

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 27, 2023

9:00 am

Prelude

Welcome

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.

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

Merciful God, **we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

Righteous God, **we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of ✚ Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn ELW #786 "O Holy Spirit, Enter In"

- 1. O Holy Spirit, enter in, and in our hearts your work begin, and make our hearts your dwelling. Sun of the soul, O Light divine, around and in us brightly shine, your strength in us upwelling. In your radiance life from heaven now is given overflowing, gift of gifts beyond all knowing.**
- 2. Left to ourselves, we surely stray; oh, lead us on the narrow way, with wisest counsel guide us; and give us steadfastness, that we may follow you forever free, no matter who derides us. Gently heal those hearts now broken; give some token you are near us, who we trust to light and cheer us.**

3. O mighty Rock, O Source of life, let your good Word in doubt and strife be in us strongly burning, that we be faithful unto death and live in love and holy faith, from you true wisdom learning. Lord, your mercy on us shower; by your power Christ confessing, we will cherish all your blessing.

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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.

Readings and Psalm

First Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6

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.

¹Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness,
you that seek the LORD.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

²Look 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.

³For 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.

⁴Listen 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.

⁵I 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.

⁶Lift 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.

Psalm: Psalm 138

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

**²I 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.**

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

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

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

**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: Romans 12:1-8

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.

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, 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 exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God. *Alleluia.* (Matt. 16:16)

The Holy Gospel according to the book of Matthew, beginning with the Sixteenth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.

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 our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day ELW #597 "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 eve'ry high and stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil. 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. 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.**

Refrain

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Apostle's 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.**

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Offering

Offering Hymn ELW #812 "Faith of Our Fathers" (1st verse)

- 1. Faith of our fathers, living still in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword. Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy whene'er we hear that glorious word.**

Refrain: **Faith of our fathers, holy faith, we will be true to thee till death.**

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Offering Prayer

God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

Lord's Prayer

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

The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed ✚ bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn 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 different; our purpose is the same; to touch the lives of others with God's surprising grace, so every 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 in call, our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.

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Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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