselves to the way of Christ individually and as a community to live in your story for the world; to take up the heavy cross that we cannot bear alone; to struggle for peace and justice; to seek fullness of life for all creation; to pray for your kingdom come. **Amen.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

### BLESSING

## SENDING HYMN

*"Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"*

ELW 886

## SENDING

Go in peace, as we share the Resurrection by:

**Loving Jesus, Changing Lives, and Reaching Out to Serve. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## POSTLUDE

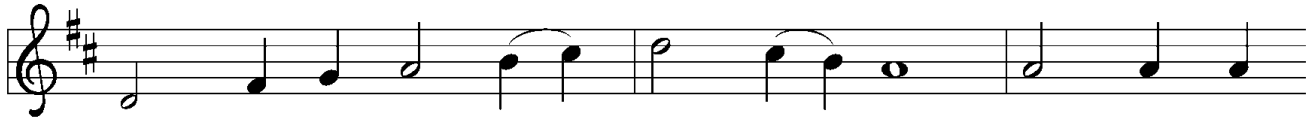
We look forward to you and/or your family joining us:

**Sunday, August 18**

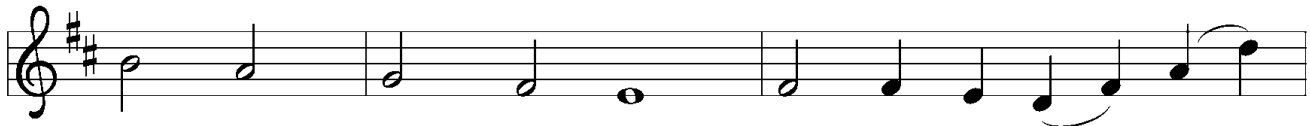
**8am & 10am Worship**

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# Jesus Shall Reign



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -  
2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es  
3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his  
4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners  
5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from  
throng to crown his head; his name like sweet per -  
love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es  
leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -  
hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.  
fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.  
shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.  
ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.  
songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

## All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly



- 1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad - ly; ho - ly man - na is our bread.
- 2 All who hun-ger, nev - er strang - ers; seek - er, be a wel - come guest.
- 3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er, Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.



Come from wil - der - ness and wan - d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.  
Come from rest - less - ness and roam - ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.  
Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here in peace we have been fed.



You that yearn for days of full - ness, all a - round us is our food.  
We that once were lost and scat - tered in com - mu - nion's love have stood.  
Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their days in grat - i - tude.



Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.  
Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.  
Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825

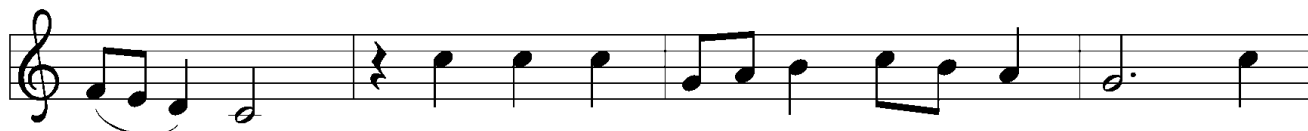
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# A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



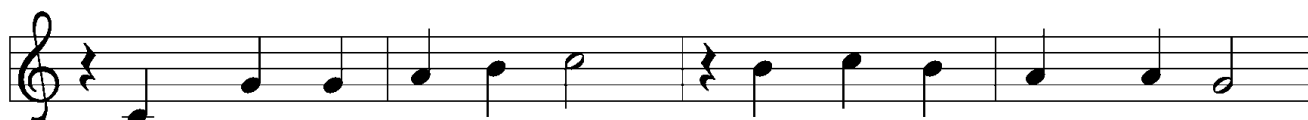
1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -  
2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -  
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -  
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and  
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom  
your us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they  
fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe  
God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?  
can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;  
weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might  
The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,  
in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;  
goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.  
God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.  
God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.  
they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

# Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing



- 1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
- 2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
- 3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
- 4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;



the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!  
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.  
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.  
the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.

- 5 Look unto him, your Savior own,  
O fallen human race!  
Look and be saved through faith alone,  
be justified by grace!
- 6 To God all glory, praise, and love  
be now and ever giv'n  
by saints below and saints above,  
the church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

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## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray...

Thank You, Lord, for the open doors of the Church. Thank You for the exuberant little ones, for the faithful retired attendees. Thank You for the piano playing, the guitar tuning up, the voices of all ranges reaching the roofs. Thank You for all who lead us in Worship. Thank You for Your Word remaining the same all over the world. Thank You for the body coming alongside us. Thank You for loving us through the Church. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord, we thank you for the good work of our call committee and give thanks to You for leading us through this process of calling a second Pastor. We thank You, God, for calling Reverend Ryan Gerlach and his family to our Congregation. We pray for his family in this time of transition and for his current congregation as they begin to say their farewells. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord, you have sent us into empire, in the world to witness to another way of justice, mercy and faithfulness. You have called us to transform any economy that violates the bodies of both rich and poor and the earth itself. You call us to take the time necessary in a speed-addicted world to be friends, lovers, parents, caregivers, gardeners, advocates and peacemakers. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord, today we lift up to you all who are hurting in mind, body, or Spirit. We pray especially for *John, Jeanne, Heather, Betty, Florence, Bob, Myrna, Jim and Mark*. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creator God, our refuge and strength, we confess we are complicit in the evils of our age. Breathe on us as we commit ourselves to the way of Christ individually and as a community to live in your story for the world; to take up the heavy cross that we cannot bear alone; to struggle for peace and justice; to seek fullness of life for all creation; to pray for your kingdom come. **Amen.**