Liturgy for Montana Synod House Sunday

March 12, 2017

*Please rise if it is comfortable and respond using the* ***bold*** *print*

Invocation

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

We gather to raise awareness and the resourses needed to bring our new Synod House to successful completion. Bless those who offer here their time, talent, toil, and treasure, and keep those who work on it safe from injury. **Amen.**

Confession & Forgiveness

**Lord Jesus,** you came to show us that the meaning of life consists in giving.

You told us that those who cling too tightly to what they have, without thought of you or others, end up losing everything.

You offered us new values by which to measure the worth of a person’s life.
Help us to realize it is not temporal success, or riches, or fame that gives life meaning.

Rather, it is the service rendered to you and others that brings fulfillment and makes our lives worthwhile.

May our good works help build the kingdom of God; may our obedience bring true freedom; may our generosity increase love; may our sacrifices bear much fruit; and may our death lead to eternal life.

**Lord Jesus, make us new again. Raise our awareness, strengthen our conscience, forgive our selfishness and greed. Free us to build new lives and take new risks on account of your gospel. Help us to go forward in faith, guided by your grace.**

In the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, a new creation was brought forth to love God and the neighbor. In the waters of your baptism, you were made part of this new creation, and your sins were forgiven. By this, your honest confession, God has again cast your sins away, and given you a benevolent heart, all for the sake of Jesus + Christ, the Master builder. **Amen**.

*All Are Welcome #641 (ELW)*

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray: Gracious God,

**We thank you for the work and witness of our old Synod House that has enriched this community and brought health and healing to friends and families. Now bless and preserve this time of transition; guide us and bestow upon us what is needed for a new generation: the cheerful giving of resources to grow a new Synod House, and the clear vision of that mission and ministry. By your Holy Spirit, be present with us in our endeavor, that we may build with the one who is the way, the truth, and the life; Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Please be seated*

A reading from the prophet Haggai 2:6-9

6For thus says the Lord of hosts: Once again, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land; 7and I will shake all the nations, so that the treasure of all nations shall come, and I will fill this house with splendor, says the Lord of hosts. 8The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the Lord of hosts. 9The latter splendor of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts; and in this place I will give prosperity, says the Lord of hosts. Here ends the reading.

A reading from Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians 2:12-22

12Remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

14For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. 15He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, 16and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. 17So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; 18for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. 19So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, 20built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. 21In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; 22in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God. Here ends the reading.

*Please rise if it is comfortable and respond using the* ***bold*** *print*

Gospel Acclamation

We profess that you are the Messiah.

**You are the Son of the living God.**

The holy gospel according to Matthew 16:13-20 **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, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” 15He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” 16Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” 17And 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. 18And 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. 19I 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.” 20Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated*

Sermon

*Please rise if it is comfortable and respond using the* ***bold*** *print*

The Nicene Creed

*The Church’s One Foundation #654 (ELW)*

Prayers of Intercession

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, the world, our new Synod House, and all of God’s creation.

For the church universal, its ministry, and the mission of the gospel.

Gracious God, **Let us build a house.**

For the well-being of creation; for peace and justice in the world, the nations, those in authority, and the community.

Gracious God, **Let us build a house.**

For all who suffer in body, mind, and spirit, *especially . . .*

Gracious God, **Let us build a house.**

For Bishop Eaton, Bishop Crist, and the Synod staff; for this congregation and *for those on the weekly Synod prayer requests and other local requests . . .*

Gracious God, **Let us build a house.**

Dear Lord,

**As I do my part in the building of this House, let me do it with great love and caring and intention. For in this house that I help build, our Synod will build new life.**

**This will be a place to celebrate. This will be a place to learn and grow and play and gather.**

**This will be where important things will be discussed and decided. This will be where ministry begins and ends each day.**

**And when the world is spinning and seems to be crumbling around us, these will be the walls that hold us together, where we feel safe and loved.**

**Lord, please bless my work on the new Synod House I help build, and bless all who will come to this place. Amen**

*Please be seated*

Our Offering *(Take My Life, That I May Be #685 (ELW))*

The Peace

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Please greet one another with a gesture of Christ’s peace!

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Great Thanksgiving (adapted from “Build Us Up, Lord” text and music by Mark Glaeser and Donna Hanna, b. 1952)

Build us up, Lord, and set in us a strong foundation. Lead us to do your holy will; form and shape in us your new creation. Guide us and teach us to share your love with the world.

As we build our new Synod House, we plant seeds for the kingdom. As we build our new Synod House, we follow in faith the story begun so long ago. Lord, set in our hearts the will of your Son, Jesus Christ.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Build us up, Lord, and let our lives reflect your glory. Cast away our doubts and fears, that we may bear good fruit for you. Give us the vision for a new Synod House and keep us confident and sure, steadfast and true, all for the sake of He who died and rose again, Jesus Christ, the architect and cornerstone of our faith. **Amen**

*Please be seated*

The Distribution of Holy Communion

*Communion Hymn: What Is This Place #524 (ELW)*

*Please rise if it is comfortable and respond using the* ***bold*** *print*

Prayer after Communion

Generous God, we give you thanks; for all that you have, you give to us, and more. As we go forth into the world to build a new Synod House, strengthen us through this sacrament, and grant us the wisdom and power of your Holy Spirit, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Bless this house and all who inhabit it. And may Christ + Jesus dwell with us, keep us from all harm, and make us one in mind and heart, now and forever. **Amen**

*My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less #597 (ELW)*

Go in peace. Go to build.

**As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God!**

***Written by Rev. R. Mark Taylor – Plentywood Lutheran Church***