



## **“In God Alone”**

### **Week 4**

First Lutheran Church, Sandpoint  
Worship - January 24, 2021

#### **Prelude**

*Play meditative instrumental music that helps quiet your mind, body, and spirit for listening to God’s presence with you.*

Let us seek to simplify this moment, slow down for a time. Let us worship, leaning on prayer, reflection and sharing with one another.

## **Threshold**

“God is Holding Your Life” - (Inspired by Psalm 121)

*[For those of you without access to the online service, we will look into creating a DVD of the music/ videos for these sections. Let the office 208-263-2048 Pastor Steve know if you could use a DVD to support your worship.]*

“My one and only!” So many songs have utilized this phrase to express devoted love. This week we see that this tradition goes back all the way to the poets of the psalm tradition. This is a love psalm of trust in the “Holy One and Only” who is the rock and refuge in the midst of life that sometimes feels as fleeting as breath. We put our trust in the One who, indeed, is holding our lives.

**Turn now your gaze upon the earth  
Where is the One who never sleeps?  
We call the One who guards you now,  
Your spirit safe in holy keep.**

**God is holding your life  
God is holding your life  
God is holding your life, we believe**  
*[repeat refrain]*

### **Opening Collect Prayer**

*Leader:* God of our devotion,  
you are the one constant in life.

Open us this day to see the things that hold us in their grip  
so that we might shed unnecessary distractions that keep us from seeing  
your reign on earth as it is in heaven.

**People:** We praise you for being our rock,  
holding our lives together in the ways that matter most.  
Amen.

## **WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

**Psalm Reading: Psalm 62:5-12**      (*Lukan Psalter translation*)

In God alone my soul finds rest,  
for my deliverance comes from God,  
who alone is my rock, my salvation,  
my fortress:  
I will never be shaken.

Only in God—my deliverance, my glory—  
my refuge is God.  
Trust in God always, my people;  
pour out your hearts before God our refuge.

Humankind is but a breath,  
mortals are just an illusion.  
Put them on the scales and the balance  
is thrown off:  
they weigh less than a breath.

Do not trust in extortion,  
or put false hopes in stolen goods;  
do not set your heart on riches  
even when they increase.

For God has said only one thing,  
Twice have I heard it:  
that power belongs to God:  
Steadfast love is yours, ADONAI –  
you repay all people according  
to their deeds.

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

Additional Lectionary Scripture for today: Jonah 3:1-5, 10  
1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

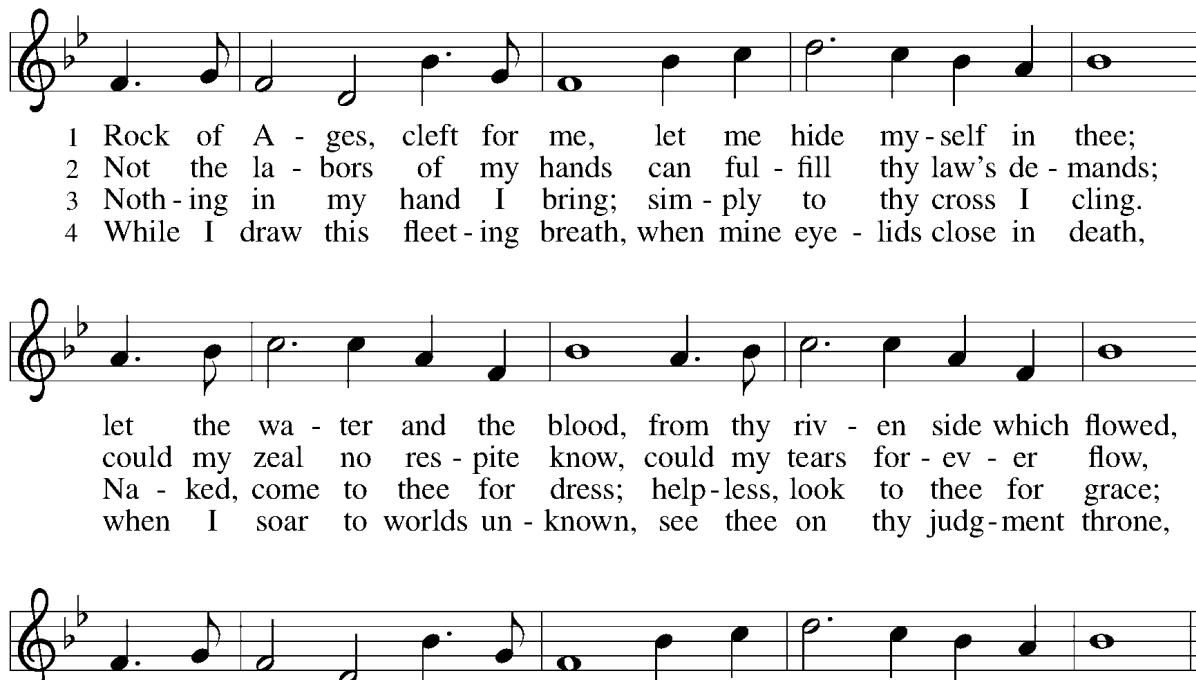
## Reflection

Written in a time when the Hebrew faith claimed one God while other faiths around them claimed many, the point of this Psalm seems to be making the case for the Holy “One and Only.” But it also names riches as a “god” that we sometimes “set our heart upon” as the confidence-setting end-goal. This speaks to us now as much as it did then. In our lifetime we have witnessed that as fleeting as breath is the notion of economic security. Whether we are feeling low or high of “estate” makes no difference. We can count on the steadfast presence of God.

*Take some time now and reflect on this. What might you be clinging to or reaching for other than God?*

### Song of the Day. (ELW 623)

#### Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me



Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;  
Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;  
Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.  
While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,

let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,  
could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,  
Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;  
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,

be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.  
all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.  
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.  
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–1778

Music: TOPLADY, Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872

*Silence*

### **Prayers of the People**

Let us take a moment to write prayer concerns on small pieces of paper. Then place your prayers into a container *[bowl, box, etc]*—a symbolic action of placing them in God’s hands, God’s care.

*Take a moment to do this.*

As we continue our prayers. I will offer a category of concern and we will allow a brief pause, then we will respond as indicated.

As a prayer posture for this worship series, I invite you to cup your hands, ready to receive God’s love and peace, and in preparation to be God’s love and peace in the world.

Let us pray for the leaders of this world and this church community... *[pause]*  
**God of Justice, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for those who live in conflict around the world... *[pause]*  
**Prince of Peace, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for all who are experiencing loss of any kind in this pandemic...  
*[pause]*  
**Comforting Healer, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for those who are homeless, hungry and alone... *[pause]*  
**Emmanuel, God-With-Us, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for those who live in comfort,  
for Christ-like hospitality and generosity... *[pause]*  
**Transforming Spirit, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray, for those we have named and the ones whose names we do not know,  
*[pause and include any other petitions you might have]*  
**hear our prayer.**

Holy and Living One, as we gather to break bread once again, break us open to your love, to your peace, to your presence, to your transformative power. In the name of the One who invites us time and again, Jesus the Christ.

Let the people say, “Selah”  
**Selah! Amen.**

## **MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

### **Confession and Assurance**

We are all invited to the gift of this table of grace. As a response to the invitation, we are asked to let go of all that separates us from accepting this grace. We confess the ways we have placed hardship in the hands of others, rather than peace.

*[sung]*

**Put peace into each other's hands  
and like a treasure hold it,  
protect it like a candle flame,  
with tenderness enfold it.**

**Put peace into each other's hands  
with loving expectation;  
be gentle in your words and ways,  
in touch with God's creation.**

*[music continues to underscore]*

When we place peace in each other's hands, we place love in all the hands of the world.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!  
**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**  
**Glory to God! Amen!**

### **The Peace and Thanksgiving**

The Peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Will you make a gesture of peace toward others who may be with or near you as a sign of offering the peace that Christ gives us.

Then, write here what you are thankful for today and/or how you sense God calling you to respond to this gracious gift of peace and forgiveness today.

## OFFERING

*If you would like to offer financial support for the ministries of First Lutheran, you can mail them to the church. 526 S. Olive, Ave. Sandpoint, ID 83864 or online at <https://firstlutheransandpoint.breezechms.com/give/online>*

*[sung]*

**Give thanks for strong yet tender hands  
held out in trust and blessing.  
Where words fall short let hands speak out;  
the heights of love expressing.**

*If you are with someone or on the phone with friends or family, Holy Communion can be shared now. Choose a leader and follow the liturgy included here. If you would like a pastor to share this meal with you by phone, arrange through the church office.*

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

### \*DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Open your hearts, your lives to the Holy One.

**We long for this communion.**

Let us give our greatest thanks to the Holy One.

**It is a good and joyful thing to give our thanks and praise.**

Gift of Life, Creator of All That Is,  
You have breathed life into us,  
filled our emptiness,  
loved us through our resistance.

**Time and again you say, Listen!**

**Time and again you say, Live!**

**Time and again you say, Love!**

And so we gather and give thanks in this moment.

We stop so we may listen,

we breathe so we may live,

we open so we may love.

**Holy , holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you God,  
And blessed be your work in Jesus,  
Peace-Giver, Life-Healer.  
Spirit-Anointer, do your work in us, as in him.

For Jesus gathered with his disciples, his friends, his family.  
He took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his companions saying,  
“Take, eat, this is my body. My life given for you.

And after the supper he lifted his cup, gave thanks over it,  
and offered it to his companions, saying,  
“Drink from this cup, all of you. This is my life, my love poured out for you.  
Whenever you gather together, stop... *Selah*... think of me. I am here.”

And so,  
in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we offer ourselves as a holy and living sacrifice,  
in union with Christ’s offering for us,  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

*[sung]*

**As at communion shape your hands,  
into a waiting cradle;  
the gift of Christ receive, revere,  
united round the table.**

Let us pray the Lord’s Prayer 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, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

We who are many are one body, one loaf, rising in Spirit together.

Even if we cannot be physically in the same space,

we are one in love.

We are one in the grace of Christ broken open for us.

While we have many cups,

God's love is poured upon us from the one cup of salvation.

It is in this sharing beyond all time and space that we are drawn close,

that we are made whole,

that we are made free.

As you are served by those with you,

or served by your own hand,

know that the hand that serves you is the hand of all Christ's Body,

through mystical union with the Divine.

You are not alone.

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

*Share bread with each person at your table saying,  
“The body of Christ given for you.”*

*Then share the wine or grape juice with each person saying,  
“The blood of Christ shed for you.”*

*For those at the table who do not yet receive Communion, you can offer this or a similar blessing, “You are a child of God. God's love is always with you.”*

### **Prayer After Receiving**

God of all that is too deep for words,

we give you thanks that, at this table of grace,

you offer your holiness, your steadfast love.

Open us often to your *Selah*, your pause,

to hear the needs of your people.

We pray this in the name of the Host of this Table,

Jesus the Christ. **Amen.**

## **SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

## **Benediction**

Now go in the knowledge that  
God is holding your life  
even as we hold each other.  
You are not alone.  
You are loved.  
Amen.

## **Postlude**

### **Worship Notes:**

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### **Songs:**

Psalm Songs for 121 “God is Holding Your Life” and 139 “Where Can I Go?” by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan; used with permission and license.

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**Prayer List:** George Marker, Lynn Franck, Ed Jewell, Chris Ingham; Randy Petersen; Charles Shobe Sr., Nicky Schripsema; Wendi Lies; Gerda Burke; Debbie Haberlock; Kara Schripsema; Kai Haberlock; Tom Taylor; Hunter Taylor; Eugene Kurwicki; Mike Shobe; Marguerite Suttmeier, Sylvia Greenwood; Janet Merrill, and those on your hearts and minds today.

We include prayers for Luther Park - its staff, residents, and families; Our nation, as it struggles with being a democratic republic; our congregation as we seek leaders and resources for our ministries in 2021.

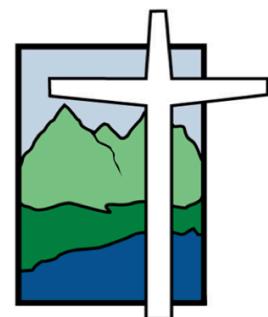
FOR YOUR PRAYER AND REFLECTIONS UPON GOD'S WORD



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***First  
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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

