

August 23, 2026 +Thirteenth 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 – *W* is for *Walking on Water*

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 "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

1. Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee; let the water and the blood, from thy riven side which flowed, be of sin the double cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

2. Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law's demands; could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow, all for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.

3. Nothing in my hand I bring; simply to thy cross I cling. Naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace; foul, I to the foundation fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.

4. While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyelids close in death, when I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne, Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

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 our defender, **storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Psalms 69: 13-18

But as for me, my prayer is to you, O LORD. At an acceptable time, O God, in the abundance of your steadfast love, answer me. With your faithful help **rescue me from sinking in the mire; let me be delivered from my enemies and from the deep waters.**

Do not let the flood sweep over me, or the deep swallow me up, or the Pit close its mouth over me. **Answer me, O LORD, for your steadfast love is good; according to your abundant mercy, turn to me.**

Do not hide your face from your servant, for I am in distress—make haste to answer me.

Draw near to me, redeem me, set me free because of my enemies.

Reading – *W* is for *Walking on Water* – Matthew 14: 22-33

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

“My Life Flows On in Endless Song”

1. My Life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation, I catch the sweet, though far off hymn that hails a new creation.

Refrain

No storm can shake my in most calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.

Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

2. Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing. It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing? *Refrain*

3. What though my joys and comforts die? The Lord my Savior liveth. What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he giveth. *Refrain*

4. The peace of Christ makes fresh my hear, a fountain ever springing! All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing? *Refrain*

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.

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

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 “How Great Thou Art”

1. O Lord my god, when I in awesome wonder consider all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder, thy pow'r through out the universe displayed:

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee, how great thou art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee, how great thou art! How great thou art.

2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander, I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees: when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze: *Refrain*

3. But when I think that God, his Son not sparing, sent him to die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my burden gladly bearing he bled and died to take away my sin: *Refrain*

4. When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation, and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in humble adoration and there proclaim, “My God, how great thou art!” *Refrain*

Dismissal

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