

HOLY COMMUNION SUNDAY September 6, 2023

FROM SOLID ROCK TO STUMBLING BLOCK

WELCOME FROM THE PASTOR

GATHERING PRAISE: 2034 BLESSED BE THE NAME OF THE LORD

Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be the name of the Lord—most high. Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be the name of the Lord—most high.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PASSING OF PEACE

Share a greeting in whatever way you are comfortable

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: If any of you want to be my follower, you must turn away from your selfish ways, from the things you think you want and need. You must pick up your cross and follow me.

People: What is it I need to turn away from in order to follow Jesus more closely?

All People: Help us to turn away from things that do not lead to life-- from attitudes and actions that get in the way of our relationship with you. Open our eyes and ears to your presence and your call. Give us courage to take up our cross and follow where you lead, even if the path is

uncertain or leads in unexpected directions. For you alone are God, and we are your people. Take our lives, and use us to your glory.

Prayer of the People

All the People: Loving God, you call us to turn away from our own selfish

interests, to take up our cross, and follow you. So we come before you this morning with open hearts and open hands, eager to hear your Word, and

eager to know your will. Through the power of your Holy Spirit, move within us and among us as we worship. Open our eyes to your presence; open our ears to your call, open our hearts to one another. And then send us back out into the world, to live and work as your faithful disciples. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE/PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

We all pray together: 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, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION:

Taking up his cross, Christ died for us; overcoming death with life, you raised Christ from the grave; Christ will come with the angels, to reveal your glory.

Pour out your Spirit upon the gifts of the table, and on the people being woven into your community in this place. As we eat of the bread, may we find that life of serving the poor, the hungry, the lost, the hopeless. As we drink from the cup, may we find the strength to lose our selves in sharing your peace in giving water to the thirsty, in becoming friends with the oppressed. On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC BUILT ON A ROCK

Built on a rock the Church shall stand, even when steeples are falling; crumbles have spires in every land, bells still are chiming and calling. Calling the young and old to rest, but above all, the souls distressed, longing for rest everlasting.

We are God's house of living stones, built for God's own habitation; he, through baptismal grace, us owns, heirs of a wondrous salvation. Were we together two or three, God in our midst shall always be, blessing with favor and mercy.

Here stands the font before our eyes telling how God has received us; th'altar recalls Christ's sacrifice and what his table now gives us. Here sounds the Word that shall proclaim Christ yesterday, today the same, ever for all our Redeemer.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

OFFERTORY AS THE DEER

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you. You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you. You alone are my strength, my shield; to you alone may my spirit yield. You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you. (Repeat)

DOXOLOGY #95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below: praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of power and might: We, like Peter, struggle with the image of a savior sent to suffer and die. We may seem to be doing great in following Christ, but we too stumble at this point. Perhaps we stumble because we know that what follows is Christ's call to us to deny ourselves and pick up a cross of our own in order to follow. As we bring gifts for the work of building your kingdom, help us to learn to deny, carry, and follow. In Christ's holy name, we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE MATTHEW 16: 21-28

²¹ From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?²⁷ "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."



MESSAGE SOLID ROCK OR STUMBLING BLOCK

CLOSING HYMN # 368 THE SOLID ROCK

My hope is built on nothing less that Jesus' blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

(Refrain) On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace. In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.

(Refrain) On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.

His oath, his covenant, his blood support me in the whelming flood. When all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.

(Refrain) On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.

When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found! Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne!

(Refrain) On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.

SENDING FORTH

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, here and in the world. Amen.

POSTLUDE UPON THIS ROCK

ALTAR FLOWERS

Given by Marian Galloway in memory of her husband, Frank

Prayer Concerns

If you have a prayer concern, please call the church office.

(727) 321-1335

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

If you would like your prayer concern or joy shared on the prayer chain, please let us know. We will be happy to add it.

Prayer concerns after church office hours, please text/call

Pastor Victoria (239) 738-0017

Church Email

Our church email is: administrator@st-lukesumc.com

Please keep the office informed of new emails, phone numbers so we can keep in touch with you.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Charge Conference October 15

2023 CHARGE CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Pasadena Community Church

227 70th Street South, St

Petersburg, FL, 33707

3-4 Time of Fellowship

4 pm Lakewood/ St Luke's Presiding Elder Andy Bell

The Library is open every Sunday before the service

Church Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday, 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

For children and youth summer meetings and activities, please contact

Marlene Lieber. Thank you!

To order flowers for the service, call the church office

\$20.00 Altar \$15.00 Side Vases

Liturgist: Michelle Prange

Pianist: Peggy Beville

Pastor: Rev. Victoria Guthrie

Calendar

Sunday, September 3rd

10:00 Sunday School
11:00 Choir Rehearsal
11:15 Worship

Monday, September 4th

Office Closed
5:00 Food Pantry
5:00 Karate
8:00 AA Meeting

Tuesday, September 5th

Wednesday, September 6th

9:00-1:00 Thrift Store
10:30 Al-Anon

Thursday, September 7th

9:00-1:00 Thrift Store
12 Noon Al-Anon Begin
12:45 Al-Anon
5:00 Karate
7:30 AA Meeting

Friday, September 8th

7:00 Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, September 9th

9:00-1:00 Thrift Store
11—12 ACA Step Workshop
5:00 Dinner w/Chef Mark

Sunday, September 10th

10:00 Sunday School
11:00 Choir Rehearsal
11:15 Worship