

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 2026

PRELUDE

“I Go to the Rock”

Darcy Christiansen and Praise Team

Gathering

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you
and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
(Silence is kept for reflection.)

Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.
We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not
loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us,
and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.
As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ,
and by his authority, I therefore declare to you
the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father,
and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN ELW #596 “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

- 1 My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
no merit of my own I claim,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

**Refrain: On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
 all other ground is sinking sand.**

- 2 When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in ev'ry high and stormy gale
my anchor holds within the veil. **To Refrain**
- 3 His oath, his covenant, his blood
sustain me in the raging flood;
when all supports are washed away,
he then is all my hope and stay. **To Refrain**
- 4 When he shall come with trumpet sound,
oh, may I then in him be found,
clothed in his righteousness alone,
redeemed to stand before the throne! **To Refrain**

GREETING

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.**

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 138

I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart;
before the gods I will sing your praise.

**I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name,
because of your steadfast love and faithfulness; for you have glorified
your name and your word above all things.**

When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.

**All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD,
when they have heard the words of your mouth.**

They will sing of the ways of the LORD, that great is the glory of the LORD.

The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly, perceiving the haughty from afar.

(continued)

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

You will make good your purpose for me; O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God our defender, **storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Redirect our attention, quiet our troubled souls, so that we may hear the strains of your mercy and in faith yield ourselves to your ways, enacting your word and deeds. Create in us courage to live as agents of your mercy. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Word

BIBLE READING Isaiah 51:1-6

BIBLE READING Romans 12:1-8

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW #172 (sing 2x) "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah"

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Hallelujah. Hallelujah. **(Repeat)**

GOSPEL Matthew 16:13-20

SERMON "Yielding to Christ's Spirit" Pastor Julie Brenden

HYMN OF DAY ELW #576 "We All Are One in Mission"

1 We all are one in mission;
 we all are one in call,
 our varied gifts united
 by Christ, the Lord of all.
 A single great commission
 compels us from above
 to plan and work together
 that all may know Christ's love.

- 2 We all are called for service,
to witness in God's name.
Our ministries are diff'rent;
our purpose is the same:
to touch the lives of others
with God's surprising grace,
so ev'ry folk and nation
may feel God's warm embrace.
- 3 Now let us be united,
and let our song be heard.
Now let us be a vessel
for God's redeeming Word.
We all are one in mission;
we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united
by Christ, the Lord of all.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

**the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need,
and all of God's creation.

Responses: Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask
in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING & HYMN “The Steadfast Love” (sing 2x)

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases
 His mercies never come to an end
 They are new every morning
 New every morning
 Great is Thy faithfulness O Lord
 Great is Thy faithfulness **(Repeat)**

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. **Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

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.**

Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN “Our God”

Verse 1

Water You turned into wine
 Opened the eyes of the blind
 There’s no one like You
 None like You

Verse 2

Into the darkness You shine
 Out of the ashes we rise
 There's no one like You
 None like You

Chorus

Our God is greater
Our God is stronger
God You are higher than any other
Our God is healer
Awesome in power our God our God

(REPEAT V 2 and chorus as below:)

Verse 2

Into the darkness You shine
 Out of the ashes we rise
 There's no one like You
 None like You ***(To Chorus Above)***

Bridge

And if our God is for us
 Then who could ever stop us
 And if our God is with us
 Then what could stand against
 And if our God is for us
 Then who could ever stop us
 And if our God is with us
 Then what could stand against
 (Then) what could stand against ***(To Chorus Above)***

DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

Thanks be to God.