

**PRELUDE "Take Me in Your Lifeboat"**

Chorus:

Take me in Your lifeboat, oh, take me in Your lifeboat.

It will stand the raging storm.

Take me in Your lifeboat, oh, take me in Your lifeboat,

It will bear my spirit home.

1. Now come brothers, sisters and don't fall asleep,

But pray tonight and day or you'll sink in the deep.

Fathers, mothers are praying so loud,

Saying, "Lord, won't You take me in Your lifeboat?"

Chorus:

2. The clouds are so heavy, the winds are so loud,

The thunder is rolling, bursting in the clouds.

They pray to their shipmates for what they have done;

They took the dying sinners in their lifeboat.

Chorus:

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
whose steadfast love is everlasting,  
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

**Amen.**

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Reconciling God,

**we confess that we do not trust your abundance,  
and we deny your presence in our lives.**

**We place our hope in ourselves  
and rely on our own efforts.**

**We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.**

**We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.**

**We fear difference and do not welcome others  
as you have welcomed us.**

**We sin in thought, word, and deed.**

**By your grace, forgive us;**

**through your love, renew us;**

**and in your Spirit, lead us;**

**so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

Beloved of God,

by the radical abundance of divine mercy

we have peace with God through † Christ Jesus,  
through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.

Our sins are forgiven.

Let us live now in hope.

For hope does not disappoint,

because God's love has been poured into our hearts  
through the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## 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

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## READING

**1 Kings 3:5-12 (NRSV)**

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

**119:129-136 (NRSV)**

Your decrees are wonderful;

therefore I obey them with all my heart.

**When your word is opened it gives light;**

**it gives understanding to the simple.**

I open my mouth and pant

because I long for your commandments.

**Turn to me and be gracious to me,**

**as you always do to those who love your name.**

Order my footsteps in your word;

let no iniquity have dominion over me.

**Rescue me from those who oppress me,**

**and I will keep your commandments.**

Let your face shine upon your servant

and teach me your statutes.

**My eyes shed streams of tears,**

**because people do not keep your teaching.**

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

**Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52(NRSV)**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

*May the peace of God that passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.*

Bishop Peter Rogness

### **Special Music "How Could You Love Me So Much?"**

1. Oh Lord, my God, I stand amazed as I behold Your matchless grace.

I see You smiling down upon us all and see Your everloving face.

To know that in Your heart of hearts, I am the apple of Your eye,

I marvel at Your love for me, Oh Lord, to think Your love would make You die!

Chorus:

Oh, how could You love me so much, that You gave Your life for me?

Oh, how could You love me so much that You shed Your blood to set me free?

2. And now I'm free from guilt and shame, by Your shed blood upon the cross;

To think Your love would take You, Lord, that far, so that my gain became your loss.

With all my heart and all my soul, with all my strength, I worship You.

With everything I have within me, Lord, loving you is all I want to do!

Chorus:

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

God of goodness and growth,  
all creation is yours,  
and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.  
With your grace we are here today,

Nourish us through these gifts that we place before you:  
our talents, our support for your church on earth and our hearts,  
that we might proclaim your steadfast love  
in our communities and in the world,  
through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. **Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

## **SHARING THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.** (All gathered are invited to share a sign of peace, maybe a wave or a peace sign, a hello from afar.)

## **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.**

## **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 "In the Heart of God"**

1. There is a place where we can go when trouble and stress start mounting .

There is a refuge fit for the soul deep in the heart of God,

Deep in the heart of God.

2. There is a perfect hideaway where nothing can come intruding.

There is a shelter high and safe deep in the heart of God,

Deep in the heart of God.

Chorus:

Set your burdens down awhile and lean on a strength much greater than you.

Let your spirit like a child go rest in the source of God.

Lay your heart in the heart of God.

Lay your heart in the heart of God, in the heart of God.

*Service modified from Sugar Creek Lutheran Church, Elkhorn, WI.'s bulletin, sermon by bishop of the South Central Synod of Wisconsin*

