

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

February 6 and 7, 2021

5 p.m. Saturday, 8 a.m. Sunday



FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

The God Who Builds His Church

AS WE GATHER *(Based on Ephesians 2:11-22)*

Christ Builds His Church is the theme for today. Literally, He builds it out of nothing, out of "enemies," out of "those who were far away." In His mercy, He builds His Church out of those who were "separated from Christ" and out of those who were "excluded from the covenant promises He made to His people, Israel." This morning, we rejoice and celebrate that God has made us into a "holy temple," a "dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone."

✧ PREPARATION ✧

Prelude

“Built on the Rock”

arr. David Cherwien & Mark Sedio

Pastoral Greeting

Opening Hymn

“The Church’s One Foundation”

LSB 644

Verses 1-2, 4



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;
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion And tu - mult of her war



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.
She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of peace for - ev - er - more



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,
Till with the vi - sion glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest,



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 the great Church vic - to - rious Shall be the Church at rest.

Tune and text: Public domain

Invocation

Confession *(Based on Ephesians 2:11-22, NLT and ESV)*

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God, our Father.

People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed by what we have done and by what we have left undone. By nature, we were "separated from Christ" and "excluded from the covenant promises You made to Your people." By our actions, we "lived in this world without God and without hope...far away from God." Please forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

Absolution *(Based on Ephesians 2:11-22, NLT and ESV)*

Pastor: Upon this, your confession of sins, it is my duty and privilege to announce to you the grace of God upon all of you. "Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to Him through the blood of Christ." God has forgiven your sins and Christ has "reconciled you to God by means of His death on the cross." The "dividing wall of hostility" between you, God and others has been brought down. Now you are "citizens of heaven...members of God's family...and joined together in Him." Rejoice in the assurance that all of your sins have been forgiven and that by His Spirit you are "growing into a holy temple in the Lord, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone."

People: **Amen. Thanks be to Christ, "through whom we now have access to the Father by one Spirit."**

✂ **WORD** ✂

Spoken Kyrie (Divine Service, Setting One)

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

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

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: 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.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

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

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: **Amen.**

Epistle: Ephesians 2:11-22

(We were separated from Christ...once far away...foreigners and aliens. But through Christ, God has built us into a holy temple, a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit.)

Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (which is done in the body by human hands)—remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

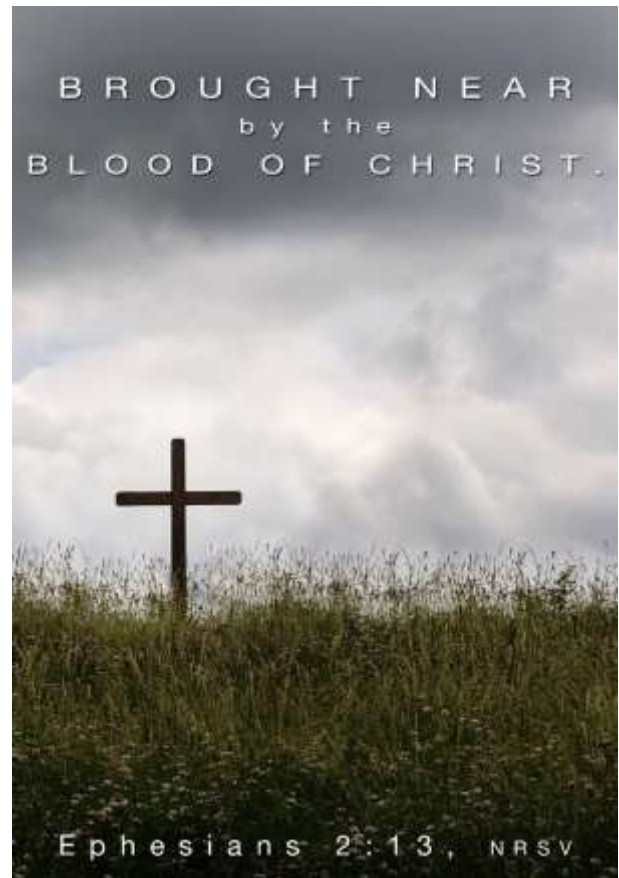
For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to

reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.



Holy Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

(Jesus, who came for all people, heals many.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 1st Chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told Jesus about her. So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. The whole town gathered at the door, and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. Simon and his companions went to look for him, and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!"

Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else--to the nearby villages--so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Verses 1-3, 5



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
 5 Grant, then, O God, Your will be done, That, when the



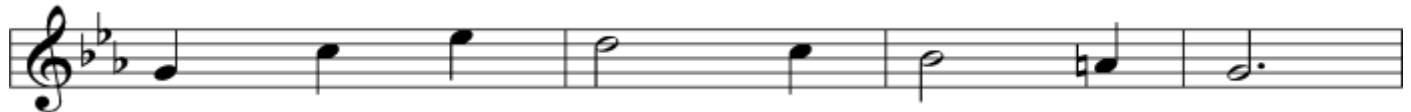
stee - ples are fall - ing. Crum - bled have spires in
 High, is not dwell - ing; High a - bove earth His
 own hab - i - ta - tion. He through bap - tis - mal
 church bells are ring - ing, Man - y in sav - ing



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 -
 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,
 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
 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.
 My peace I leave with you. A - men."

Tune and text: Public domain

Sermon "The God Who Builds His Church"

Pastor John Larson
 TEXT: Ephesians 2:11-29

Nicene Creed

People: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made;

who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy...

People: Hear our prayer.



Offering Offerings will be collected at the back, in the Narthex.

☩ HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION ☩

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with "Amen!", a word of affirmation and belief.



✠ SACRAMENT ✠

Preface (Divine Service, Setting One)

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

People: 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.

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

"Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling "

LSB 650



1 Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er dwell - ing In the ho - liest
2 Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er liv - ing As the Church's
3 Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er work - ing Through the Church's



realms of light; Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er brood - ing
ver - y life; Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er striv - ing
min - is - try; Quick - 'ning, strength - 'ning, and ab - solv - ing,



O'er a world of gloom and night; Ho - ly Spir - it,
Through us in a cease - less strife; Ho - ly Spir - it,
Set - ting cap - tive sin - ners free; Ho - ly Spir - it,



ev - er rais - ing Those of earth to thrones on high; Liv - ing,
ev - er form - ing In the Church the mind of Christ: You we
ev - er bind - ing Age to age and soul to soul In com -



life - im - part - ing Spir - it, You we praise and mag - ni - fy.
praise with end - less wor - ship For Your gifts and fruits un - priced.
mu - nion nev - er end - ing, You we wor - ship and ex - tol.

General Communion Blessing

The body & the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ



Benediction (Divine Service, Setting One)

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

Closing Hymn

“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.

Congregational Concerns

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude "Christ is Our Cornerstone"
(and Row by Row Dismissal)

Benjamin Culli



**himself being
the chief
corner stone ...**

E p h e s i a n s 2 : 2 0

Serving in Worship

**OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES**

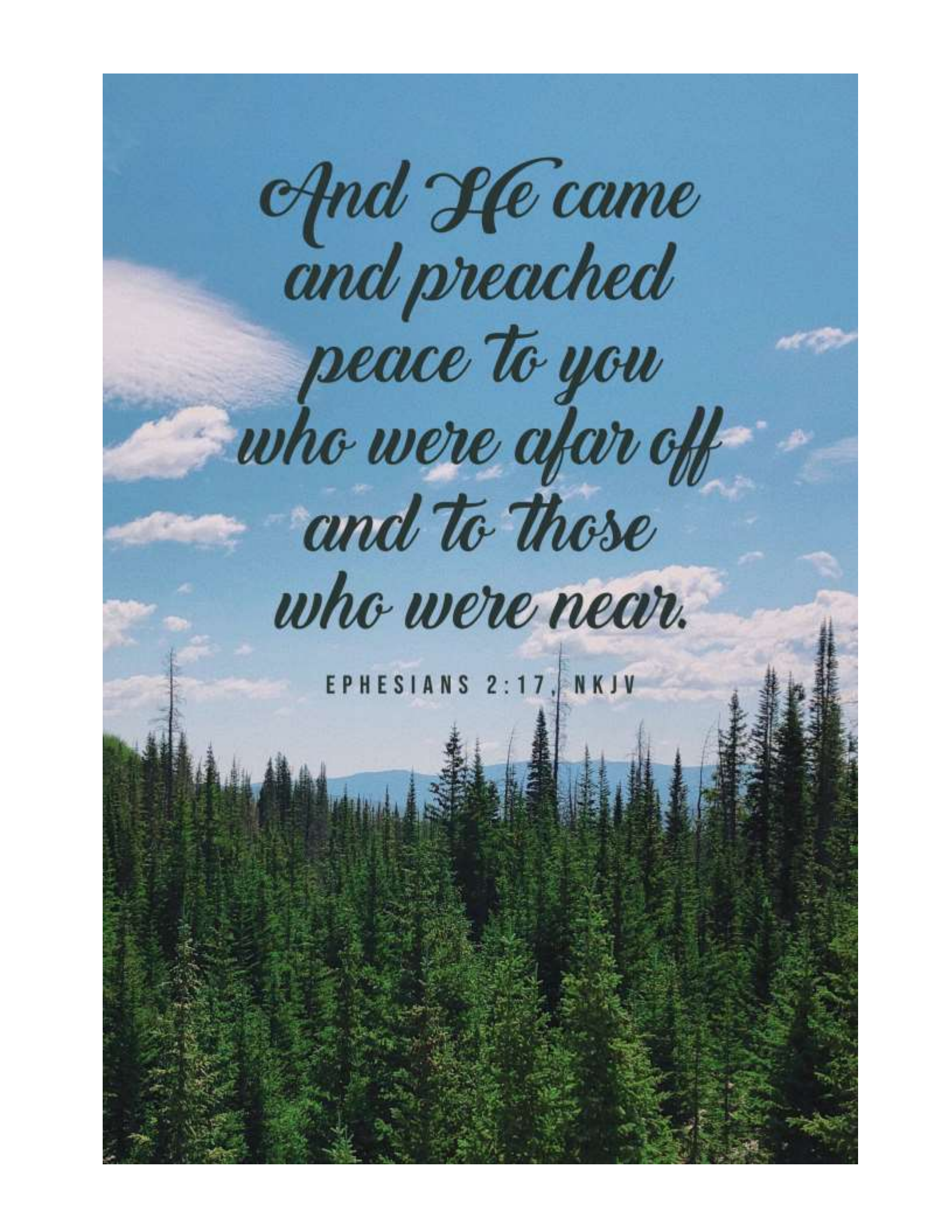
Pastor John Larson
Michael Zehnder

YOU ARE NO LONGER
STRANGERS AND ALIENS, BUT

**YOU ARE
CITIZENS
WITH THE
SAINTS**

AND ALSO MEMBERS OF THE
HOUSEHOLD OF GOD ...

EPHESIANS 2:19, NRSV



*And He came
and preached
peace to you
who were afar off
and to those
who were near.*

EPHESIANS 2:17, NKJV