

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 23, 2026

PREPARATION FOR THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Because Holy Communion is an expression of our oneness in faith, we request that each person desiring to commune with us examine him/herself on the basis of these points of faith:

I believe that:

- + I am a sinner in need of God’s forgiveness.
- + Jesus Christ is my only Lord and Savior from sin, Satan and death.
- + Jesus Christ is really present in the Sacrament, and
- + The bread and wine I receive are also the true Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.
- + All my sins are forgiven through this Sacrament.
- + As God enables me, I pledge to thank, praise, serve and obey Him.

Those who hold in common these teachings are invited to join us at the Lord’s Supper. If you are visiting us for the first time, or have questions or reservations about these points of faith, we invite you to speak with the Pastor before the service.

The lighter colored wine is non-alcoholic for those with special needs. Gluten-free wafers are also available on the small table as you approach the railing.

Hymns during Distribution — Please join in singing:

- “Your Table I Approach” #628
- Special Music
- “Holy God, We Praise Thy Name” #940

Nunc Dimittis p199

Post-Communion Collect p200

THE BENEDICTION

THE CLOSING HYMN — “Onward, Christian Soldiers” #662

THE POSTLUDE

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***WELCOME!** In our Old Testament reading today, the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. In the Gospel reading, Jesus declares that the Church will be built on the rock of St. Peter’s bold confession of faith. God’s word of reconciliation and God’s mercy are keys to the Church’s mission. St. Paul urges us not to be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as living sacrifices, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. God bless us in our worship of Him today!*

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THE PRESERVICE MUSIC AND PRELUDE

THE RINGING OF THE BELL AND PASTORAL GREETING

✠ THE PREPARATION ✠

THE OPENING HYMN – “Built on the Rock” vs. 1-3 #645

THE INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION (taken from D.S. III—p 184)

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: Who made heaven and earth. Psalm 124:8

P: I said, I will confess my transgression unto the Lord,

C: And You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Psalm 32:5

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

THE KYRIE and GLORIA IN EXCELSIS p 186

C: ♪ Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

P: ♪ Glory be to God on high:

C: ♪ And on earth peace, goodwill toward men....

(The rest of the Gloria is printed on the screens.)

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY p 189

P: The Lord be with you.
C: **And also with you.**
P: Let us pray.
Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess Him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C: **Amen.**

✠ THE WORD ✠

THE FIRST READING — Isaiah 51:1-6, ESV Pew Bibles p727
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, that I might bless him and multiply him. For the Lord comforts Zion; he comforts all her waste places and makes 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.

“Give attention to me, my people, and give ear to me, my nation; for a law will go out from me, and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples. My righteousness draws near, my salvation has gone out, and my arms will judge the peoples; the coastlands hope for me, and for my arm they wait. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and they who dwell in it will die in like manner; but my salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will never be dismayed.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE READING — Romans 11:33-12:8, ESV Pew Bibles p 1126
[St. Paul wrote:] Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!
“For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?”
“Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?”
For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.
I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing 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 himself more highly than he 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 the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who

teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.
L: This is the Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL ALLELUIAS p 190
♪ Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

THE HOLY GOSPEL READING — Matthew 16:13-20, ESV Pew Bibles p977
P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixteenth chapter.
C: **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, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE APOSTLES’ CREED p192

THE SERMON HYMN –“The Church’s One Foundation” vs. 1-3 #644

THE SERMON ✠ THE RESPONSE ✠

THE HYMN OF RESPONSE–“The Church’s One Foundation” v. 4-5 #644

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE AND TIME OF FELLOWSHIP

THE GATHERING OF OUR OFFERINGS- #784
“Take My Life and Let It Be”

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD’S PRAYER (10:00)

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION (8:00) (Please see back page to prepare.)
Preface and Sanctus p194
Lord’s Prayer p196
Words of Institution and Pax Domini p197
Agnus Dei p198