



July 12, 2026

Prelude

Concerto No. 8 in C Major, K. 246 piano

by W.A. Mozart

Solfeggietto in C Minor piano

by CPE Bach

You turned my wailing into dancing;
you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy. Psalm 30:11 [NIV]

Welcome

Pastor Michael Anderson

Silent reflection

Luke skillfully juxtaposes the power of the state—so *Peter was kept in prison*—and the power of the church—*prayer*.... Prayer is the only weapon the church has, but it is more than enough. Luke presents prayer as ‘the natural atmosphere of God’s people and the normal context for divine activity.’ -William J. Larkin

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

Call to Worship

Psalm 95:1-2

Elder David deJong

Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

*** And Can It Be That I Should Gain?**

Trinity Hymnal 455

Verse 1 - *all*

Verse 2 - *men & boys*

Verse 3 - *all*

Verse 4 - *women & girls*

Verse 5 - *all*

*** Invocation**

Old Testament reading *Ten readers from the congregation are needed for the following passage and have not been assigned. Anyone is welcome to read. Please go to a microphone or ask someone to bring you one.*

Reader 1 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
 and cry to her
that her warfare is ended,
 that her iniquity is pardoned,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
 double for all her sins.

Reader 2 A voice cries:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
 make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
 and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
 and the rough places a plain.
And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
 and all flesh shall see it together,
 for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Reader 3 A voice says, "Cry!"
 And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All flesh is grass,
 and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades
 when the breath of the LORD blows on it;
 surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
 but the word of our God will stand forever.

Reader 4 Go on up to a high mountain,
 O Zion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength,
 O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
 lift it up, fear not;
say to the cities of Judah,
 “Behold your God!”
Behold, the LORD God comes with might,
 and his arm rules for him;
behold, his reward is with him,
 and his recompense before him.
He will tend his flock like a shepherd;
 he will gather the lambs in his arms;
he will carry them in his bosom,
 and gently lead those that are with young.

Reader 5 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand
 and marked off the heavens with a span,
enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure
 and weighed the mountains in scales
 and the hills in a balance?
Who has measured the Spirit of the LORD,
 or what man shows him his counsel?
Whom did he consult,
 and who made him understand?
Who taught him the path of justice,
 and taught him knowledge,
 and showed him the way of understanding?
Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket,
 and are accounted as the dust on the scales;
 behold, he takes up the coastlands like fine dust.
Lebanon would not suffice for fuel,
 nor are its beasts enough for a burnt offering.
All the nations are as nothing before him,
 they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness.

- Reader 6 To whom then will you liken God,
 or what likeness compare with him?
An idol! A craftsman casts it,
 and a goldsmith overlays it with gold
 and casts for it silver chains.
He who is too impoverished for an offering
 chooses wood that will not rot;
he seeks out a skillful craftsman
 to set up an idol that will not move.
- Reader 7 Do you not know? Do you not hear?
 Has it not been told you from the beginning?
 Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
 and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
 and spreads them like a tent to dwell in;
who brings princes to nothing,
 and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness.
- Reader 8 Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
 scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows on them, and they wither,
 and the tempest carries them off like stubble.
- Reader 9 To whom then will you compare me,
 that I should be like him? says the Holy One.
Lift up your eyes on high and see:
 who created these?
He who brings out their host by number,
 calling them all by name;
by the greatness of his might
 and because he is strong in power,
 not one is missing.

Reader 10 Why do you say, O Jacob,
 and speak, O Israel,
 “My way is hidden from the LORD,
 and my right is disregarded by my God”?
Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
 the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
 his understanding is unsearchable.
He gives power to the faint,
 and to him who has no might he increases strength.
Even youths shall faint and be weary,
 and young men shall fall exhausted;
but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;
 they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
 they shall walk and not faint.

GOD CALLS US TO RENEWAL

Call to confession

Psalm 66:20

Blessed be God,
because he has not rejected my prayer
or removed his steadfast love from me!

Prayer of confession *followed by a time of silent confession*

Declaration of Forgiveness

Romans 5:8-11

...God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

9:00 service On the final verse of the song below, 4- to 5- year-olds are invited to the foyer to join Christ Kids Worship and will return following the sermon.

11:00 service Church bags are available in the foyer for 4- to 5-year-olds who need some quiet activities during the sermon.

** Psalm 89: I Will Sing*

by Sandra McCracken and Leslie Jordan

Verses



1. With my mouth I will tell of__ your faith - ful - ness,
2. Lord, you are ~ the glo-ry__ of all our strength;



I'll de - clare, Lord, your cov - e - nant ~ with my
~ your pres - ence a - long the way, for all our

Chorus



life. (repeat Vs 1) I will sing of the Lord's__ great love for-ev-er,
days.

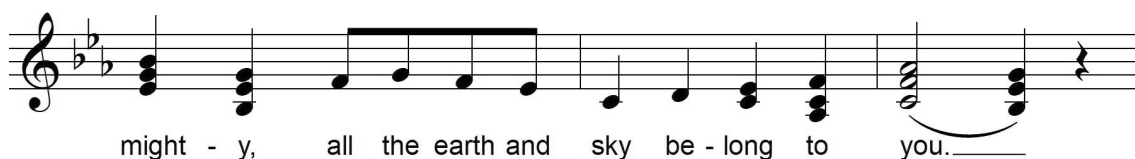


I will sing of the Lord's__ great love. I will sing of the Lord's

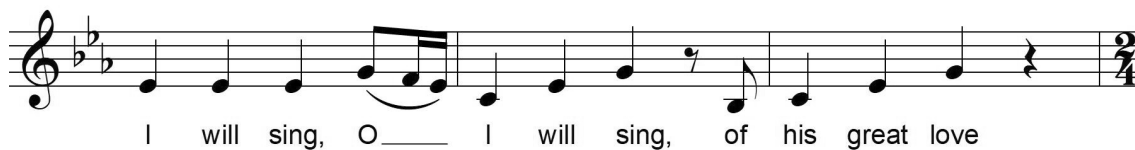


__ great love for-ev-er, I will sing, O__ I will sing. to Vs 2 or to Bridge

Bridge



Final Chorus



GOD'S WORD GIVEN TO US

* Scripture reading

Acts 12:1-25

^{12:1} About that time Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church. ² He killed James the brother of John with the sword, ³ and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread.

⁴ And when he had seized him, he put him in prison, delivering him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people. ⁵ So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church.

⁶ Now when Herod was about to bring him out, on that very night, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison. ⁷ And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his hands. ⁸ And the angel said to him, "Dress yourself and put on your sandals." And he did so. And he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." ⁹ And he went out and followed him. He did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. ¹⁰ When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel left him. ¹¹ When Peter came to himself, he said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."

¹² When he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying.

¹³ And when he knocked at the door of the gateway, a

servant girl named Rhoda came to answer. ¹⁴ Recognizing Peter's voice, in her joy she did not open the gate but ran in and reported that Peter was standing at the gate. ¹⁵ They said to her, "You are out of your mind." But she kept insisting that it was so, and they kept saying, "It is his angel!" ¹⁶ But Peter continued knocking, and when they opened, they saw him and were amazed. ¹⁷ But motioning to them with his hand to be silent, he described to them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, "Tell these things to James and to the brothers." Then he departed and went to another place.

¹⁸ Now when day came, there was no little disturbance among the soldiers over what had become of Peter.

¹⁹ And after Herod searched for him and did not find him, he examined the sentries and ordered that they should be put to death. Then he went down from Judea to Caesarea and spent time there.

²⁰ Now Herod was angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon, and they came to him with one accord, and having persuaded Blastus, the king's chamberlain, they asked for peace, because their country depended on the king's country for food. ²¹ On an appointed day Herod put on his royal robes, took his seat upon the throne, and delivered an oration to them. ²² And the people were shouting, "The voice of a god, and not of a man!" ²³ Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last.

²⁴ But the word of God increased and multiplied.

²⁵ And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had completed their service, bringing with them John, whose other name was Mark.

Elder: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

* Prayer

Sermon A Great Escape
A Desperate Situation

Pastor Andrew VanderMaas

A Diligent Solution

A (non) Delusional Salvation

Further discussion/questions? andrewvandermaas@christchurchgr.org
Sermons are available online at www.christchurchgr.org

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD

* Lord's Prayer Song

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - low-ed be your
name, your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in
heav-en. Give us to-day our dai-ly bread. For -
give us our sins as we for-give those who sin a-against us. Lead us
not in - to temp-ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the
king - dom the pow - er and the glo - ry are yours, now and for -
ev - er. A - men. A - men.

Living out our faith announcements about the life of the church

Missionary Greeting

Jonathan and Holly serving
in North Africa

Prayers of the People

During the offertory please pass the red friendship pads found at the end of the rows.

Give online at christchurchgr.org or by texting (888) 793-1604

Offertory

He, Watching Over Israel organ

text, Julius Schubring
music, Mendelssohn, arr. Rick Paris

He, watching over Israel, slumbers not, nor sleeps
Shouldst thou, walking in grief, languish, he will quicken thee

*** Doxology (Assisi)**

Francis of Assisi, ca. 1225
tr. by William H. Draper, 1926

LASST UNS ERFREUEN L.M.al
Geistliche Kirchengesange, Cologne, 1623

All ye who are of ten-der heart, for - giv - ing oth-ers, take your
Let all things their Cre - a - tor bless, and wor-ship him in hum-ble -
part, O__ sing ye, al - le - lu - ia! Ye who long pain and sor - row
ness, O__ praise him, al - le - lu - ia! Praise, praise the Fa - ther, praise the
bear, praise God and on him cast your care,
Son, and praise the Spir - it, three in one, O
praise him, O praise him, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu ia!

*** Benediction**

Kids and All: You are invited to come forward and wave the colorful flags as we sing our closing Amen song.

*** Sevenfold Amen**

John Rutter

lyrics for melody notes>> A - men, a - men,

lyrics for harmony notes>> A - men, a - men,

[illegible]

* Postlude

Prayer Partners are available to pray with you right now. Come to the area by the organ with anything on your heart: praise, fears, questions, thanksgiving. We'll sit down and pray together.

Worship musicians

Lys Blakeslee, song leader

Lincoln Yasugi, piano

Charlie Yasugi, piano

Susan Guerra, piano and organ

While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Rom. 5:8

1. And can it be that I should gain an in - t'rest
 2. 'Tis mys - t'ry all! Th'Im - mor - tal dies: who can ex -
 3. He left his Fa - ther's throne a - bove (so free, so
 4. Long my im - pris - oned spir - it lay fast bound in
 5. No con - dem - na - tion now I dread; Je - sus, and

in the Sav - ior's blood? Died he for me, who caused his
 • plore his strange de - sign? In vain the first - born ser - aph
 in - fi - nite his grace!), hum - bled him - self (so great his
 sin and na - ture's night; thine eye dif - fused a quick - ning
 all in him, is mine! A - live in him, my liv - ing

pain? For me, who him to death pur - sued? A - maz - ing love!
 • tries to sound the depths of love di - vine. 'Tis mer - cy all!
 love!), and bled for all his cho - sen race. 'Tis mer - cy all,
 ray; I woke, the dun - geon flamed with light; my chains fell off,
 Head, and clothed in righ - teous - ness di - vine, bold I ap - proach

How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst
 • Let earth a - dore, let an - gel minds in -
 im - mense and free; for, O my God, it
 my heart was free; I rose, went forth, and
 th'e - ter - nal throne, and claim the crown, through

die for me? A - maz - ing love! How can it
 • quire no more. A - maz - ing love! How
 found out me. A - maz - ing love! How
 fol - lowed thee, my own.

be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
 can it be that thou, my God,