

August 16, 2026 +Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

We are called to let our light shine as instruments of the Holy Spirit so all may know God's love.

The Good Book – G is for Growing Up

Call to Worship

Come. Wrestle with God, who receives us and welcomes us just as we are.

Come, let us worship!

Come. Look around with questions, look around with wonder.

Come, let us worship!

Come. God calls us into renewed relationships with one another.

Come, let us worship!

Come. God invites us into new beginnings.

Come, let us worship!

Confession and Forgiveness

Gathered into one by God's Spirit, we are bold to confess our sins, our shortcomings, our failures, right here in the presence of God and of one another.

God of grace, **We confess that we have failed you, ourselves, and one another. We assume the worst about those around us, rather than giving them the benefit of the doubt. We do the same to ourselves, and sometimes we do the same to you. We are stubborn and determined to hold a grudge. We fail to exercise our imaginations. We fail to recognize your works waiting to be born. If only we would step up to help. If only we would move out of the way. Forgive us, O God, and show us another way forward. Amen.**

Hear the good news of the risen Christ: God is making all things new! Our sins are forgiven. God's invitation is to another way of living.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

Opening Hymn

"Praise & Thanksgiving"

1. Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer for all things living, you have made good: harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard, hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.
2. God, bless the labor we bring to serve you, that with our neighbor we may be fed. Sowing or tilling, we would work with you, harvesting, milling for daily bread.

3. Father, providing food for your children, by Wisdom's guiding teach us to share one with another, so that, rejoicing with us, all others may know your care.

4. Then will your blessing reach every people, freely confessing your gracious hand. Where you are reigning, no one will hunger; your love sustaining showers the land.

Greeting

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.**

Prayer of the Day

O God, **you know our whole selves – small, and grown, and everything in between. Help us to remember that you are always calling us to be ever more our full selves, your good creation made manifest in the world. Amen.**

Psalm 122

I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'

Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together.

To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord.

For there the thrones for judgement were set up, the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: 'May they prosper who love you.

Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers.'

For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, 'Peace be within you.'

For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.

Reading - G is for Growing Up Luke 2: 40-52

Before: The Bible is full of GOOD NEWS!

We're listening, tell us our story.

After: Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Message

Message

Pastor Liz Rossing

Hymn of the Day

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

1. Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee;
may I still thy goodness prove.

2. Here I raise my Ebenezer:
"Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

3. Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

God of grace, hear our prayer.

Offering & Giving Prayer

God of abundance beyond measure, **It feels like privilege to offer back to you even a portion of the blessings you have poured out upon us. Keep us mindful of what we call our own, seeking new ways to come alongside you in the creation of abundance for the world. Amen.**

Holy Communion

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 and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks...

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

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

Communion Hymn "Lamb of God"

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Prayer after Communion

O God, you have fed us with bread of the new creation, wine of new promises for tomorrow.

May this meal strengthen us to be your strong and steady hands in the world, reaching always for more connection with one another and with you, Amen.

Announcements

Blessing

May we delight in the grace and forgiveness of Jesus, inviting us again and again to repentance and repair. May we recognize new birth all around, the spirit of God made manifest in abundant imagination. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn “Here I Am Lord”

1. “I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save. I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?”

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. It is I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

2. “I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people’s pain. I have wept for love of them. They turn away, I will break thier hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone. I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?”

Refrain

3. “I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame, I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?”

Refrain

Dismissal

Go now in peace, Love your God, Serve your neighbor. **Thanks be to God.**