

Pastor's Bible Class

August 23, 2026

The Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost – Proper 16

#575 “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

1 My hope is built on noth - ing less Than Je - sus'
2 When dark - ness veils His love - ly face, I rest on
3 His oath, His cov - e - nant and blood Sup - port me
4 When He shall come with trum - pet sound, Oh, may I

blood and righ - teous - ness; No mer - it of my
His un - chang - ing grace; In ev - 'ry high and
in the rag - ing flood; When ev - 'ry earth - ly
then in Him be found, Clothed in His righ - teous -

own I claim But whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
storm - y gale My an - chor holds with - in the veil.
prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.
ness a - lone, Re - deemed to stand be - fore His throne!

Refrain

On Christ, the sol-id rock, I stand; All oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.

Read Isaiah 51:1-6

1. “Rock” language shows up in both of our readings. From what “rock” does Isaiah tell his readers they were hewn?
2. What does Scripture teach us about this “rock” from which God’s chosen people were brought forth? See Hebrews 11:8-12.
3. Read I Corinthians 1:27-28. How are these words reflected in Isaiah 51:2-3?
4. In verse 4, God says, “my justice will become a light to the nations” and in verse 5, “My righteousness draws near speedily...” To what is He referring, and what will the results of God’s justice and righteousness be?

Read Matthew 16:13-20

5. What is the focus of Jesus' question in verse 13?
6. Who responds to the question and what answers are given? See Matthew 14:2 and 17:10.
7. How does Jesus' second question differ from His first?
8. What is the significance of Peter's answer? See John 1:41 and John 4:25.
9. What does Jesus' response in verse 17 tell us about Peter's (and our) confession of faith? See Galatians 1:11-24.

10. In verse 18, Jesus says, "You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church." In Greek, this verse reads, "You are **Peter (Petros)** and on this **rock (petra)** I will build my church." About this verse, Isidore of Seville, (a bishop of the Church of Rome, 602-636 A.D.), in a writing called Etymologies wrote:

"Petros got his name from petra, that is from Christ, upon Whom the Church is founded. For petra is not derived from petros, but petros from petra, just as Christ is not derived from Christian, but vice versa, and in keeping with this the Lord said: 'You are petros, and upon this petra I will build my church' because Petros had said: 'You are Christ, the Son of the living God.' Then the Lord said to him 'Upon this petra, which you have confessed 'I will build my church. ' For petra was Christ, upon which foundation also Peter himself was built."

What is the rock on which the Church is built? See Matthew 7:24-25; Romans 9:33; I Corinthians 10:4 and Ephesians 2:20.

11. What gift does Jesus promise in verse 19? To whom is this gift given? See Matthew 18:18 and John 20:22-23.

Devotional Thought from "The Lutheran Study Bible"

Peter's confession of Jesus as the Messiah and the Son of God was a key event in Jesus' ministry. To confess Jesus as Savior and Lord is also essential in every believer's life. Some Christians will remember the very moment this first happened. Other Christians, baptized in infancy, have made this confession again and again in daily life. Like Peter, none of us can by our own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, but the Holy Spirit has called us by the Gospel and as royal priests of God we, "proclaim the excellencies of Him who called us out of darkness and into His marvelous light" (TLSB, 1614).

Prayer

Grant us grace, Heavenly Father, to confess Jesus and so remain on the unshakable rock of our salvation. Amen.