

Built on Nothing Less

As We Gather

Son of a pub owner and a cabinet maker by trade, Edward Mote was a nineteenth century Englishman who came to faith in Christ as an adult and then served the last two decades of his life as a parish pastor. Although Mote is said to have never lost his touch for building furniture, he discovered a new passion in his later years: writing hymns for Christians to sing. “My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness,” he wrote. “No merit of my own I claim But wholly lean on Jesus’ name. On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand” (*LSB 575/576:1*). The story is told that the first person with whom Mote shared these words was a friend who had fallen ill and was nearing the end of her life. Mote’s beautiful hymn, which Christ-followers like us continue to enjoy today, reminded God’s beloved that Christ Jesus alone is the solid foundation, the mighty fortress in whom she could trust. In life and in death, our hope is built on this rock, who offers for us nothing less than His own blood and righteousness.

912 Christ Is Our Cornerstone

LSB 912



1 Christ is our cor - ner - stone, On Him a - lone we build;
2 Here may we gain from heav'n The grace which we im - plore,
△ 3 Oh, then, with hymns of praise These hal - lowed courts shall ring;



With His true saints a - lone The courts of heav'n are filled. On His
And may that grace, once giv'n, Be with us ev - er - more Un - til
Our voic - es we will raise The Three in One to sing And thus



great love Our hopes we place Of pres - ent grace And joys a - bove.
that day When all the blest To end - less rest Are called a - way.
pro - claim In joy - ful song, Both loud and long, That glo - rious name.

Text: Latin, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, alt.

Tune: John Darwall, 1731–89

Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

LSB 728; 761; 575/576

P That we may rest on Jesus and His unchanging grace, let us with repentant hearts confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

(We observe a moment of silence for personal prayers of confession.)

P How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!

C **Heavenly Father, Your Word tells us that we all have sinned and fall short of Your glory. By what we have done and by what we have failed to do, we have lived shaky lives that falter when we do not stand firm in You.**

P Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee!

C **Lord Jesus, have mercy upon us. You are the rock of ages in whom we find protection and deliverance.**

P On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand!

C **Holy Spirit, enable us to trust the promises of Your Word, confident in the forgiveness of sins found in Christ Jesus, our solid rock. Amen.**

P Upon this your confession, I am blessed to proclaim the certainty of God's saving grace to all of you! In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, our mighty rock and fortress, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Introit

Psalm 2:6–7; 117; antiphon: Psalm 115:18

P But we will bless the LORD

C **from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the LORD!**

P As for Me, I have set My King on Zion, My holy hill. I will tell of the decree:

C **The LORD said to Me, "You are My Son; today I have begotten You."**

P Praise the LORD, all nations!

C **Extol Him, all peoples!**

P For great is His steadfast love toward us,

C **and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the LORD!**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P But we will bless the LORD

C **from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the LORD!**

Kyrie

LSB 152

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

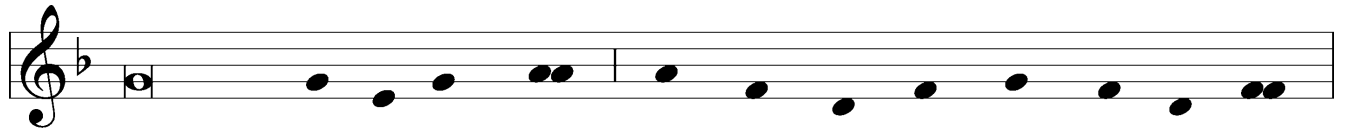
C **Lord, have mercy.**

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

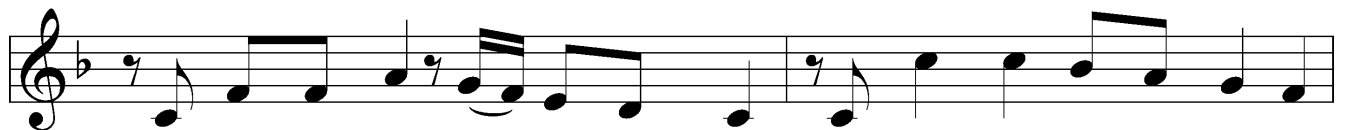
LSB 154



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



C Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



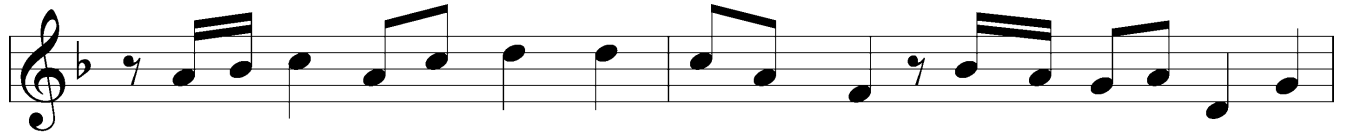
You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,



You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Salutation

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray.
Almighty God, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus Christ, to be the rock upon whom our lives are built.
- C** Help us rest securely in Your promises and find strength in Your mighty deliverance;
- P** through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

¹“Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
 you who 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,
 that I might bless him and multiply him.
³For the LORD comforts Zion;
 he comforts all her waste places
 and makes 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.
⁴“Give attention to me, my people,
 and give ear to me, my nation;
 for a law will go out from me,
 and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples.
⁵My righteousness draws near,
 my salvation has gone out,
 and my arms will judge the peoples;
 the coastlands hope for me,
 and for my arm they wait.
⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
 and look at the earth beneath;
 for the heavens vanish like smoke,
 the earth will wear out like a garment,
 and they who dwell in it will die in like manner;
 but my salvation will be forever,
 and my righteousness will never be dismayed.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Romans 11:33—12:8

³³Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

³⁴“For who has known the mind of the Lord,
 or who has been his counselor?”

³⁵“Or who has given a gift to him
that he might be repaid?”

³⁶For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever.
Amen.

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse

Ephesians 2:19b–20

P Alleluia. You are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

C built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 16:13–20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth

shall be loosed in heaven.”²⁰ Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

645 Built on the Rock

LSB 645



1 Built on the Rock the Church shall stand E - ven when
2 Sure - ly in tem - ples made with hands God, the Most
3 We are God's house of liv - ing stones, Built for His
4 Here stands the font be - fore our eyes, Tell - ing how
5 Grant, then, O God, Your will be done, That, when the



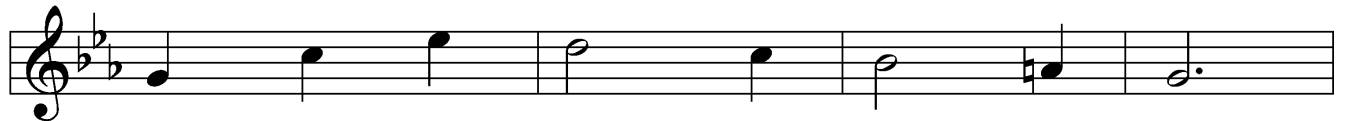
steeples are fall - ing. Crum - bled have spires in
High, is not dwell - ing; High a - bove earth His
own hab - i - ta - tion. He through bap - tis - mal
God has re - ceived us. The al - tar re - calls Christ's
church bells are ring - ing, Man - y in sav - ing



ev - 'ry land; Bells still are chim - ing and call -
tem - ple stands, All earth - ly tem - ples ex - cel -
grace us owns Heirs of His won - drous sal - va -
sac - ri - fice And what His Sup - per here gives
faith may come Where Christ His mes - sage is bring -



ing, Call - ing the young and old to rest,
ling. Yet He who dwells in heav'n a - bove
tion. Were we but two His name to tell,
us. Here sound the Scrip - tures that pro - claim
ing: "I know My own; My own know Me.



But a - bove all the souls dis - tressed,
Choos - es to live with us in love,
Yet He would deign with us to dwell
Christ yes - ter - day, to - day, the same,
You, not the world, My face shall see.



Long - ing for rest ev - er - last - ing.
Mak - ing our bod - ies His tem - ple.
With all His grace and His fa - vor.
And ev - er - more, our Re - deem - er.
My peace I leave with you. A - men."

Text: Nikolai Fredrik Severin Grundtvig, 1783–1872, abr.; tr. Carl Döving, 1867–1937, alt.

Tune: Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–87

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

- P** Let us pray for the whole people of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone.

We rest securely in Your promises, gracious God, and come into Your holy presence with thanksgiving and gratitude in our hearts. Every day, in each and every way, we see all that Your mighty hand has provided to give us everything that we are and everything we possess. Because we are completely dependent upon Your hand to guide us and provide for us, Lord, be our rock of refuge,

- C** to which we can always go.

- P** In Holy Baptism, You have anchored us in Your Word and united us with Christ Jesus. Your Spirit will never forsake Your own, for we rest securely in the blood and righteousness our Savior has given to us and to all who trust in Him. Enable Your Church to proclaim the Good News of Jesus until the day He comes again in all power and glory. Until that day when every knee shall bow before You, lead our hearts to believe and our mouths to confess Your saving name. Lord, be our rock of refuge,

- C** to which we can always go.

- P** Without Your aid, O Lord, we fail. When we falter and fall, uplift us by Your grace. Be near to the downtrodden, the heart-broken, and the weary. Steady the knees that give way, reminding those with fearful hearts that You alone are the God who saves. Stretch out Your arm to be a shield and fortress for all who are in harm's way. Inspire us by the sacrifice of those who lay down their lives for our benefit. Give courage to those who walk through times of temptation and testing, helping them to know You are the God who provides hope for all who seek You. Lord, be our rock of refuge,

- C** to which we can always go.

- P** Many among us are suffering and in great need, O Lord. We name before You those we know and love whose concerns are known to You, the One who knows all things. Answer their prayers and, according to Your good and gracious will, enable them to gratefully receive all You give. We pray for those who are in need within our Christian congregation and among our families and friends, [*including . . .*]. Lord, be our rock of refuge,

- C** to which we can always go.

- P** Built on the rock of Jesus and His mighty Word, we have hope in this world because of the certainty we have of life forever with You. Use honesty to disrupt us, hope to sculpt us, joy to construct us, peace to protect us, and faith to persist in

us. Help us to see how awesome You are, O Lord! We know Your Word is faithful and true because You alone are the rock from which our lives have been hewn and in whom we rest securely. Into Your merciful care we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, ever trusting in Your grace and mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Offering - We Thank the Lord with the Offering.

Offertory

LSB 192



C Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

Lord's Prayer

C 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.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24–26

P The Lord alone is our rock and our refuge, our fortress and our deliverer. His blessing be upon us as we go forth in His name.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

644 The Church's One Foundation

LSB 644



1 The Church's one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, Yet one o'er all the earth;
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der The world sees her op - pressed,
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion And tu - mult of her war
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion With God, the Three in One,



She is His new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the Word.
Her char - ter of sal - va - tion: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
By schisms rent a - sun - der, By her - e - sies dis - tressed,
She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of peace for - ev - er - more
And mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion With those whose rest is won.



From heav'n He came and sought her To be His ho - ly bride;
One ho - ly name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food,
Yet saints their watch are keep - ing; Their cry goes up, "How long?"
Till with the vi - sion glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest,
O bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by Your grace



With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.
And to one hope she press - es With ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
And soon the night of weep - ing Shall be the morn of song.
And the great Church vic - to - rious Shall be the Church at rest.
That we, like saints be - fore us, May see You face to face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900, alt.

Tune: Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–76

Text and tune: Public domain

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