

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Aug 23, 2026

WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Out of respect and in the spirit of truth, we acknowledge that we gather in community on land which is Treaty 7 territory and the traditional territory of the Blackfoot people of the Canadian Plains. We honour the Blackfoot people past, present and future, and the Metis Nation of Alberta, Region III. May our actions and choices demonstrate open hearts, kindness, and compassion towards all who call this place home.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Church Campout – Aug 23-25 at Park Lake.

Neighborhood BBQ – Saturday, September 5th at 5 pm

INTRODUCTION

Midwives. A new mother. A pre-teen girl. Pharaoh's daughter. A carpenter's son. A group of fishermen. In today's texts, these are precisely the people who use the power available to them to act for life and goodness in the face of oppression.

During the time of the Israelites' captivity in Egypt, four women all choose to defy the orders of a death-dealing Pharaoh, ensuring that Moses' life is preserved. In today's gospel Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's mercy and God's word of reconciliation are keys to the church's mission.

We take a moment to center our hearts and minds for worship.

GATHERING

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

"Be Still" ACS 1083

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am God.

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.

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.

"Faithful One"

Vocals

The musical score is written for a vocal part in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is accompanied by a piano accompaniment consisting of chords and single notes. The lyrics are written below the staff, with some words hyphenated across lines. The score includes measure numbers 5, 9, 14, 19, 22, 26, 30, 35, 42, and 47. There are two endings for the final phrase: a first ending (marked '1.') and a second ending (marked '2.').

Faith - ful One so un - chang - ing.

Age - less One You're my rock of peace.

Lord of all I de - pend on You, I call out to

You a - gain and a - gain. I call out to You

a - gain and a - gain. You are my

rock in times of trou - ble. You lift me

up when I fall down. All through the storm

Your love is the an - - - chor, my

hope is in You a - lone. lone.

Your love is the an - - - chor, my

hope is in You a - lone.

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

It is our delight to pray. 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: Exodus 1:8-2:10

The brave Hebrew midwives defied Pharaoh to save many infants from death. When the mother of Moses placed him in a basket in the Nile, the daughter of Pharaoh found him, adopted him, and raised him. Moses' sister and mother also played crucial roles in this drama.

A reading from Exodus.

Now a new king arose over Egypt who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians subjected the Israelites to hard servitude and made their lives bitter with hard servitude in mortar and bricks and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live." But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this and allowed the boys to live?" The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." So God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live."

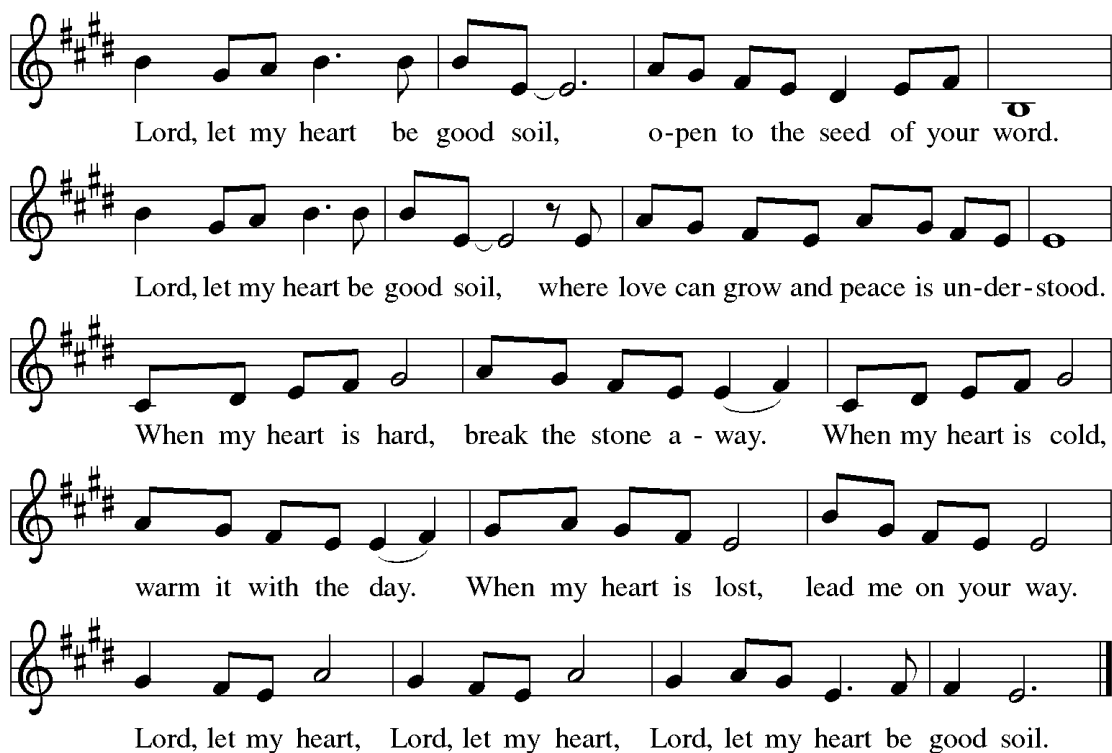
Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

For the word of God in scripture,
for the word of God among us,
for the word of God within us,
Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – "Lord, Let My Heart be Good Soil" WOV 713 (sing once)



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Today's gospel and sermon have been prepared and shared by Deacon Michelle Collins, Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario Synod.

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON VIDEO

HYMN OF THE DAY "The Church's One Foundation" ELW 654 v 1-2, 4-5



The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,

Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,



she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:

she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.



From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,

till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
Oh, bless - ed heav'n-ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,



with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.

and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

SHARING THE PEACE

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (WITH SONG)

Jesus said, “Come to me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens” – and so trusting that Jesus’ arms are always open to us and to the cares we bring to God, we pray together . . .

“Come, Bring Your Burdens to God” ACS 1009

Wo - za nom - thwa - lo wa - kho; wo - za nom -
Come, bring your bur - dens to God; come, bring your

thwa - lo wa - kho; wo - za nom - thwa - lo wa - kho, U -
bur - dens to God; come, bring your bur - dens to God, for

ye - s'a - ka - so - za - thi hayi.
Je - sus will nev - er say no.

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

You spoke and all creation came into being. Field and forest, wetland and wilderness—all reveal your glory. Sustain and nourish your creation. Restore areas damaged by fires, excessive wind and rain, or earthquakes. Teach us to be wise stewards of all you have made.

**Come, bring your burdens to God; come, bring your burdens to God;
Come, bring your burdens to God, for Jesus will never say no.**

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. Let truth and justice prevail.

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 for Don and Carol, Arne, Kate, Janet D, Dave, Austin, Tiffany, Patrick, Linda H, Carol, Murray, Shirley J., Isobel, Mo, Jim N., Clayton P, Marlene and Darcy, Doreen, Clayton and Margaret, Sheila, Ray, Nancy, Alan T, Cherylee, Elda and those we name silently now . . . [silence].

**Come, bring your burdens to God; come, bring your burdens to God;
Come, bring your burdens to God, for Jesus will never say no.**

You, O God, 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. Bless the Soup Kitchen volunteers and those they serve. Hold in your care Cliff and Pat Weir and Joan Ailsby as well as Pastor Joel, Vanesa and Hans.

We pray for all who are grieving the loss of loved ones or property. Reassure them that they are not alone. 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.

**Come, bring your burdens to God; come, bring your burdens to God;
Come, bring your burdens to God, for Jesus will never say no.**

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.**

MEAL

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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 the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

"Holy, Holy, Holy" ELW Setting 6 – *piano, bass, guitar (if chords are available), cajon*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,

heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and 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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit,
that by this Holy Communion we may know
the unity we share with all your people
in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen**

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

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

*Together let us take and eat, the body of Christ given for you
Together let us take and drink, the blood of Christ shed for you*

COMMUNION SONGS

Video Contemplation: Psalm 36

"All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly" ELW 461



1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad-ly; ho-ly man-na is our bread.
2 All who hun-ger, nev-er strang-ers; seek-er, be a wel-come guest.
3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er, Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.



Come from wil-der-ness and wan - d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.
Come from rest-less-ness and roam-ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.
Come from lone-li-ness and long-ing. Here in peace we have been fed.



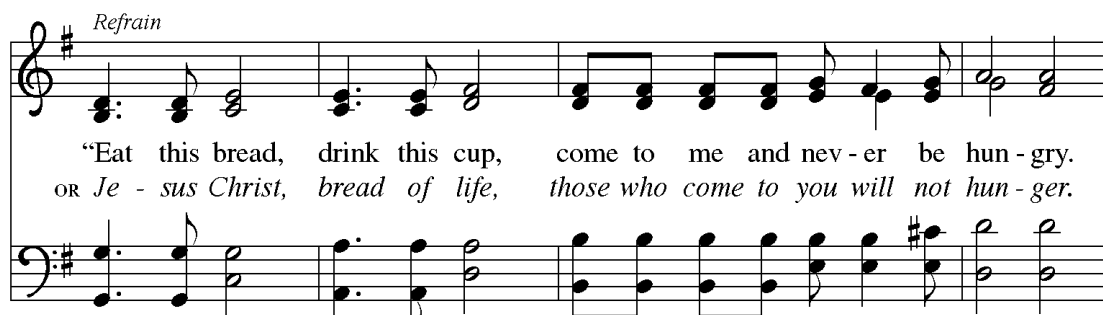
You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a-round us is our food.
We that once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.
Blest are those who from this ta-ble live their days in grat-i-tude.



Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

"Eat This Bread" ELW 472

Refrain



“Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry.
OR Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun - ger.



Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.”
Je - sus Christ, ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received this meal may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: Pour out your Spirit on all who share your word and sacrament with those who are sick or homebound. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

Almighty God,
Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG "We Will Go Out with Joy" v 1

C
Leader

1 We will go out with joy in the Spir-it; we will go out with God.

C
All

We will go out with joy in the Spir-it; we will go out with God.

Refrain

Al - le - lu - ia! We will go out with joy.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

to Stanzas

SENDING

Go in peace, for Christ is with you.
Amen. Thanks be to God!

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