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.

The welcome of baptism is for all God’s children. This baptismal gift sets us free from the power of sin and death. In today’s gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: to serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God’s merciful welcome.
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 We Needn’t Wait by Dan Beirne

Thanksgiving for Baptism

This weekend, in honor of Pride, the church celebrates the gifts of LGBTQIA+ leaders and members of our communities. This weekend also celebrates the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women in the ELCA’s predecessor church bodies. The gifts of all these baptized children of God is are celebrated here.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

Amen.

We give you thanks, holy and gracious God, for you created the waters of the earth: wide oceans, rushing streams, clear lakes, mighty rivers.

You led your people through the sea and called them to life in covenant with you.

Your Beloved, Jesus, was baptized in the river Jordan to begin his mission among us.

You pour out your Holy Spirit to renew the face of the earth.

Through this water remind us of the gift of baptism.

Affirm in our words and deeds your unfailing love for the LGBTQIA+ community, and lead us to acts of solidarity and repentance.

Continue to renew your church through the leadership and wisdom or ordained women.

Renew us in your promise so that we may serve this world in all its need; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.
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.

O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.
Official logos for ReconcilingWorks 2020 Pride celebration and the ELCA’s celebration of the 50th year of the ordination of women.

Word

The First Reading  Jeremiah 28:5-9

The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the Lord; and the prophet Jeremiah said, “Amen! May the Lord do so; may the Lord fulfill the words that you have prophesied, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the Lord, and all the exiles. But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the Lord has truly sent the prophet.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.
Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18

1Your love, O Lord, forever will I sing;
   from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.
2For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is established forever;
   you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.
3“I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
   I have sworn an oath to David my servant:
4‘I will establish your line forever,
   and preserve your throne for all generations.’ ”

15Happy are the people who know the festival shout!
   They walk, O Lord, in the light of your presence.
16They rejoice daily in your name;
   they are jubilant in your righteousness.
17For you are the glory of their strength,
   and by your favor our might is exalted.
18Truly, our shield belongs to the Lord;
   our king to the Holy One of Israel.”

Jesus Welcomes All. Mural, unknown artist, Sudan.
**The Second Reading** Romans 6:12-23

Do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

**The Gospel**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Matthew 10:40-42

*Jesus said to the twelve:* “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

Silence for reflection follows.
Hymn of the Day

All Are Welcome

1. Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live, a place where saints and children tell how true, where all God's children dare to seek to hear and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as

2. Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and stone to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and hearts learn to forgive. Built of hopes and dreams and peace and justice meet. Here the love of God, through live the Word they've known. Here the outcast and the words within the Word. Built of tears and cries and

3. Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat: a banquet hall on holy ground where vision, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of witness and as symbol of God's grace; here as one we Jesus, is revealed in time and space; as we share in stranger bear the image of God's face; let us bring an laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro-

4. Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and heard and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as

5. Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions

Refrain

Christ shall end divisions: claim the faith of Jesus: Christ the feast that frees us: All are welcome, end to fear and danger: claim from floor to rafter:

All are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen
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.

God of companionship, encourage our relationships with our siblings in Christ. Bless our conversations. Shape our shared future and give us hearts eager to join in a festal shout of praise. God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of abundance, you make your creation thrive and grow to provide all that we need. Inspire us to care for our environment and be attuned to where the earth is crying out. God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.
God of mercy, your grace is poured out for all. Inspire authorities, judges, and politicians to act with compassion. Teach us to overcome fear with hope, meet hate with love, and welcome one another as we would welcome you. God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of care, accompany all who are in deepest need. Comfort those who are sick, lonely, or abandoned (especially). Strengthen those who are in prison or awaiting trial. Renew the spirits of all who call upon you. God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of community, we give thanks for this congregation. Give us passion to embrace your mission and the vision to recognize where you are leading us. Teach us how to live more faithfully with each other. God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of love, you gather in your embrace all who have died especially Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyon. Keep us steadfast in our faith and renew our trust in your promise. God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

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

Amen.

Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, died around 202. This important early church leader tried very hard to hold to the faith handed down by the apostles. An opponent of the movement known as gnosticism, Irenaeus was one of the first to speak of the church as catholic, or linked together.
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 Ebenezer Choir
Text by Ewald Bash, arr. by John Elmquist

By the Babylonian rivers
we sat down in grief and wept;
hung our harps upon a willow,
mourned for Zion when we slept.

There our captors in derision
did require of us a song;
so we sat with staring vision,
and the days were hard and long.

How shall we sing the Lord’s song
in a strange and bitter land?
Can our voices veil the sorrow?
Lord God, hold your holy band.

Let the cross be benediction
for those bound in tyranny;
by the pow’r of resurrection
loose them from captivity.

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.

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.
I'll Fly Away

1. Some glad morn-ing when this life is o'er,
   I'll fly a-way;

2. When the shad-ows of this life have gone,
   fly a-way; to a home on God's ce-les-tial shore,

3. Just a few more wea-ry days and then,
   like a bird from pris-on bars has flown,
   to a land where joys shall nev-er end,

Refrain

I'll fly a-way. I'll fly a-way, O glo-ry,
fly a-way, fly a-way. fly a-way,

I'll fly a-way. When I die, hal-le-
fly a-way, in the morn-ing.

I'll fly a-way. lu-jah, by and by, I'll fly a-way.
fly a-way, fly a-way.
Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Allegro molto in D Major by Franz Schubert