In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter’s bold confession of faith. God’s word of reconciliation and God’s mercy are keys to the church’s mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.
PRELUDE  “My Faith Looks Up to Thee”  arr. Kenon D. Renfrow  Debbie Pankow

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
O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD
FIRST READING  Isaiah 51:1-6
Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants, so now God offers comfort to Zion. God’s deliverance will come soon and will never end.

1Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the LORD. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. 2Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. 3For the LORD will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. 4Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. 5I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. 6Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

Word of God, Word of Life.

PSALM 138

1I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I will sing your praise.
2I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness; for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.
When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.

All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O Lord, when they have heard the words of your mouth.

They will sing of the ways of the Lord, that great is the glory of the Lord.

The Lord is high, yet cares for the lowly, perceiving the haughty from afar.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

You will make good your promise for me; O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.

SECOND READING

In response to God’s merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by the time in which we live but are transformed by the Spirit’s renewing work. God’s grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Word of God, Word of Life.
Faith of our fathers, living still in spite of dungeon,
fire, and sword.  Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy
when-e’er we hear that glorious word.

The martyrs, chained in prisons dark, were still in heart and conscience free;
and blest would be their children’s fate
if they, like them, should die for thee.  Faith of our fathers,

Failure of our fathers! We will love both friend and foe in all our strife;
proclaim thee too, as love knows how,
by saving word and faithful life.

Holy faith, we will be true to you till death.
At a climactic point in Jesus’ ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is “the Messiah, the Son of the living God,” and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” 14 And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” 15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” 16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” 17 And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” 20 Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Thank you to our worship leaders today:

Presider & Sermon: Rev. Jeff Hackler
Lector: Judith Moore
Psalm: Sharon Jones
Pianist: Debbie Pankow
Singers: Ollie Bergh, David Braun, John Bulkow, Lisa Bulkow, Kathy Freeman, Sharon Jones, Tai Wai Li, Lisa B. Nelson, Debbie Pankow, Karen Voris
Video Editing: Kathy Freeman
1 Built on a rock the church shall stand, even when stee-ples are fall-ing; crum-bled have spires in ev’ry land, bells still are
2 Sure-ly, in tem-ples made with hands God the Most High is not dwell-ing—high in the heav’n’s his tem-ple stands, all earth-ly ta-tion; he fills our hearts, his hum-ble thrones, grant-ing us bless-ing; hither we come to praise his name, faith in our
3 Christ builds a house of liv-ing stones; we are his own hab-i-
4 Yet in this house, an earth-ly frame, Je-sus the chil-dren is chim-ing and call-ing—call-ing the young and old to rest, call-ing the tem-ples ex-cel-ling. Yet God who dwells in heav’n a-bove deigns to a-life and sal-va-tion. Where two or three will seek his face, he in their Sav-i-or con-fess-ing. Je-sus to us his Spir-it sent, mak-ing with souls of those dis-tressed, long-ing for life ev-er-last-ing, bide with us in love, mak-ing our bod-ies his tem-ple.
5 Through all the passing years, O Lord, grant that, when church bells are ringing, midst will show his grace, bless-ings up-on them be-stow-ing, us his cov-e-nant, grant-ing his chil-dren the king-dom.

5 I know my own, my own know me; you, not the world, my face shall see; my peace I leave with you. Amen.”
**Apostles’ Creed**
I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Prayers of Intercession**
Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

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**We Ask Your Prayers for:**
Sitka Lutheran Church, Sitka; Alaska Native Lutheran Church
Pam Arthur, Jan Beverlin, David Bjorkquist, Lori Boecker, Erik Bryant, Mike Carson, Charlene Chanonto, Betsy Cooper, Geneva Cowen, Gino di Cervo, Ron Flugum, Dixie Foley, Shannon Foley, Harry Griffin, Reidun Hansen, Glenda Hanson, Greg Huff, Allen Knapp, Ed & Donna Luiten, Keith McCalley, Jay Meyer, Arne & Norma Mjolsnes, Russell Mjolsnes, Val Pace, Marlene Rapp, Julia Thorsness, Karen & Bob Voris, David Wright
Please pray for the families of those who’ve died:
Dr Luther Paine, Dorothy Woodward (Robin Harris’s aunt), Nita Maurer (Erik Maurer’s mother)

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Each petition ends: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Lord’s Prayer**
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.

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**Sunday August 30**
Jeremiah 15:15-21; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28
Hymn ELW # 583

“Take My Life that I May Be”

Refrain/Estríbillo

To - ma, oh Dios, mi vo - lun-tad, y haz - la tu - ya, na -
Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord,
da más; to - ma, sí, mi co - ra - zón
to thee; take my mo - ments and my days;
y tu tro - no en él ten - drás. ten - drás.
let them flow in cease - less praise. less praise.

1 Que mi vida en - ter - ra es - té
1 Take my hands and let them move
2 Take my sil - ver and my gold,
3 Take my voice and let me sing
4 Take my will and make it thine;

con - sa - gra - da a ti,
Se - ñor;
at the im - pulse of thy love;
not a mite would I with - hold;
al - ways, on - ly for my King;
it shall be no lon - ger mine;
continues
Blessing
Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. God, the creator, Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love. Amen.

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

Postlude
“Prelude and Fugue in A minor” by J. S. Bach
Debbie Pankow

Would you or your family like to record a piece of our worship service? If special music, please contact Debbie Pankow. If reading a lesson or providing a new round of stuffed animals for the Children’s message, please contact Kathy Freeman in the church office.

Parents with school-age kids: OUR NEIGHBORS Children’s Theatre is looking for imaginative, fun-loving kids to be in the up-coming play, THE JUNGLE BOOK. The first zoom meetings will be Monday and Wednesday, August 24 and 26 from 4:30-5 pm. From August 31 until the mid-October performance, we will be meeting via zoom 1-4 times weekly, depending on your preference and the role played. All on Zoom. A part for everyone! Free! Add some fun “play” time to your kid’s lives! Please share the news with friends and family! Email: ourneighborsanchorage@gmail.com for registration form and zoom link. Visit our website for fun photos and more information: our-neighbors-anchorage.org.

Come and play pickleball! All ages and ability levels welcome. Mondays at 5 pm in our lower parking lot.

Karen Voris and Kathy Freeman invite Central ladies of all ages and stages to join us in a Zoom study on “third Mondays”. We’ll gather together from 7 - 9 pm on Mondays, September 21 & October 19, on Zoom.us using our Central meeting ID 963 8911 9335 and the same password as our other weekly studies. We’ll use the “Just Love” study materials from the summer issues of Gather magazine - which Kathy can email or mail to you if you don’t have the magazine handy.

Drive-by party for David Wright as he accepts his Quilt of Valor at 11:30 am on Tuesday, August 25, in his driveway at 1511 Marten Street. All are welcome to drive by to cheer and take a to-go slice of cake. “Thank you for your service” signs are invited ;-)

Help needed: there are twenty-two Central chairs (the blue & wood Sanctuary style) at David Wright’s that need to be picked up and delivered to church

Wanted: one or more volunteers to trim back trees and bushes on our property – THANK YOU to Steve Lambert for trimming the east side / Cordova Street bushes!

Wanted: can you take a locking file cabinet and rehab the lock mechanism? Yes, it’s open, and we have the key. It’s no longer locking and unlocking smoothly and could use a pair of skilled hands to get it back to happiness.

May 2 - October 24, the Anchorage Farmers’ Market will be in the Central Lutheran parking lot each Saturday, 9 am – 2 pm. Vendors include Arctic Organics, Turkey Red, Farm 779, Alaska Blooms Peony Farm, Hatcher’s Pass Dahlias, and more. Many are accepting preorders via their websites, for quick pick-up convenience at our market.
**Wanted:** help to repair the orange picnic table in our play yard. A good pressure wash and application of new paint on all three tables before fall would be a great blessing.

Youth leader Anthony invites you to **go hiking**! Each Wednesday a **multi-generational group** will meet for a walk or hike. We’ll alternate, one week meeting at a trailhead, and on opposite weeks meeting at Central Lutheran for an urban route. As with all Alaska hikes, please dress in layers for changing weather, bring water and a snack, and wear good shoes for a trail. One or more of us will also carry bear spray and a first aid kit. August 26 is at Kincaid Park and is suitable for all walkers of trails.

Pastoral intern Ollie Bergh is here in the Church office each day, Monday through Thursday, and can be found via email at internollieclc@gmail.com (read as “Intern Ollie CLC”)

Central members donated $600 of their **Permanent Fund Dividends** and a running total of $6,075 to LSSA’s **Alaska Cares** - thank you, donors! (Amounts listed through July 31)

Central Lutheran invites you to **continue to support Central’s ministries** and facility through giving, as you are able. Donations are accepted via mail, drop-off during office hours, and online at [www.centluth.org/giving](http://www.centluth.org/giving).

Each month on the fourth Thursday, Central members provide the evening meal for the women and children of **Clare House**. This month for August 27th, Kathy Freeman is organizing donors around a Chinese dinner. Call Kathy in the Church office with offers to assist at 277-1622.

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**CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT**

Called to Share God’s Love

**CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH VISION**

Living out God's Grace and Love  through Worship, Learning, Fellowship and Service

**CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH CORE VALUES**

We are a congregation that
- is open to all,
- values a community of all ages,
- is grounded in scripture and sacrament.
- nurtures individual gifts,
- believes that everyone has something to offer,
- values involvement in the greater community,
- supports all in the challenges and celebrations of their lives, as God meets us where we are.
We expect that the Church offices will be open most weekdays, regular schedule. Please use the doorbell upon arrival.

Sunday 8/23
9 am Lutheranism via Zoom.us meeting id 963 8911 9335*

WORSHIP SERVICE will be viewable online – we will not be present in the Sanctuary.

Monday 8/24
*Church newsletter deadline moved to August 31*

5 pm Pickleball in the lower parking lot - open to all!

Tuesday 8/25
7 am Early Morning Bible Study via Zoom.us meeting id 963 8911 9335*

11:30 am Drive-by Party for David Wright at 1511 Marten St.

3 pm Local Organizing Ministry AFAC (via zoom.us)

Wednesday 8/26
9 am Coffee Klatsch via Zoom.us (contact Hedric Hanson for details)

Noon Lectionary Text Study via Zoom.us meeting id 963 8911 9335*

5 pm Multi-generational Hike – at Kincaid Park

6 pm Music recording session for Worship Service

Choir Sectionals 6:45 pm sopranos & altos (Sanctuary), tenors & basses (Rooms 3-4)

Thursday 8/27
4 pm volunteers deliver evening meal to Clare House

Friday 8/28
1 - 3 pm Caring Ministers meeting (via zoom.us)

Saturday 8/29
9 am - 2 pm Anchorage Farmers’ Market (upper parking lot)

Sunday 8/30
9 am Lutheranism via Zoom.us meeting id 963 8911 9335*

WORSHIP SERVICE will be viewable online – we will not be present in the Sanctuary.

*password for meeting is in our weekly email, or call the Church office for it*