

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
August 23rd, 2026 – Thirteenth Sunday of Pentecost
Pastor Stephanie Newman

Welcome / Announcements

Prelude

John Joannette

GATHERING *(Please Stand)*

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.

P: 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." People of God, hear the good news: In the name of God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are indeed forgiven. Rest in God's love.

C; Amen.

The Peace

P: The peace of Christ knows no stanger

C: We share that peace with one another.

Gathering Hymn

"God's Work, Our Hands"

ACS 1000 (Vs.1-3)

The Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: 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.

C: Amen

Cross-Gen Song

"God Welcomes All"

ACS 978 (twice)

Cross-Generation Message

WORD

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.

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. 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. 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.

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. 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. 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.

A: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 138

The Psalm will be read responsively

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

C: 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.

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

C: All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O Lord, when they have heard the words¹ of your mouth.

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

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

A: 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.

C: 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

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.

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. 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.

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. For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

A: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

The congregation will please stand as able & comfortable

Gospel Verse

"Halle, Halle, Hallelujah"
(Lights off after Gospel Verse)

ELW 172

The Gospel

P: The Holy Gospel according to: **Matthew 16:13-20**

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." 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. 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. 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." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The Congregation will please be seated

The Sermon

Pastor Stephanie Newman

*The Congregation will please stand as able
(Lights on after Sermon)*

Hymn of the Day

"Take My Life, That I May Be"

ELW 583 (Vs.1-4)

** Pass Info Slips to Side Aisle and Prayer cards to the inside aisle*

Apostles Creed

A: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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 into hell. 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 the People

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

A brief silence.

A: 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.

A: 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.

A: 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.

A: 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.

A: 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.

A: We bring now the prayers sitting quietly in our hearts, and the ones we need to speak aloud.

(pause)

C: receive our prayer.

A: 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.

Here other intercessions may be offered

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.

Offering

Special Music

Offertory

“As the Grains of Wheat”

Tracy Hoffman

ELW 465 (refrain only)

Offering Prayer

P: Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

Amen.

Communion

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and grave, by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way to everlasting life. And so, with the church on earth, the hosts of heaven, and all creation that sings of your glory, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

“Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!”

ELW 413 (Vs.1)

Invitation to the Table

P: This table is a place where the hungry are fed, the weary find rest, the broken discover healing, and sinners receive grace.

C: We do not come because we have earned a place here. We come because Jesus has invited us.

P: So come with your joys and your burdens, your questions and your confidence, your faith and even your doubts. Come just as you are, trusting that Christ meets us here.

C: Here, ordinary bread becomes a holy promise. Here, an ordinary cup becomes extraordinary grace.

Here, we are reminded that before we are anything else, we are God's beloved.

On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

"Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

"This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and trust Christ's promise to come again.

This is Christ's feast of grace. Come, for all is prepared.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, and with Christians throughout every time and place, let us pray as our Savior taught us:

The 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.

Invitation to Communion

P: This is the table of grace. Come, share in the abundance!

(Please be seated)

Lamb of God

"Now Behold the Lamb"

ELW 341 (Vs.1)

Communion Distribution

Communion Hymns

"O Jesus, I have promised"

ELW 810 (1-4)

"Soul Adorn Yourself"

ELW 488 (1-4)

"I Am the Bread of Life"

ELW 485 (1-5)

"All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly"

ELW 461 (1-3)

Prayer after Communion

P: Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with
The abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share
Your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

C: Amen.

(The Congregation will please stand as able and comfortable)

Pastor's Blessing

Blessing

P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and
always.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn

"Lift High The Cross"

ELW 660 (Vs.1-4)

Dismissal

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

C: Thanks be to God.