

THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 23, 2026

“Living as a Living Sacrifice”

THE WELCOME

THE OPENING HYMN #842 *“Son of God, Eternal Savior”*



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and
2 As You, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, So may we for
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and



truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us
oth - ers live. Free - ly have Your gifts been grant - ed;
Prince of Peace; Hush the storm of strife and pas - sion,
truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us



Hal - lows all our hu - man race, You our Head, who, throned in
Free-ly may Your ser - vants give. Yours the gold and Yours the
Bid its cru - el dis - cords cease. By Your pa - tient years of
Hal - lows all our hu - man race: By Your pray - ing, by Your



glo - ry, For Your own will ev - er plead: Fill us with Your
sil - ver, Yours the wealth of land and sea; We but stew - ards
toil - ing, By Your si - lent hours of pain, Quench our fe - vered
will - ing That Your peo - ple should be one, Grant, O grant our



love and pit - y, Heal our wrongs, and help our need.
of Your boun - ty Held in sol - emn trust will be.
thirst of plea - sure, Stem our self - ish greed of gain.
hope's fru - i - tion: Here on earth Your will be done.

(please stand)

THE INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:19b, [18-20]*

C: Amen.

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Though the Lord is high,

C: He regards the lowly, but the proud He knows from afar.

Psalm 138:2, 6

P: Let us humble ourselves before the Lord and confess our sins.

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

P: Almighty God, merciful Father,

C: We humbly implore Your mercy and ask Your forgiveness. Our lives have not reflected the confession of our lips, and we have failed to marvel at the depth of the riches and wisdom of the knowledge of God. Instead of trusting You, we have relied on our own understanding. We have thought too highly of ourselves instead of presenting ourselves as offerings in gratefulness for Your mercy. Hear and forgive us for Jesus' sake, and fill us with the Holy Spirit that we may seek nothing but to know Your will and the strength to carry it out.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

THE PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 138 (NLT)

P: I thank You with all my heart. Before the false gods I sing to praise You and bow toward Your holy temple.

C: I will praise Your name because You are kind and faithful and have made Your name and Your promise greater than everything.

P: When I called, You answered me and made me bold and strong.

C: All the kings on earth will thank You, O Lord, when they hear the words of Your mouth.

P: They will sing of the Lord's ways that the Lord's glory is great.

C: The Lord is high above but He regards the lowly and knows a proud man from a distance.

P: Even though I live in the middle of trouble, You keep me alive.

C: You stretch out Your hand against my angry enemies, and Your right hand saves me.

P: The Lord accomplishes His purpose for me.

C: Your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.

Do not forsake the work of Your hands.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

(please be seated)

THE HYMN OF PRAISE #802 *"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"*



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 To all life Thou giv - est— to both great and small—
4 Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,

In light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
Nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, Thou rul - est in might;
In all life Thou liv - est, the true Life of all;
Thine an - gels a - dore Thee, all veil - ing their sight;

Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
Thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree
All laud we would ren - der: O help us to see

Al - might - y, vic - to - rious, Thy great name we praise.
Thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
And with - er and per - ish— but naught chang - es Thee.
'Tis on - ly the splen - dor of light that hides Thee.

THE SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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 OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 51:1-6 (ESV)

"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."

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE Romans 11:33-36, 12:1-8 (ESV)

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.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(please stand)

THE ALLELUIA VERSE *(tune: "Voices Raised to You We Offer")*

**Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Not to us, Lord, not to us;
But to Your name give all glo-ry For Your mer-cy and Your love.
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Faithful Lord, Immanuel!**

THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 16:13-20 (ESV)

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 son of 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

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

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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)

THE MEMORY VERSE *The 4th Commandment & What does this mean?*

from Luther's Small Catechism

Honor your father and your mother. *What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE HYMN OF THE DAY #848 *"Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service"*



1 Lord, whose love through hum-ble ser-vice Bore the weight of
 2 Still Your chil-dren wan-der home-less; Still the hun-gry
 3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi-sion, Till Your love's re-
 4 Called by wor-ship to Your ser-vice, Forth in Your dear

hu-man need, Who up-on the cross, for-sak-en,
 cry for bread; Still the cap-tives long for free-dom;
 veal-ing light In its height and depth and great-ness,
 name we go, To the child, the youth, the a-ged,

Of-fered mer-cy's per-fect deed, We, Your ser-vants, bring the
 Still in grief we mourn our dead. As, O Lord, Your deep com-
 Dawns up-on our quick-ened sight, Mak-ing known the needs and
 Love in liv-ing deeds to show; Hope and health, good-will and

wor-ship Not of voice a-lone, but heart, Con-se-
 pas-sion Healed the sick and freed the soul, Use the
 bur-dens Your com-pas-sion bids us bear, Stir-ring
 com-fort, Coun-sel, aid, and peace we give, That Your

crat-ing to Your pur-pose Ev-'ry gift that You im-part.
 love Your Spir-it kin-dles Still to save and make us whole.
 us to tire-less striv-ing, Your a-bun-dant life to share.
 ser-vants, Lord, in free-dom May Your mer-cy know and live.

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THE SERMON *"Living as a Living Sacrifice"* Text: Romans 11:33-36, 12:1-8

THE OFFERING HYMN *"Baptized into Your Name"* (#590, verse 4)

All that I am and love most dearly—Receive it all, O Lord, from me.

Let me confess my faith sincerely; Help me Your faithful child to be!

Let nothing that I am or own Serve any will but Yours alone.

(please stand)

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(Each petition concludes with the following response: "Lord, in Your mercy," **"hear our prayer."**)

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.

THE BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord lift up His countenance on and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE CLOSING HYMN #783 "Take My Life and Let It Be"



1 Take my life and let it be Con-se - crat - ed, Lord, to Thee;
2 Take my hands and let them move At the im - pulse of Thy love;
3 Take my voice and let me sing Al-ways, on - ly for my King;
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, Not a mite would I with - hold;



Take my mo-ments and my days, Let them flow in cease-less praise.
Take my feet and let them be Swift and beau - ti - ful for Thee.
Take my lips and let them be Filled with mes - sag - es from Thee.
Take my in - tel - lect and use Ev - 'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

**5 Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne.**

**6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.**

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS