

## APOSTLES' CREED

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Merciful God, receive our prayer.

... In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

## THE OFFERING

## COMMUNION

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## LORD'S PRAYER [TRADITIONAL]

## BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. Amen.

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.

## SENDING

## BENEDICTION

## HYMN #576 — *We All Are One in Mission*

## DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!  
Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE — Jill Sousek

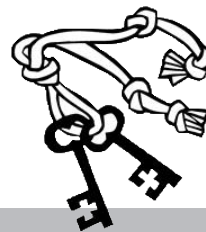


### ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



# 13th Sunday after Pentecost

AUGUST 23, 2026

## WELCOME TO ZION

## PRELUDE — Jill Sousek

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

*The sign of the cross ☩ may be made in remembrance of Baptism.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose compassion endures forever. Amen.

Let us confess our sins to God.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Compassionate God,  
we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy, and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love. Amen.

## HYMN #645 — *Christ is Made the Sure Foundation*

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## WORD

### FIRST READING — *Isaiah 51:1-6*

Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that 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 Abraham was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. For the Lord will comfort Zion, comfort all its waste places, and will make its wilderness like Eden, and its desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in Zion, thanksgiving and the voice of song. Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

### SECOND READING — *Romans 12:1-8*

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, 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 renewing of your minds, so that 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 yourself more

highly than you 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 parts, and not all the parts have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are parts one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### GOSPEL — *Matthew 16:13-20*

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, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” Jesus said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, 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 in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the dominion of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then Jesus sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

**THE SERMON — Pastor Scott Ludford**

**HYMN #623 — *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me***