

August 23, 2020
12th Sunday After Pentecost
St. Peter Lutheran Church, Mechanicsburg

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be ... generation to generation. **Amen.**

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin ... Reconciling God,
We confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.

Beloved of God ... through the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-20

SERMON

HYMN

Built on a rock the church shall stand,
even when steeples are falling;
crumbled have spires in ev'ry land,
bells still are chiming and calling—
calling the young and old to rest,
calling the souls of those distressed,
longing for life everlasting.

Surely, in temples made with hands
God the Most High is not dwelling—
high in the heav'ns his temple stands,
all earthly temples excelling.
Yet he who dwells in heav'n above
deigns to abide with us in love,
making our bodies his temple.

Christ builds a house of living stones:
we are his own habitation;
he fills our hearts, his humble thrones,
granting us life and salvation.

Where two or three will seek his face,
he in their midst will show his grace,
blessings upon them bestowing.

Yet in this house, an earthly frame,
Jesus the children is blessing;
hither we come to praise his name,
faith in our Savior confessing.
Jesus to us his Spirit sent,
making with us his covenant,
granting his children the kingdom.

Through all the passing years, O Lord,
grant that, when church bells are ringing,
many may come to hear your Word,
who here this promise is bringing:
"I know my own, my own know me;
you, not the world, my face shall see;
my peace I leave with you. Amen."

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.***

PEACE *remaining in place, turn and offer a word or bow of peace to your neighbor*

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your heart. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION // LORD'S PRAYER // COMMUNION

BLESSING // DISMISSAL // POSTLUDE

Pastor: Alex Martini
Organist: Susan Niedzwiecki

Director of Music Ministries: Karl Segletes
Liturgist: Carol Forbes