

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 2026



You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.

Jesus asked, "Who do you say I am?" It's the most important question in the world, because it is a question every human being must answer. The expected answer may be dead wrong. Some in Jesus' day thought he was John the Baptist. Some thought he was the prophet Elijah who had come back from the dead. Today plenty of people believe that Jesus existed. They think that Jesus was a wise teacher or a role model for love. Both answers are expected, yet both miss the main point.

Jesus is a real human being, the Son of Man. He is also Lord and Savior, the Son of the living God. This unexpected truth is the core of saving faith.

Hymn #856

Built on the Rock

Please stand for the last verse.



1 Built on the Rock the Church shall stand e - ven when
 2 Sure - ly in tem - ples made with hands God, the Most
 3 We are God's house of liv - ing stones, built for his
 4 Here stands the font be - fore our eyes, tell - ing how
 5 Grant then, O God, your will be done, that, when the



stee - ples are fall - ing, Crum - bled have spires in
 High, is not dwell - ing; high a - bove earth his
 own hab - i - ta - tion. He through bap - tis - mal
 God has re - ceived us. Th' al - tar re - calls Christ's
 church bells are ring - ing, man - y in sav - ing



ev - 'ry land; bells still are chim - ing and call -
 tem - ple stands, all earth - ly tem - ples ex - cel -
 grace us owns heirs of his won - drous sal - va -
 sac - ri - fice and what the sac - ra - ment gives
 faith may come where Christ his mes - sage is bring -



ing, call - ing the young and old to rest,
 ling. Yet he who dwells in heav'n a - bove
 tion. Were we but two his name to tell,
 us. Here sound the Scrip - tures that pro - claim
 ing: "I know my own; my own know me.



but a - bove all the soul dis - tressed,
choos - es to live with us in love,
yet he would deign with us to dwell
Christ yes - ter - day, to - day, the same,
You, not the world, my face shall see.



long - ing for rest ev - er - last - ing.
mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.
with all his grace and his fa - vor.
and ev - er - more, our Re - deem - er.
My peace I leave with you. A - men."

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872, abr.; tr. Carl Döving, 1867–1937, alt. Tune: Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887

In the name of the Father and + of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,

and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,

according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Absolution

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Lord.

Christ, have mercy.

For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

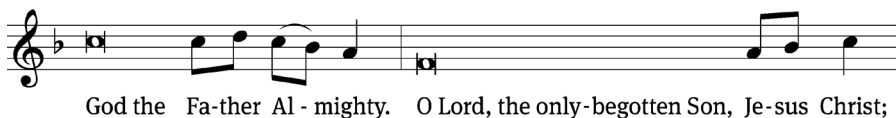
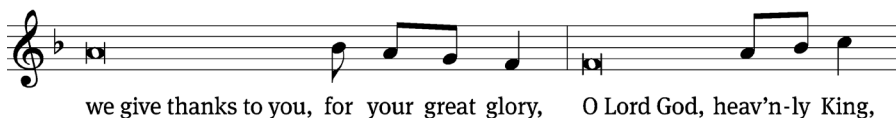
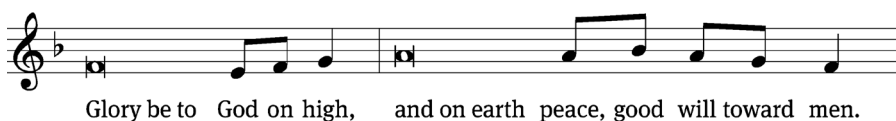
Lord, have mercy.

Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

Amen.

Glory Be to God

Gloria in Excelsis



have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.

You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.

For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the

Ho-ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

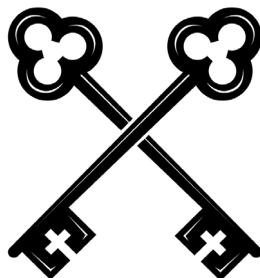
Prayer of the Day

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 your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated



First Reading

Exodus 34:5-9

The Lord identifies himself, and Moses acknowledges the Lord.

⁵Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD. ⁶And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, ⁷maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.”

⁸Moses bowed to the ground at once and worshiped. ⁹“Lord,” he said, “if I have found favor in your eyes, then let the Lord go with us. Although this is a stiff-necked people, forgive our wickedness and our sin, and take us as your inheritance.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 138A

Your Praises, God, I'm Bringing

The church sings Psalm 138 in services celebrating public confession that God is a gracious Savior. Such a confession is the basis for our praise.



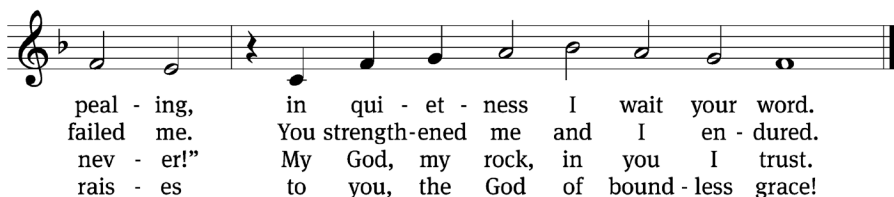
1 Your prais - es, God, I'm bring - ing; my heart with joy is
2 When deep - est need had felled me, your stead - fast love up -
3 Though you, O God, are ho - ly, yet you re - gard the
4 All peo - ples shall ac - claim you, and wor - ship - ing shall



sing - ing its thanks for gifts out - poured.
held me; my ur - gent prayer you heard.
low - ly and raise them from the dust.
name you the God of time and space.



Now, in your pres - ence kneel - ing, a - gain for grace ap -
When trou - ble sore as - sailed me, your mer - cy nev - er
Your prom - ise holds for - ev - er: “I will for - sake you
And I will join my prais - es with hymns the whole world



Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Tune: Heinrich Isaac Text: © 1997 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712325

Second Reading

Romans 10:5–13

Everyone who believes and confesses will be saved.

⁵Moses writes this about the righteousness that is by the law: “The person who does these things will live by them.” ⁶But the righteousness that is by faith says: “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷“or ‘Who will descend into the deep?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸But what does it say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: ⁹If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. ¹¹As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, ¹³for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

John 6:68

Refrain



Lord, to whom shall we go?
 You have the words of eternal life.

Refrain

Tune: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712325

Gospel

Matthew 16:13–20

Jesus sought, received, and blessed the confession of his disciples.

¹³When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

¹⁴They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

¹⁵“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

¹⁶Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

¹⁷Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

Hymn #563

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 right - eous - ness; I dare to make no
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 right - eous -



oth - er 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, fault - less to stand be - fore his throne.



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

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt. Tune: John Stainer, 1840–1901, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Romans 10:5-13

After the sermon, please stand for the creed.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Please be seated

Prayer of the Church

Offering

Living Hope is transitioning to a new giving platform. Online offerings may now be given at subsplash.com/u/-MV95PX/give.



Offerings are one way that our members support our gospel ministry. Visitors should feel no obligation to contribute.

Offering Prayer

Heavenly Father, send your Spirit into our hearts so that our offerings may always flow from faith that holds onto Jesus as our only Savior. Then bless the work that our offerings support so our congregation and our church body may faithfully proclaim Jesus as the world's only Savior.

Amen.

Hymn #581

Lord, 'Tis Not That I Did Choose You

The certainty of our hope cannot rest on our choice, our feelings, or our expectations of God. Our hope rests squarely on the Savior's choice who first loved us.



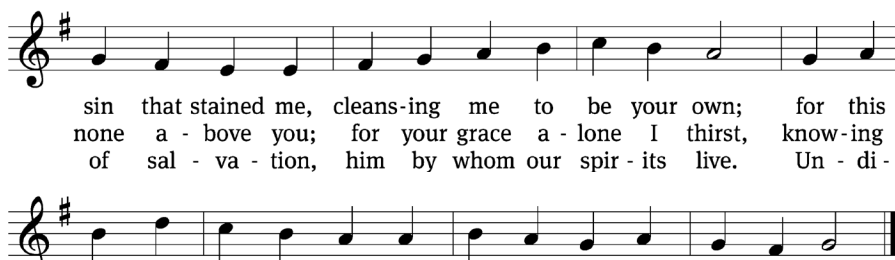
1 Lord, 'tis not that I did choose you; that, I know, could
2 It was grace in Christ that called me, taught my dark - ened
3 Praise the God of all cre - a - tion, praise the Fa - ther's



nev - er be, for this heart would still re - fuse you
heart and mind; else the world had yet en - thrall'd me,
bound - less love. Praise the Lamb, our ex - pi - a - tion,



had your grace not cho - sen me. You re - moved the
to your heav'n - ly glo - ries blind. Now I wor - ship
Priest and King en - throned a - bove. Praise the Spir - it



sin that stained me, cleans-ing me to be your own; for this
 none a - bove you; for your grace a - lone I thirst, know-ing
 of sal - va - tion, him by whom our spir - its live. Un - di -
 pur - pose you or - dained me, that I live for you a - lone.
 well that, if I love you, you, O Fa - ther, loved me first.
 vid - ed ad - o - ra - tion to the great Je - ho - vah give.

Text: Josiah Conder, 1789–1855, alt. Tune: Erbaulicher Musicalischer Christen-Schatz, Basel, 1745 Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand

The 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.

Prayer

Sovereign Lord, you give our hearts true rest. We praise you for placing
 the promise of forgiveness into the mouths of our pastors and our fellow
 Christians. We need no ladder to heaven to know our sins are taken away,
 only the word of forgiveness and peace from the cross and empty tomb of
 your Son. Preserve us in this faith, until we stand before you, clothed with
 the righteousness of Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor + and give you peace.

Amen.

Hymn #519

There Is a Redeemer



- 1 There is a Re - deem - er, Je - sus, God's own Son,
- 2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, name a - bove all names,
- 3 When I stand in glo - ry, I will see his face;



pre-cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, Ho - ly One.
pre-cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, hope_ for sin - ners slain.
there I'll serve my King for-ev - er in_ that ho - ly place.

Refrain



Thank you, O my Fa - ther, for giv-ing us your Son



and leav - ing your Spir - it till the work on earth is done.

Text: Melody Green, b. 1946 Tune: Melody Green, b. 1946, alt.

Text and tune: © 1982 Birdwing Music/Ears To Hear Music/Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publ., admin. CapitolCMGPublishing.com.

Used by permission: One License 2024 no. A-712325

Silent Prayer

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.

Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.

Serving in worship today & next Sunday

Musicians

Alex Rathje
Dave MacDonald

Ushers

Rob Neeley & Howard Lewis
Wyatt Saur & Brian Lacey

Acolyte

Ella Lacey
Lauren Nawrocki

Church Cleaning

Harrison/Lindemann
still needed

After-worship Snacks

Pahl Family
still needed

Livestream

Lacey Family
Saur Family

Offering Caretakers

Beverly Henley & Barbara Byrd
Donna Bosma & Morris Hayes

Mowing

Pastor Lindemann & Scott Swoboda
Pastor Seifert & Dave MacDonald

Assisted-living Leader

Ken Dunaway
Livestreamed

Please join us for refreshments after the service. We would love to get to know you better!

To our guests: Thank you for worshiping with us! We would appreciate the opportunity to connect with you. Please share your contact information with us by scanning the code with your phone or speaking with an usher in the back.



3903 Old Hundred Rd S
Midlothian, Virginia
LivingHopeWELS.com

God has given us new birth into a *Living Hope*.

- 1 Peter 1:3

Pastor Alex Lindemann
pastorlindemann@livinghopewels.com
cell: 507-429-8008

Pastor Michael Seifert
pastorseifert@livinghopewels.com
cell: 804-239-5206