

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 26-27, 2023



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Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*The Church God Wants—
A Church that Really Knows Jesus*

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship today. In our services we gather before our almighty God to receive his gifts and to offer him our worship and praise. Through God's powerful Word and sacraments he renews our faith and strengthens us to serve in joy.

THEME OF THE DAY: Jesus asked, "Who do you say that I am?" It is a question every person must answer. Some in Jesus' day thought he was John the Baptist or the prophet Elijah come back from the dead. Complimentary, but dead wrong.

Today plenty of people believe Jesus existed, believing he was a wise teacher or a role model for love. Complimentary, but dead wrong if that's all they believe. Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God, Savior of sinners. This truth is the core of saving faith. It is the central message God has called our church to proclaim. What does God want in a church? He wants a church that really knows Jesus.

OUR WORSHIP SERIES: "I want a church that..." Every individual would complete that sentence with their own interests, priorities, and preferences. From the size of the building to the style of worship to the color of the carpet! What do you want in a church? In this worship series, we see the error in that question. Jesus bought the Church with his blood - it belongs to Him. So the right question then is "what does God want in a church?" In these five weeks we see that what God wants in a healthy church might be a little different than many manmade lists. It's not about the outside or the activities - it's about the heart and about the Word. The rest is just details.

A WORD ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION: Our church observes the biblical practice of member communion (also called close communion). In Holy Communion we not only receive forgiveness from God, but we also express the unique relationship our members have with each other. If you are not a member of our congregation, we kindly ask that you not take communion today, but speak with our pastor after the service. We would love to share the sacrament with you in the future.

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Worship Leader: Pastor Ryan Wolfe

Keyboard: Madison Boerner

Vocalists: Carolyn Forster, Allison Dorn

Instrumentalists: Brian Shult, Luke Dorn

Order of Worship



HYMN: Ten Thousand Reasons

CW 607



Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;



wor-ship his ho - ly name. Sing like nev - er be-fore,



O my soul; I'll wor - ship your ho - ly name.



- 1 The sun comes up, it's a new day dawn - ing; —
- 2 You're rich in love, and you're slow to an - ger. Your
- 3 And on that day when my strength is fail - ing, the



7 it's time to sing your — song a - gain. What - ev - er may
name — is — great, and your heart is kind. For all — your
end — draws — near, and my time has come; 7 still — my



pass, — and what - ev - er lies be - fore me,
good - ness, I will keep — on — sing - ing—
soul will sing your praise — un - end - ing—



Refrain

let me be sing - ing when the eve - ning comes.
ten thou - sand rea - sons for my heart to find.
ten thou - sand years and then for - ev - er - more.

Please stand.

Minister: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: **And also with you.**

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS OF SINS

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

Hymn: *Christ Be My Leader*

CW 518



1 Christ be my lead - er by night as by day;
2 Christ be my teach - er in age as in youth,
3 Christ be my Sav - ior in calm as in strife;



safe through the dark - ness, for he is the way. —
drift - ing or doubt - ing, for he is the truth. —
death can - not hold me, for he is the life. Nor



Glad - ly I fol - low, my fu - ture his care, —
 Grant me to trust him; though shift - ing as sand, —
 dark - ness nor doubt - ing nor sin and its stain can



dark - ness is day - light when Je - sus is there.
 doubt can - not daunt me; in Je - sus I stand.
 touch my sal - va - tion: with Je - sus I reign.

THE WORD OF GOD

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

M: 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.

C: **Amen.**

Be seated.

First Reading

Exodus 34:5-9

God proclaimed to Moses what he was like. The Church's mission is to proclaim to the world who Christ is and what he is like.

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.”

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Romans 10:5-13

St. Paul teaches that those who know in their heart that Jesus is both Lord and Savior will be saved. They really know Jesus.

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.”

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20

The truth upon which God builds his Church is this: Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God.

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.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Children's Devotion

Hymn of the Day: In Christ Alone

CW 510



1 In Christ a - lone my hope is found; he is my
 2 In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, full - ness of
 3 There in the ground his bod - y lay, light of the
 4 No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the



light, my strength, my song; this cor - ner - stone, this sol - id
 God in help - less babe; this gift of love and right - eous -
 world by dark - ness slain; then burst - ing forth in glo - rious
 pow'r of Christ in me; from life's first cry to fi - nal



ground, firm through the fier - est drought and storm.
 ness, scorned by the ones he came to save.
 day, up from the grave he rose a - gain!
 breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti - ny.



What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are
 Till on that cross as Je - sus died, the wrath of
 And as he stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has
 No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man can ev - er



stilled, when striv-ings cease! My com-fort-er, my all in
 God was sat-is-fied; for ev-'ry sin on him was
 lost its grip on me; for I am his and he is
 pluck me from his hand; till he re- turns or calls me



all; here in the love of Christ I stand.
 laid; here in the death of Christ I live.
 mine, bought with the pre-cious blood of Christ.
 home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.



with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 and to one hope she press-es, with ev-'ry grace en-dued.
 a-gainst both foe and trai-tor she ev-er shall pre-vail.
 and soon the night of weep-ing shall be the morn of song.

Sermon

Based on Matthew 16:13-20

"Ours is a Church of Power and Promise"

Please stand after the sermon.

Confession of Faith—Luther's Small Catechism

M: *First: What is the Sacrament of Holy Communion?*

C: **It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ for us Christians to eat and to drink.**

M: *Where is this written?*

C: **The holy evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and the apostle Paul tell us: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."**

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: *Second: What blessing do we receive through this eating and drinking?*

C: **That is shown us by these words: “Given” and “poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins.” Through these words we receive forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation in this sacrament. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.**

Be seated.

Offering



Our members give offerings to support God’s work in our church. Offerings can be put in the basket or made online by scanning the code. Visitors may give, but aren’t expected to.

We ask members and visitors alike to fill out the connection card and place it in the basket now or as you leave. Please share your prayer requests that we can pray for you.



Please stand.

Prayer of the Church

Lord’s Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. The meal also bears witness to the unity and fellowship we share with each other. Therefore, we invite to communion all those who share in our confession by virtue of their membership here or in a sister WELS or ELS congregation. We ask visitors to speak to the pastor before communing.

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He sends the Holy Spirit to testify that we are his children and to strengthen us when we are weak. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever:

Holy, Holy, Holy



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -



va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my \dagger body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my \dagger blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; grant us your peace. A - men.

Be seated.

Communion Distribution

For those who cannot have any alcohol for personal or medical reasons we offer white grape juice. You will find cups of white grape juice in the center of each communion tray. Gluten-free wafers are available by request for those medically unable to tolerate gluten.

Communicants may choose to receive the wine by individual or common cup. If you choose the common cup, please allow the individual tray to pass and then assist the minister by helping to tip the common cup.

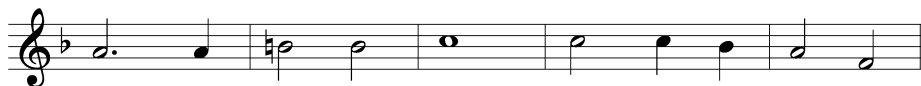


HYMN: Lord Jesus Christ, Our Savior-King

CW 899 sts. 1-4,7



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, our Sav - ior - King, to you our
2 Your Scrip-tures lead us to re - joice, for there we
3 Your Spir - it's call to faith we heard in wa - ter's
4 With sim - ple food of bread and wine you feed us
7 And then, at last, Lord, hear our prayer: gath - er your



high - est praise we sing for bless - ings to the
hear our Fa - ther's voice. His gra - cious prom - is -
wash - ing with the Word. Lord, keep us in bap -
with a feast di - vine. Your blood and bod - y
blood - bought chil - dren there where saints and an - gels



Church, your bride, with whom you ev - er - more a - bide.
es pro - claim for - give-ness in your ho - ly name.
tis - mal grace and make our hearts your dwell - ing place.
we par - take— our sins for - giv - en for your sake.
sing your praise, and we with them, thro' end - less days!

Please stand at the pastor's direction after the Supper.

THANKSGIVING

THANK THE LORD



C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Blessing

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

Hymn: Onward, Christian Soldiers

CW 869



1 On - ward, Chris - tian sol - diers, march - ing as to war,
2 Like a might - y ar - my moves the Church of God;
3 Crowns and thrones may per - ish, king - doms rise and wane,
4 On - ward, then, ye faith - ful, join our hap - py throng,



with the cross of Je - sus go - ing on be - fore.
broth - ers, we are tread - ing where the saints have trod.
but the Church of Je - sus con - stant will re - main.
blend with ours your voic - es in the tri - umph song:



Christ, the roy - al mas - ter, leads a - gainst the foe;
We are not di - vid - ed, all one bod - y we,
Gates of hell can nev - er 'gainst that Church pre - vail;
Glo - ry, laud, and hon - or un - to Christ the King;



for - ward in - to bat - tle see his ban - ners go!
one in hope and doc - trine, one in char - i - ty.
we have Christ's own prom - ise, and that can - not fail.
this through count - less a - ges saints and an - gels sing.



On - ward, Chris - tian sol - diers, march - ing as to war,



with the cross of Je - sus go - ing on be - fore.

Silent Prayer and Announcements

Acknowledgments

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Welcome to worship!

FOR OUR GUESTS

We are glad that you joined us to worship our Savior today. If you have questions about our church or service simply ask an usher or someone near you. We're happy to help. Please take note of a few helpful things:

- † **Restrooms** are located straight down the hall opposite the sanctuary entrance. Both men's and women's restrooms are equipped with **diaper changing tables** for your convenience.
- † Our sanctuary is equipped with an amplified "loop" system for **hearing assistance**. Please set hearing aids to the "T" position.
- † You will find a **connection card** in your pew. We ask members and guests to share their names and contact info, and invite you to share requests for contact or prayers.
- † Salem members give an **offering** to support the work we do for the Lord. Guests are not expected to give anything, but if you wish to make a donation you can place it in a basket as it's passed during the service or give online.

FOR THOSE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

We love to see families worship together and we welcome children to sing and pray and grow with us in our services. Please note these special worship aids and helps for families:

- † Children's bulletins & "*quiet bags*" for your child's use in worship are available in the entry, just to the left of the office hallway. Ask an usher if you need help finding them.
- † If your child needs to be nursed or quieted for a few moments you can use our "*cry room*" down the hallway across from the restrooms. The service is shown live on a TV in the room.
- † Sunday mornings, before the hymn of the day and sermon, children of all ages are invited to come to the front of church for a short devotion on God's Word. Parents may accompany their children as they wish.

Salem Lutheran Church exists to glorify God
by teaching his timeless Truth, that all may
grow in grace and faith to share tomorrow's eternity.

