



Noah's Ark
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...when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you-not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 3:20-21)

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2020

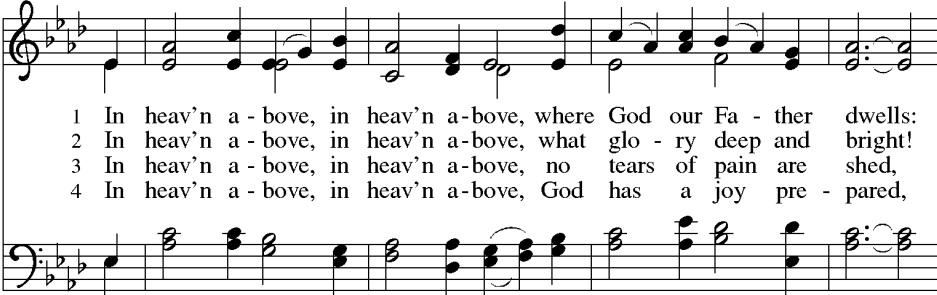
PROLOGUE

Kevin Seal, pipe organ

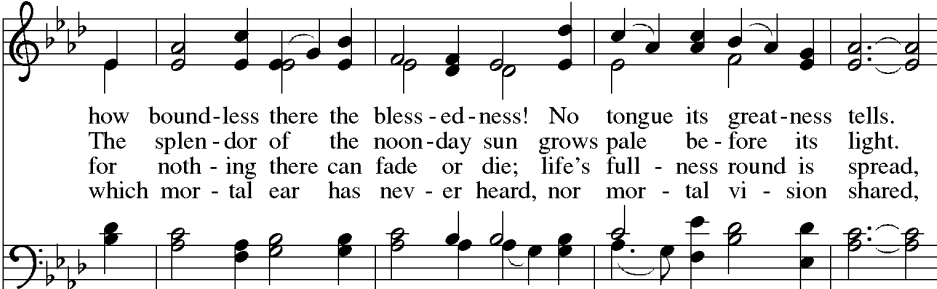
I Himmelen, I Himmelen (In Heav'n above)

Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)

Our opening hymn this morning is based on a Norwegian folk tune, with a text by Laurentius Laurentii Laurinus, a 16th-century Swedish writer and priest. Edvard Grieg, arguably the most famous Norwegian composer, arranged this tune and text for a four-part chorus and Bass solo, and this organ arrangement of Grieg's choral piece features gentle, undulating rhythms and harmonies typical of the late Romantic period. While the tune isn't exactly the same as in our hymnals, it is clearly derived from the same folk-tune source.



1 In heav'n a - bove, in heav'n a - bove, where God our Fa - ther dwells:
 2 In heav'n a - bove, in heav'n a - bove, what glo - ry deep and bright!
 3 In heav'n a - bove, in heav'n a - bove, no tears of pain are shed,
 4 In heav'n a - bove, in heav'n a - bove, God has a joy pre - pared,



how bound-less there the bless - ed - ness! No tongue its great-ness tells.
 The splen - dor of the noon-day sun grows pale be - fore its light.
 for noth - ing there can fade or die; life's full - ness round is spread,
 which mor - tal ear has nev - er heard, nor mor - tal vi - sion shared,



There face to face, and full and free, the ev - er -
 The might - y sun that goes not down, be - fore whose
 and like an o - cean, joy o'er - flows, and with im -
 which nev - er en - tered mor - tal thought, in mor - tal



liv - ing God we see, our God, the Lord of hosts!
 face clouds nev - er frown, is God, the Lord of hosts!
 mor - tal mer - cy glows our God, the Lord of hosts!
 dreams was nev - er sought, O God, the Lord of hosts!

Text: Laurentius L. Laurinus, 1573–1655; tr. William Maccall, 1812–1888
 Music: I HIMMELEN, I HIMMELEN, Norwegian folk tune; arr. Elmer T. R. Hanke, 1901–1958
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GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 17:22-31

In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the "unknown god" whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

²²Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said,
'For we too are his offspring.

²⁹Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY (ELW): Psalm 66:8-20

The refrain is first introduced by the leader, then repeated by the assembly.



Bless our God, you peo - ples; let the sound of praise be heard.

Psalm 66:8

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress.

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⁸Bless our | God, you peoples;

let the sound of | praise be heard.

⁹**Our God has kept us a- | mong the living
and has not allowed our | feet to slip. REFRAIN**

¹⁰For you, O God, have | tested us;
you have tried us just as sil- | ver is tried.

¹¹**You brought us in- | to the net;
you laid heavy burdens up- | on our backs.**

¹²You let people ride over our heads; we went through | fire and water,
but you brought us out into a place | of refreshment.

¹³**I will enter your house | with burnt offerings
and will pay | you my vows—**

¹⁴those that I promised | with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I | was in trouble.

¹⁵**I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the | smoke of rams;
I will give you ox- | en and goats. REFRAIN**

¹⁶Come and listen, all you | who believe,
and I will tell you what God has | done for me.

¹⁷**I called out to God | with my mouth,
and praised the Lord | with my tongue.**

¹⁸If I had cherished evil | in my heart,
the Lord would | not have heard me;

¹⁹**but in truth | God has heard me
and has attended to the sound | of my prayer.**

²⁰Blessed be God, who has not reject- | ed my prayer,
nor withheld unfailing | love from me. **REFRAIN**

FIRST READING: I Peter 3:13-22

The author of I Peter encourages Christians to remain faithful even in the face of defamation and persecution. In baptism we are made clean to act in accordance with what is right.

A reading from First Peter.

¹³Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Cantor: *Those who love me will keep my word, and my Fa- | ther will love them,*
and we will come to them and make our | home with them.*
(John 14:23)

THE GOSPEL

John 14:15-21

In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.

The Holy Gospel According to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

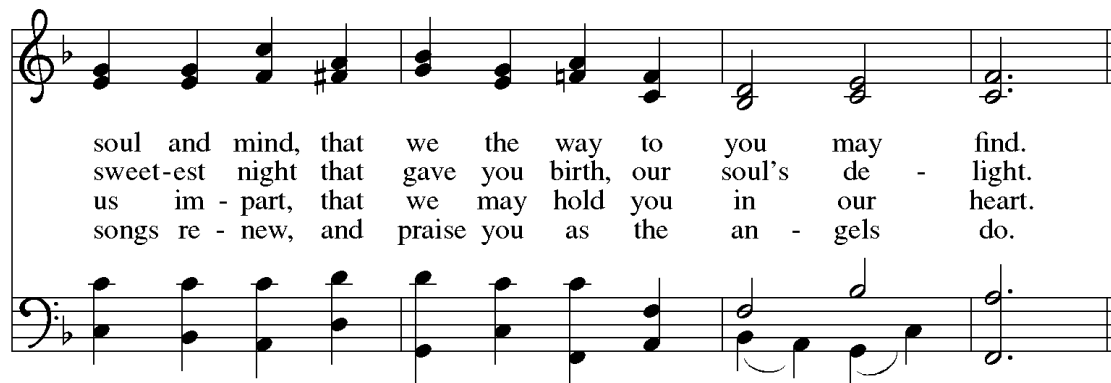
Pastor Stephen Springer



1 Your lit - tle ones, dear Lord, are we, and
2 With songs we has - ten you to greet, and
3 Oh, draw us whol - ly to you, Lord, and
4 Un - til at last we too pro - claim, with



come your low - ly bed to see; en - light - en ev - 'ry
kiss the ground be - fore your feet. Oh, bless - ed hour, oh,
to us all your grace ac - cord; true faith and love to
all your saints, your glo - rious name; in par - a - dise our



soul and mind, that we the way to you may find.
sweet-est night that gave you birth, our soul's de - light.
us im - part, that we may hold you in our heart.
songs re - new, and praise you as the an - gels do.

Text: Hans A. Brorson, 1694–1764; tr. Harriet Krauth Spaeth, 1845–1925, alt.
Music: HER KOMMER DINE ARME SMÅ, Johann A. P. Schulz, 1747–1800

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*After each petition: "Lord in your mercy," the assembly responds **"Hear our prayer."***

The presiding minister concludes the prayers:

...trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

MEDITATION

Kevin Seal, pipe organ

Improvisation

BLESSING

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead

raise you to new life, fill you with hope,

and turn your mourning into dancing.

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless you now and forever.

Amen.



1 My heart is long - ing to praise my Sav - ior
 2 O bless - ed Je - sus, what you have giv - en,
 3 O Chris - tian friends, let our song as - cend - ing
 4 Soon we are home and shall stand be - fore him;



and glo - ri - fy his name in song and prayer;
 through dy - ing on the cross in bit - ter pain,
 give hon - or, praise to him who set us free!
 what mat - ter then that we have suf - fered here?



for he has shown me his won - drous fa - vor
 has filled my heart with the peace of heav - en;
 Our trib - u - la - tions may seem un - end - ing;
 Then he shall crown us, while we a - dore him;



and of - fered me all heav'n with him to share.
 my win - ter's gone, and spring is mine a - gain.
 but soon with him we shall for - ev - er be.
 so death and all our pains will dis - ap - pear.

- 5 To you, O Savior, our adoration
 shall rise forever for your precious blood
 which blotted out all the accusation
 of sin and guilt which once against us stood.
- 6 What blessed joy overflows my spirit,
 because your wondrous grace to me was giv'n!
 Complete your work, that I may inherit
 eternal life at last with you in heav'n!

Text: Princess Eugenie of Sweden; tr. Peter A. Sveeggen
 Music: PRINCESS EUGENIE, Norwegian folk tune

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Prelude, Op. 33
Fartein Valen (1887-1952)

Fartein Valen was an early 20th-century Norwegian composer. His music is polyphonic and employs a modified serial technique (serial music uses a series of pitches to create melody, often using all 12 tones of the chromatic scale before repeating any tone. It is atonal and polyphonic by nature). Valen studied with Max Bruch and extensively studies the works of Bach. He referred to his own music as "dissonant counterpoint". Unfortunately, the prevailing style in Norway during his life was best exemplified by Grieg: late-Romantic techniques and harmonies combined with the development of a Norwegian nationalist style. Because of this, Valen was shunned by the greater musical community of Norway and the vast majority of his works were performed only once or twice. While he did not receive any commissions during his life, when he was 48 he won a lifetime artistic grant from the Norwegian government, and this allowed him to return to his countryside home and compose as he wished for the remainder of his life. Valen wrote two works for organ (two more than most Norwegian composers of his day!), and this prelude from his Prelude and Fugue from 1936 is an excellent example of his style.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!