13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST **AUGUST 23, 2026**

GREETING
P: Gathered in Christ.
C: We serve with grace.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS
P: Blessed be the holy Trinity,☩ one God, whose compassion endures forever.
C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
C: 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.

P: 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.
C: Amen.

GATHERING SONG *"O Holy Spirit, Enter In"*..... #786

PRAYER OF THE DAY
C: 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.

FIRST READING: 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.
C: Thanks be to God.

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.
6 **The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly, perceiving the haughty from afar.**
7 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.
8 **You will make good your purpose for me;**
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever;
do not abandon the works of your hands.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 12: 1-8

1 I 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. 2 Do 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. 3 For 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. 4 For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, 5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. 6 We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; 7 ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; 8 the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. The word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

KIDS TALK

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
P: *Alleluia.*
C: You are the Messiah, the Son of the living. *Alleluia.*

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 16:13-20
The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 16th chapter.
C: Glory to you, O Lord.
13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples,
"Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" 14 And they said, "Some say John the
Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 He said
to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the
Messiah, the Son of the living God." 17 And 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. 18 And 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. 19 I 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." 20 Then he sternly ordered the disciples
not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. The gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *"The Church's One Foundation"* ..... #654

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

God, our rock, you are the foundation on which the church is built. Strengthen and encourage your faithful people everywhere they gather, that they boldly proclaim your word of life to all the world. Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

P: You spoke and all creation came into being. Field and forest, wetland and wilderness—all reveal your glory. Sustain and nourish your creation. Teach us to be wise stewards of all you have made. Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

P: You bring deliverance to nations and peoples. Come to the aid of nations experiencing war, conflict, disease, famine, and disaster. Guide the work of relief agencies and peacemaking organizations. Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

P: You regard the lowly and hear us when we cry out to you. Be present among all who struggle with addiction, housing insecurity, incarceration, and mental illness, that they know they are not alone. Hear our prayers for all in need this day (*especially*). Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

P: You draw together people with differing gifts. Lift up the many and varied gifts and talents of this congregation and strengthen the bonds of fellowship that all may be united as the body of Christ. Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

P: Your steadfast love endures forever. We give thanks for the faithful who died in the hope of this promise. Strengthen us in faith until the day we join them at your eternal banquet. Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

P: 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.
C: Amen.

PEACE
P: The peace of Christ be with you always.
C: And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY SONG "*GIVE THANKS*"
C: Give thanks with a grateful heart. Give thanks to the holy one. Give thanks

because He's given Jesus Christ His Son. And now let the weak say I am strong. Let the poor say I am rich; because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks. Give thanks.

OFFERING PRAYER
P: Loving God, we offer you our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can know your love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.
C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER
P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
C: 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
P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.
C: Amen.

SENDING SONG *"O Savior, Precious Savior"*..... #820

RINGING OF THE BELLS

SONG OF PEACE
C: My peace I give unto you. It's a peace that the world cannot give. It's a peace that the world cannot understand; peace to know; peace to live. My peace I give unto you.

DISMISSAL
P: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
C: Thanks be to God.