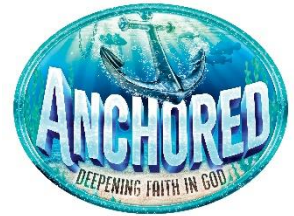


# Rally Day

August 1, 2021 | 9:45 am | Ascension Lutheran Church

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## Words of Welcome

### Opening Sentences

- P** The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,  
**C** **and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.** (Proverbs 9:10)
- P** Let the wise person hear and increase in learning  
**C** **and the one who understands obtain guidance.**
- P** "For the Word of the LORD is right and true;  
**C** **He is faithful in all He does."** (Psalm 33:4)
- P** Therefore, we gather in the name of our faithful Triune God—Father. ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit—  
**C** **the One who created us,**
- P** The One who forgives us,  
**C** **The One who redeems us,**
- P** The One who calls us,  
**C** **The One who equips us,**
- P** The One who loves us without end,  
**C** **With joyful hearts, let us in hope worship the Lord!**

**Opening Hymn** | "Rescue Me" | Castaway

### Confession and Forgiveness

- P** Lord God, we are Your baptized children, fed by Your Word and led by Your Spirit, but we are also sinners in daily need of Your forgiveness.
- C** **Therefore we confess before You this day that we have often been led astray by the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh. We have often fed our minds with worldly filth rather than with Your divine teaching. In thought, word, and action, we have sinned against You. Forgive our sin for Jesus' sake. Feed us with Your pure Word and guide us in Your ways. Amen.**
- P** When our Savior Jesus is the anchor and heart of our teaching and learning, then we have the Good News to assure us of the forgiveness of sins—all sins—for His sake. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen. Anchor us in Your Word!**

**Hymn of Praise** | "Million Reasons" | Castaway

### Prayer of the Day

- P** Merciful Father, You have been our Teacher through Your Word, leading us into truth and life. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit, that we may be faithful students of the Scriptures and daily dive deeper into them. Anchor our faith in Your Word and give us strength to follow Your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

**First Reading** | Isaiah 40:6-8

<sup>6</sup>A voice was saying, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry out?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like a wildflower in the countryside. <sup>7</sup>Grass withers, flowers fade, when the breath of the LORD blows on them. Yes, the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>Grass withers, flowers fade, but the Word of our God endures forever.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God!

### Second Reading | Hebrews 6:13-20

<sup>13</sup>For God made a promise to Abraham, and since God had no one greater to swear by, "He swore by Himself." <sup>14</sup>He said, "I will most certainly bless you and make you increase in number." <sup>15</sup>And so in this way, after Abraham had waited patiently, he received the promise. <sup>16</sup>To be sure, people swear by someone who is greater, and the oath serves as a confirmation for them that ends all disputes. <sup>17</sup>Because God wanted to show the heirs of the promise with even greater certainty that His plan was unchangeable, He guaranteed His promise with an oath. <sup>18</sup>He did this so that, through two unchangeable things (in which it is impossible that God would lie), we, who have fled for refuge by taking hold of this hope that is held out to us, might have strong encouragement. <sup>19</sup>We have this hope as an anchor for the soul. It is sure and firm, and it goes behind the inner curtain, <sup>20</sup>where Jesus entered ahead of us on our behalf, because He became a high priest forever like Melchizedek.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God!

### Holy Gospel | Matthew 7:24-29

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the seventh chapter.



**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>24</sup>"Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on bedrock. <sup>25</sup>The rain came down, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house. But it did not fall, because it was founded on bedrock. <sup>26</sup>Everyone who hears these words of Mine but does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. <sup>27</sup>The rain came down, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—it was completely destroyed." <sup>28</sup>When Jesus finished speaking these words, the crowds were amazed at His teaching, <sup>29</sup>because He taught them as One who had authority, and not like their experts in the law.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

### Profession of Faith | Apostles' Creed

**A** *I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.*

*And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.*

**Hymn of the Day** | “O, the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus” | Anchored

### **Message**

**Hymn of Response** | “Never Let Go of Me” | Castaway

### **Prayers of the Church**

**P** Heavenly Father, You are our leader, our anchor and our nurturer. Today we ask Your blessings on the education ministry in our church. You alone can create faith, hope, and love in our hearts. You alone can preserve us against the evil influences of the world. Give Your blessing to all instruction offered in this congregation. May Your Word be for all a well of water springing up to eternal life, and a source of growth and life. Lord, anchor us in Your Word,

**C and deepen our faith in You**

**P** Lord God, grant that all teachers of the Word realize the importance of their task, teaching the way of life to all whom You have bought with the holy, precious blood of Your Son. Give them the ability to teach the way of salvation that every child of God, young and old alike, may clearly perceive and understand it. Lord, anchor us in Your Word,

**C and deepen our faith in You**

**P** Lord God, we pray now for all those in special need and name them before You (especially . . .). For all whom we pray, we ask Your mercy, and pray Your feeding and leading may be present in their lives. Keep us all firm in our faith and our trust in You. Lord, anchor us in Your Word,

**C and deepen our faith in You**

**P** Lord God, enable us to walk as Christians in this sinful world. Lead us into the Holy Scriptures, for Your Word is truth. As a shepherd leads his flock to green pastures, lead us to seek the nourishment of Your Word. Keep our feet on the path of Your righteousness. Lord, anchor us in Your Word,

**C and deepen our faith in You**

(Special petitions may be offered here.)

**P** Into Your hands, Lord God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C Amen.**

## † SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT †

### **Prayer before the Meal**

**P** Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we ask You, dear Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His

blood as He bids us do in His own testament, that we may be renewed and refreshed. At the command and promise of our Lord, we are bold to pray:

- A** *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.*

**Words of Our Lord** | Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  Body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✠}$  Blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

### **Distribution Hymns**

"I Am" | Castaway

"Eye of the Storm" | Castaway

"Tis so Sweet to Trust in Jesus" | Castaway

"The Old Rugged Cross" | Anchored

"God is for Me" | Anchored

### **Dismissal**

- P** The body and blood of our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen you in the true faith and preserve you in His grace to life everlasting. Depart in  $\text{✠}$  peace.

**C** **Amen.**

### **Benediction**

- P** God's Word is the foundation and anchor of our faith. May God strengthen you as you dive deeper in the study of His Word and place Him as the highest priority in your life. May the Lord bless you and keep you firm in the faith. May He make His face to shine on you and be gracious to you. May He look upon you with favor and  $\text{✠}$  give you His peace.

**C** **Amen.**

### **Diver Dave Skit**

**Closing Hymn** | "Won't Worry About a Thing" | Castaway

### **Sending**

- P** Stay anchored in hope as you love the Lord and study His Word!

**C** **Thanks be to God!**

### **Postlude**