

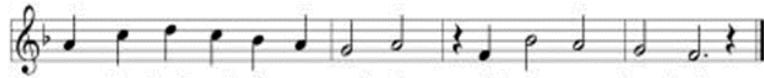
Rise, Shine, You People!



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent his Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to
he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and
your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing. To all the
Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us. Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur - round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed,
wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.
world go out and tell the sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.
Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion his new cre - a - tion.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.
Music: WOJTKIEWICZ, Dale Wood, b. 1934

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THE DISMISSAL

The Rev. Betsy Mitchell

With Strength for the Journey, go into the world to Collaborate!
Okay, We Will! Thanks be to God!

CREDITS

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Strength for the Journey



Synod Assembly Worship

Thursday, June 3

7 p.m.

NOTES ON THE ARTWORK

“Strength for the Journey”

24X24 Acrylic on canvas

Artist: Sister Michelle Walka

Inspired by 4 friends and a hole in the roof (Mark 2:1-12)

Created for the 2021 North Carolina Synod Assembly

Artist Statement:

As I pondered the theme of strength for the journey, I was inspired by the faithfulness and audacity of four friends on behalf of another. Breaking through a hole in the roof made way for a transformative encounter with Jesus, who proceeded to break open a moment of healing liberation not just for the one with the mat, but for all who were bearing witness to this Divine collaboration. Ushering in strength for the journey and even life anew, a miraculous movement of the Spirit intertwined with the tangible efforts of beloved community. I wonder, too, how we are still being invited into this Spirit-filled and audacious collaboration with God on behalf of one another and for all God’s creation.

In creating this piece, people within the North Carolina Synod were invited to share what brings them strength for the journey as they too pondered this year’s synod assembly themes. I offered these responses as a written prayer layer on the canvas. As prayers and paint mixed together, the image of four friends looking down through a hole in the roof became the centering form in a blooming coneflower. The coneflower, chosen for its healing and restorative properties, also evokes the liberating and healing work of God. The gold accents draw the eye to the sacredness of ordinary connections, offering a glimpse of the Spirit’s movement in the midst of it all.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness; forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God, **We give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy spirit, be honor and glory forever.
Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

The Rev. German Santana

We invite you to say this prayer in whichever language you wish.

**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.**

THE BLESSING

The Rev. Anna Carter

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to collaborate with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The God of all grace ✕ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

THE PRESENTATION OF NECROLOGY

The Reverend Dale J. Kemppainen – June 2, 2019
The Reverend Judith B. Helm – June 25, 2019
The Reverend William K. Hoss – August 28, 2019
The Reverend Glenn A. Yount – October 10, 2019
The Reverend Frederick P. Guy – October 22, 2019
The Reverend Lester F. Polenz – January 12, 2020
The Reverend Luther Knauff – February 12, 2020
The Reverend Amy Crump – March 11, 2020
The Reverend Gene W. Bruce – April 6, 2020
The Reverend Donald R. Just – April 27, 2020
The Reverend Harold G. Skinner – May 8, 2020
The Reverend William J. McCabe – May 10, 2020
The Reverend Lori V. Hefner – May 20, 2020
The Reverend Clarence Sifford – June 9, 2020
The Reverend Sherrill D. Curtis – June 24, 2020
The Reverend L. Richard Dallman – August 8, 2020
The Reverend Samuel W. Shores – August 24, 2020
The Reverend Frank C. Perry – September 5, 2020
The Reverend Perry L. Sloop – October 29, 2020
The Reverend Peter Wuebbens – November 7, 2020
The Reverend Maurice Staley – November 19, 2020
The Reverend Brady Y. Faggart – November 29, 2020
The Rev. Peter Setzer – December 30, 2020
The Reverend Roger Beaver – February 7, 2021
The Reverend Dr. Robert Q. Beard – March 8, 2021

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

The Rev. Heather Langan

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God, **We give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts; freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God, **We give you thanks and praise.**

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Athena Thomasson-Bless

As a synod we are called to Embrace and Engage in Collaboration: Knowing we are better together, we seek to embrace being a church of three expressions—congregations, synod, and churchwide ministries.

The Rev. Julie Tonnesen

What does this mean? Called to unity by the Holy Spirit, we work to build and live into the holy relationships with our ecumenical and interfaith partners. Expanding our witness to the gospel, we faithfully partner with NC Synod agencies and institutions and with ELCA Ministries.

People: All for the Sake of the World.

INVOCATION

The Rev. Emily Norris

We gather, across the state, across the ages to worship God who knows no bounds.

We gather to worship.

We come as people, desiring to work with and for our neighbors and our world.

We come to collaborate.

We ask for God's blessing as we wonder, dream, and grow together. **We ask for strength on our journey.**

We come, as siblings in Christ, to see the face of God in one another. To meet God in one another and listen to one another's desires and deepest wonderings.

All of us together make the Body of Christ complete. Without each one of us God's church is not whole.

Gracious, Holy, Amazing God, we come to worship, calling upon the Holy Spirit to fill us and draw us together as one. Though we are scattered, we are yours: one body, one spirit in faith. Hold us as we worship and be about the work of your church as the North Carolina Synod. Use us, strengthen us, keep us. **Amen**

HYMN "Built on a Rock" ELW 652

Built on a Rock

1 Built on a rock the church shall stand, e - ven when stee-ples are
 2 Sure - ly, in tem - ples made with hands God the Most High is not
 3 Christ builds a house of liv - ing stones: we are his own hab - i -
 4 Yet in this house, an earth - ly frame, Je - sus the chil-dren is

fall - ing; crum-bled have spires in ev - 'ry land, bells still are
 dwell - ing— high in the heav'ns his tem - ple stands, all earth - ly
 ta - tion; he fills our hearts, his hum - ble thrones, grant - ing us
 bless - ing; hith - er we come to praise his name, faith in our

chim-ing and call - ing— call - ing the young and old to rest, call - ing the
 tem - ples ex - cel - ling. Yet God who dwells in heav'n a - bove deigns to a -
 life and sal - va - tion. Where two or three will seek his face, he in their
 Sav - ior con-fess - ing. Je - sus to us his Spir - it sent, mak - ing with

souls of those dis - tressed, long - ing for life ev - er - last - ing.
 bide with us in love, mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.
 midst will show his grace, bless - ings up - on them be - stow - ing.
 us his cov - e - nant, grant - ing his chil - dren the king - dom.

5 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."

THE APOSTLES' CREED

The Rev. Dr. Shanitria Cuthbertson

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

Deacon Jen Bacher

At end of each petition the response is:
 Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Let us come before the triune God in prayer....
We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.
 Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Rev. Betsy Mitchell

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

OFFERING

ELCA World Hunger

This is the Gospel of our Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

Deacon Tammy Jones West

HYMN OF THE DAY "Lead Me, Guide Me" ELW 768

Lead Me, Guide Me

Refrain

Lead me, guide me, a-long the way, For if you
lead me, I can-not stray. Lord, let me walk each
day with thee. Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.

Verses

1. I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r to
2. Help me tread in the paths of right-eous-ness, Be my
3. I am lost if you take your hand from me, I am
help me o-ver my weak-est hour. Help me through the
aid when Sa-tan and sin op-press. I am put-ting
blind with-out thy Light to see, Lord, just al-ways
D.C.
dark-ness thy face to see, Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.
all my trust in thee. Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.
let me thy ser-vant be. Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.

Text: Doris M. Akers, b.1922
Tune: Doris M. Akers, b.1922, harm. by Richard Smallwood
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GREETING

The Rev. Ethan Overcash

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the com-munion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Now We Join in Celebration

1 Now we join in cel-e-bra-tion at our Sav-ior's in-vi-ta-tion,
2 Lord, as round this feast we gath-er, fill our hearts with ho-ly rap-ture!
3 Lord, we share in this com-mu-nion as one fam-'ly of God's chil-dren,
dressed no more in spir-it som-ber, clothed in-stead in joy and won-der;
For this bread and cup of bless-ing are for us the sure pos-sess-ing
rec-on-ciled through you, our broth-er, one in you with God our Fa-ther.
for the Lord of all ex-is-tence, put-ting off di-vine tran-scen-dence,
of your lov-ing deed on Cal-v'ry, of your liv-ing self, our vic-t'ry,
Give us grace to live for oth-ers, serv-ing all, both friends and strang-ers,
stoops a-gain in love to meet us, with his ver-y life to feed us.
pledge of your un-fail-ing pres-ence, fore-taste here of heav'n-ly glad-ness.
seek-ing jus-tice, love, and mer-cy till you come in fi-nal glo-ry.

Text: Joel W. Lundeen, 1918-1990
Music: SCHMÜCKE DICH, Johann Crüger, 1598-1662
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PRAYER

All-powerful God, in Jesus Christ you turned death into life and defeat into victory. Increase our faith and trust in him, that we may triumph over all evil in the strength of the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

READINGS

Genesis 3:8-15

Mr. Bill Horne Vice President, ELCA

⁸[Adam and Eve] heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?” ¹⁰He said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.” ¹¹He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” ¹²The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.” ¹³Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent tricked me, and I ate.”

¹⁴The Lord God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.”

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God!**

Psalms 130

The Rev. Tobi Fleck

¹Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;

²O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

³If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand?

⁴Yet with you is forgiveness, in order that you may be feared.

⁵I wait for you, O Lord; my soul waits; in your word is my hope.

⁶My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning, more than those who keep watch for the morning.

⁷O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is steadfast love; with the Lord there is plenteous redemption.

⁸For the Lord shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

2 Corinthians 4:13--5:1

*The Rev. David Guthrie
President, Southern Province of the Moravian Church*

¹³Just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—“I believed, and so I spoke”—we also believe, and so we speak, ¹⁴because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. ¹⁵Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. ¹⁶So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, ¹⁸because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

^{5:1}For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God!**

THE GOSPEL

Deacon Tammy Jones West

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark Chapter Three.

Glory to you, O Lord

[Jesus went home;] ²⁰and the crowd came together again, so that [Jesus and the disciples] could not even eat. ²¹When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, “He has gone out of his mind.” ²²And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, “He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.” ²³And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. ²⁶And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. ²⁷But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered. ²⁸Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; ²⁹but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”—³⁰for they had said, “He has an unclean spirit.” ³¹Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. ³²A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.” ³³And he replied, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” ³⁴And looking at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”