



OUR WORSHIP SERVICE
AUGUST 23, 2026



THE KEYS
OF THE

kingdom
OF heaven

Matthew 16:19

american

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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volunteer

Select a Sunday.
Select a Role.

BE OF SERVICE.



OUR MISSION

We are people who worship Jesus Christ, reaching out to teach and share his love for people. We believe through the Holy Spirit, God has empowered us to worship Jesus Christ through music, Word and Sacrament; To Teach the gospel through Sunday School, confirmation, Bible Study and Youth Ministry. To share the gospel and reach out through Fellowship, Evangelism and Ministry to all in need.

JOIN US for Worship, Fellowship & Sunday School each week!

- * Worship begins @ 9 am * Fellowship @ 10 am
- * Sunday School @ 10 am (September - May)

Welcome to Worship

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

INTRODUCTION

In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Congregation, please stand)

***All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose compassion endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

Amen.

(Acolytes come forward to light the candles once the congregation has started to sing our gathering hymn.)

GATHERING HYMN

ELW #786 O Holy Spirit, Enter In

GREETING

With gratitude we come to give thanks to the Lord for God's boundless grace. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we extend the hand of friendship and love to all who have come.

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.**

KYRIE

pg. 203-204 (*Kyrie & Canticle of Praise*)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, **with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

(Congregation, please be seated)

FIRST READING

*Just as God had called
Abraham and Sarah
and given them many
descendants, so now God
offers comfort to Zion.
God's deliverance will
come soon and will never
end.*

Isaiah 51:1-6

¹ Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the Lord. Look to the rock from which you were hewn and to the quarry from which you were dug. ² Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah, who bore you, for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. ³ For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴ Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation, for a teaching will go out from me and my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵ I will bring near my deliverance swiftly; my salvation has gone out, and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. ⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens and look at the earth beneath, for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats, but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

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

PSALM

*O Lord, your steadfast
love endures forever.
(Psalm 138:8)*

Psalm 138

¹ I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I will sing your praise.

² 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.

³ When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.

⁴ All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O Lord, when they have heard the words of your mouth.

⁵ They will sing of the ways of the Lord, that great is the glory of the Lord.

(Psalm continued on page 5)

⁶The Lord is high, yet cares for the lowly, perceiving the haughty from afar.

⁷Though 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.

⁸You will make good your purpose for me; O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.

SECOND READING

In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by the time in which we live but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.

Romans 12:1-8

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ²Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

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

(Congregation, please stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

S205a



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL Matthew 16:13-20

At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **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.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Congregation, please be seated)

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #654 The Church's One Foundation

(Congregation, please stand)

THE APOSTLES' CREED

(text is printed in the back cover of the red hymnal)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Petitions end "Merciful God," Congregation responds, "receive our prayer."

SHARING THE PEACE

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

(Congregation, please be seated)

OFFERING

(Congregation, please stand)

OFFERTORY

ELW #186 Create in Me a Clean Heart

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923. Music copyright 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.

OFFERING PRAYER

Holy God, giver of all good things, receive the gifts we bring, fruit of the earth and the work of human hands, that they may be used to your purposes for life and love in the world. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

ELW #820 O Savior, Precious Savior

DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news! **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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