God does not promise that the path of the disciple will be easy. Jeremiah feels the pain of rejection from those who do not want to hear what he has to say. Jesus declares that his words may bring stark division. Even so, we need not be afraid for God accounts for each hair on our heads. Though we may experience rejection, frustration, division, and death, God’s grace and love make us a new creation each day. Marked with the cross and filled with holy food, we are sent from worship to witness to Christ in the world.

Welcome to long-time Lutherans, Christians from every tradition, and people new to this faith. Welcome to friends new and old. Welcome to people of every age and size, color and culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression; every socioeconomic and marital status, political conviction, ability and challenge. Welcome to believers and questioners, and questioning believers. Welcome.

Ebenezer Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation. You are welcome here.

This worship booklet is digital! Zoom in for larger print.

Please use phones and other devices frequently, to offer and receive encouragement.

Remember to wash your hands and clean surfaces frequently.

Postures are a way in which we engage the body in worship. These movements (sitting, standing, making the sign of the cross) are optional; but can still be practiced at home!

Children are always welcome in worship at Ebenezer. If there are children in your house, invite them to worship with you.
Gathering
Consider lighting a candle, or putting a cross in your field of vision.
Throughout the liturgy, you may sit, stand, or kneel as you wish.
Words of Welcome
Prelude

Carrying the Cross of Christ by Gabriel Loire. St. Mary’s Cathedral, Aberdeen, Scotland.
Gathering Hymn

Lift High the Cross

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

1 Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
2 All new-born servants of the Crucified
3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
4 So shall our song of triumph ever be:

our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God,
bear on their brows the seal of him who died,
as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee,
praise to the Crucified for victory!

Text and music © 1974 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Greeting

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

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Word

The First Reading Jeremiah 20:7-13

O Lord, you have enticed me, and I was enticed;
you have overpowered me, and you have prevailed.
I have become a laughingstock all day long;
everyone mocks me.
For whenever I speak, I must cry out,
I must shout, “Violence and destruction!”
For the word of the Lord has become for me
a reproach and derision all day long.
If I say, “I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name,”
then within me there is something like a burning fire
shut up in my bones;
I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.
For I hear many whispering: “Terror is all around!”
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!”
   All my close friends
   are watching for me to stumble.
“Perhaps he can be enticed,
   and we can prevail against him,
   and take our revenge on him.”
But the Lord is with me like a dread warrior;
   therefore my persecutors will stumble,
   and they will not prevail.
They will be greatly shamed,
   for they will not succeed.
Their eternal dishonor
   will never be forgotten.
O Lord of hosts, you test the righteous,
   you see the heart and the mind;
let me see your retribution upon them,
   for to you I have committed my cause.
Sing to the Lord;
   praise the Lord!
For he has delivered the life of the needy
   from the hands of evildoers.

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

*God Touches Jeremiah’s Mouth.* The Winchester Bible, ca. 1160.
1 Save me, O God; I sink in floods, plunged into misery. My constant weeping brings no help; Lord, face from me. Hear my distress and answer, Lord; make tend my cry. Let your salvation come to me, and hear and answer me. In full assurance haste and set me free. You know of my release and lift me up on high. Let heaven and earth and

of your grace I turn to you in prayer. Deliver proach and shame; my heart despairs from grief. I looked for seas rejoice; let all that move give praise. All those that

me from surging floods; draw near; reach out in care. pit y, but I found no comfort or relief. love God’s name shall live in Zion all their days.
The Second Reading Romans 6:1b-11

Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

A Choice by Lauren Wright Pittman, 2018.
Jesus said to the twelve: “A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

“So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

“Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Silence for reflection follows.
Hymn of the Day

By Gracious Powers

1. By gracious pow'rs so wonderfully sheltered,
   and confidently waiting come what may,
   we know that God is with us night and morning.
   and never fails to greet us each new day.

2. Yet is this heart by its old foe tormented,
   still evil days bring burdens hard to bear;
   Oh, give our frightened souls the sure salvation.
   for which, O Lord, you taught us to prepare.

3. And when this cup you give is filled to brimming
   with bitter suffering, hard to understand,
   we take it thankfully and without trembling.
   out of so good and so beloved a hand.

4. Yet when again in this same world you give us
   the joy we had, the brightness of your sun,
   we shall remember all the days we lived through.
   and our whole life shall then be yours alone.

5. By gracious pow'rs so faithfully protected,
   so quietly, so wonderfully near,
   I'll live each day in hope, with you beside me.
   and go with you through every coming year.

text: Dietrich Bonhoeffer, tr. Fred Pratt Green
music: John Elmquist
Affirmation of Faith

Though not an historic creed, newer affirmation of faith can help us declare our faith in new ways. This affirmation comes from the community of Grace Cathedral, San Francisco.

We believe in God the Creator, by whom every person in heaven and earth is named.

We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God: Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

Amen.

Children’s Message

Prayer

Prayers of Intercession

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

A brief silence.

Expansive God, you bring diverse voices together to form your church. Open our hearts and unstop our ears to learn from one another, that differences might not overshadow our baptismal unity. God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Providing God, your creation shows us that life comes from death. Renew the places where our land, air, and waterways have been ill for too long. Direct the work of all who care for birds and their habitats. God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.
Protecting God, sustain and keep safe all who work to defend others across the world (especially). Revive and strengthen organizations dedicated to caring for refugees and migrants while their homelands struggle for peace. God, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Loving God, you promise to be with all who are persecuted for your sake. Guide all who speak your word of justice and console any who are tormented or targeted for being who they are. God, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Compassionate God, you are with us and we are never alone. Bless all fathers and father figures who strive to love and nurture as you do. Comfort all who long to be fathers and all for whom this day is difficult. God, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Reigning God, you bless us with guides and caretakers in the faith. As we give thanks for those who have died, especially Onesimos Nesib, translator and evangelist, increase our care for one another until we walk with them in newness of life. God, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

---

Onesimus Nesib, ca. 1875. Onesimos was born in Ethiopia. Captured and taken as a slave to Eritrea, he was there freed by Swedish missionaries. He translated the Bible into his native Oromo and returned to preach there.
Lord's Prayer

You may pray this prayer in these words; or, in language close to your heart.

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.

Peace

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

The Lord’s Prayer in Arabic Calligraphy. Unknown artist, 2015.
The Offering Hymn  
Borning Cry

1 “I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I’ll be there when you are old.
2 “When you heard the won-der of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
3 “In the mid-dle a-ges of your life, not too old, no lon-ger young,
4 “I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I’ll be there when you are old.

I re-joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un-fold.
you were raised to praise the liv-ing Lord, to whom you now be-long.
I’ll be there to guide you through the night, com-plete what I’ve be-gun.

If you are in Chicago, Ebenezer now offers Holy Communion for outdoor,
socially distanced pick up on Sundays any time from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Delivery by a communion minister may also be available.
Visit ebenezerchurch.org for more information.

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937
Music: WATERLIFE, John C. Ylvisaker
Text and music © 1985 John Ylvisaker.
Sending

Benediction

May God bless us and keep us. May God’s face shine on us with grace and mercy. May God look upon us with favor, ☩ and give us peace. **Amen.**

*Elements of Peace. Mural, Kelowna, British Columbia.*
God’s Eye Is On the Sparrow

1. Why should I feel discour-aged? Why should the shadows come?
   and resting on God’s goodness, when I lose my doubts and fears; though
   Why should my heart be lone-ly and long for heav’n and home when
   when song gives place to sigh-ing, when hope with-in me dies, I

2. "Let not your heart be trou-bled," Christ’s ten-der words I hear,
   by the path God leads me but one step I may see: God’s
   then draw close to my Sav-i-or, from care I am set free:

3. When-ev-er I am temp-ted, when-ev-er clouds a-rise,
   God is ev-er my por-tion? My con-stant friend will be:
   eye is on the spar-row, and I know God watch-es me:
   eye is on the spar-row and I know God watch-es me.

   I sing be-cause I’m hap-py, I sing be-cause I’m free, God’s
   I sing be-cause I’m hap-py, I’m free.

   eye is on the spar-row, and I know God watch-es me.

   text: Civilla D. Martin
   music: Charles H. Gabriel
Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude