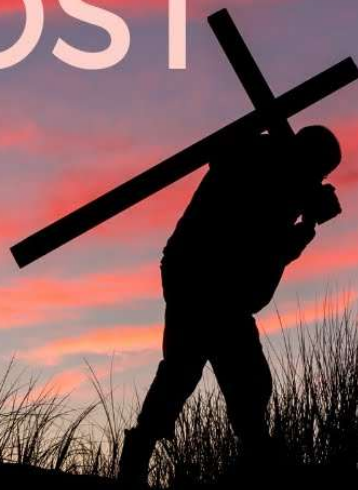
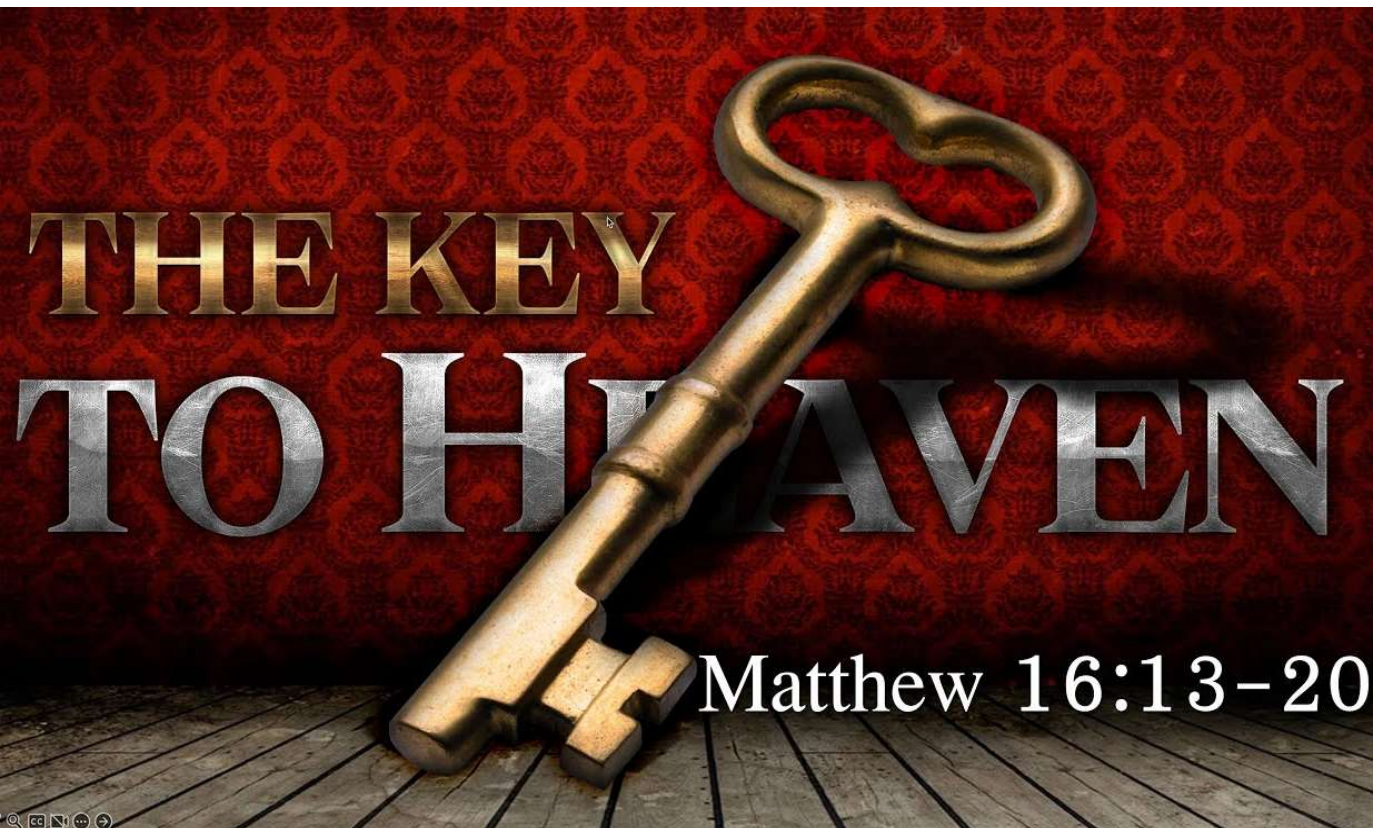


13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



***Welcome to
St. Paul Lutheran Church
Child Development Center and Pre-School***
Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley, D.R.S., Ph.D., Pastor

August 23, 2026



***Welcome to
St. Paul Lutheran Church
Child Development Center and Pre-School***
Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley, D.R.S., Ph.D., Pastor

om



The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.

Psalm 138:8

WELCOME

WE'RE GLAD YOU JOINED US



lcmc

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ

Organist Needed



We are looking for an organist to play during our
2nd and 4th service each month.
If interested, please contact Debbie Matthys at
(512)771-3914 · dkmatthys@gmail.com



PRAY FOR:

FAITHFUL WORKERS

God we pray for a desire to know you among the Rohingya people in the refugee camp. Raise up men and women of faith who will be your light there.

Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.

Revelation 15:4



PRAYER LEAGUE

prayerleague.org

INTRODUCTION

In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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.

Gathering Song

“My Life Flow On in Endless Song”

Hymn # 763

**¹ My life flows on in endless
song;
above earth's lamentation,
I catch the sweet, though far-
off hymn
that hails a new creation.**

Hymn # 763

[Refrain]

[Refrain]

**No storm can shake my inmost
calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.**

Hymn # 763

**Since Christ is Lord of heaven
and earth,
how can I keep from singing?**

Hymn # 763

**2 Through all the tumult and
the strife,
I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing?
[Refrain]**

Hymn # 763

[Refrain]

**No storm can shake my inmost
calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.**

Hymn # 763

**Since Christ is Lord of heaven
and earth,
how can I keep from singing?**

Hymn # 763

**3 What though my joys and
comforts die?**

The Lord my Savior liveth.

**What though the darkness
gather round?**

Songs in the night he giveth.

Hymn # 763

[Refrain]

[Refrain]

**No storm can shake my inmost
calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.**

Hymn # 763

**Since Christ is Lord of heaven
and earth,
how can I keep from singing?**

Hymn # 763

Final The peace of Christ

makes fresh my heart,

a fountain ever springing!

**All things are mine since I am
his!**

How can I keep from singing?

[Refrain]

Hymn # 763

[Refrain]

**No storm can shake my inmost
calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.**

Hymn # 763

**Since Christ is Lord of heaven
and earth,
how can I keep from singing?**

Hymn # 763

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.

Kyrie

Kyrie eleison

Lord, have mercy.

Christe eleison

Christ, have mercy.

Kyrie eleison

Lord, have mercy.

Glory To God

*Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to God in the highest,
glory to God, glory to God,
and peace to God's people on
earth.*

*Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you
thanks, we praise you for your
glory.
[Refrain]*

[Refrain]

*Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to God in the highest,
glory to God, glory to God,
and peace to God's people on
earth.*

*Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the
Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us; you are seated
at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.*

[Refrain]

[Refrain]

*Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to God in the highest,
glory to God, glory to God,
and peace to God's people on
earth.*

*For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord
you alone are the Most High, Jesus
Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the
glory of God the Father. Amen.*

[Refrain]

[Refrain]

*Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to God in the highest,
glory to God, glory to God,
and peace to God's people on
earth, and peace to God's people
on earth.*

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray

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

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.

¹ 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.

² Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah, who bore you, for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many.

³ For the LORD will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places and will make 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.

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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.

⁶ 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 138

O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever. (Ps. 138:8)

¹ I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart;

before the gods I will sing your praise.

² **I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness; for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.**

³ When I called, you answered me;
you increased my strength within me.

⁴ **All the rulers of the earth will praise you,
O LORD,
when they have heard the words of your
mouth.**

⁵ They will sing of the ways of the LORD,
that great is the glory of the LORD.

⁶ **The LORD is high, yet cares for the
lowly,
perceiving the haughty from afar.**

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;

you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

⁸ **You will make good your purpose for me;
O LORD, your steadfast love endures
forever; do not abandon the works of
your hands.**

SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-8

In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by the time in which we live but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³ 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. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.

⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith;
⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching;
⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

Alleluia.

You have the words of eternal Life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to
Matthew 16:13-20

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20

At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

¹⁷ 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.

¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.



Sermon

Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley



Hymn of the Day

“The Church’s One Foundation”

Hymn # 654

**¹ The church's one foundation is
Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation by water
and the word.**

Hymn # 654

**From heav'n he came and sought
her to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.**

Hymn # 654

**2 Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one
o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation one Lord,
one faith, one birth:**

Hymn # 654

**one holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses with
ev'ry grace endued.**

Hymn # 654

**3 Though with a scornful wonder
this world sees her oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder, by
heresies distressed,**

Hymn # 654

**yet saints their watch are keeping;
their cry goes up: “How long?”
and soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.**

Hymn # 654

**4 Through toil and tribulation and
tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation of
peace forevermore;**

Hymn # 654

**till with the vision glorious her
longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.**

Hymn # 654

**Final Yet she on earth has union
with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion with
those whose rest is won.**

Hymn # 654

**Oh, blessed heav'nly chorus! Lord,
save us by your grace,
that we, like saints before us, may
see you face to face.**

Hymn # 654

With the whole church let us confess our faith.

CREED

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the
Father,
and he will come to judge the living and
the dead.**

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

Congregation may be seated

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

God, our rock, you are the foundation on which the church is built. Strengthen and encourage your faithful people everywhere they gather, that they boldly proclaim your word of life to all the world.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

You spoke and all creation came into being. Field and forest, wetland and wilderness—all reveal your glory. Sustain and nourish your creation. Teach us to be wise stewards of all you have made.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

You bring deliverance to nations and peoples.
Come to the aid of nations experiencing war,
conflict, disease, famine, and disaster. Guide the
work of relief agencies and peacemaking
organizations.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

You regard the lowly and hear us when we cry out to you. Be present among all who struggle with addiction, housing insecurity, incarceration, and mental illness, that they know they are not alone. Hear our prayers for all in need this day and we remember our friends and family members before you.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

You draw together people with differing gifts. Lift up the many and varied gifts and talents of this congregation and strengthen the bonds of fellowship that all may be united as the body of Christ.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray for all our military, especially those deployed. We keep in our prayers all the Wounded Warriors that have returned home to heal. We pray for our missionaries, for Luke and Ruth in the Philippines, serving with the World Mission Prayer League, and for our sister congregation at Grace Lutheran Church in Big Sandy, Montana.

Today we also give you thanks for First English Lutheran Church in Victoria, Texas and their pastor, Chip Reynolds. Bless their ministry both now and for generations to come.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Your steadfast love endures forever. We give thanks for the faithful who died in the hope of this promise. Strengthen us in faith until the day we join them at your eternal banquet.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Amen.

Canticle of Thanksgiving

Refrain ***Salvation belongs to our God
and to Christ the Lamb for ever and
ever.***

***¹ Great and wonderful are your
deeds, O God of the universe; just
and true are your ways, O Ruler of
all the nations.***

***Who can fail to honor you, Lord, and
sing the glory of your name?***

Refrain ***Salvation belongs to our God
and to Christ the Lamb forever and
ever.***

***² For you alone are the Holy One,
and blessed is the one whose
name is the Word of God.
All praise and thanks to you, holy
God!***

Refrain ***Salvation belongs to our God
and to Christ the Lamb forever and
ever.***

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.**

SENDING

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and
mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you
peace.

Amen.

Sending Song

“Faith of Our Father”

Hymn # 812

**¹ Faith of our fathers, living
still
in spite of dungeon, fire, and
sword.**

Hymn # 815

**Oh, how our hearts beat high
with joy
whene'er we hear that
glorious word.**

[Refrain]

Hymn # 815

Refrain

**Faith of our fathers, holy faith,
we will be true to thee till death.**

Hymn # 815

**2 The martyrs, chained in
prisons dark,
were still in heart and
conscience free;**

Hymn # 815

**and blest would be their
children's fate
if they, like them, should die
for thee.**

[Refrain]

Hymn # 815

Refrain

**Faith of our fathers, holy faith,
we will be true to thee till death.**

Hymn # 815

**Final Faith of our fathers! We will
love
both friend and foe in all our
strife;**

Hymn # 815

**proclaim thee too, as love
knows how,
by saving word and faithful
life.**

[Refrain]

Hymn # 815

Refrain

**Faith of our fathers, holy faith,
we will be true to thee till death.**

Hymn # 815

DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

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13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

