

Gathering Hymn

Making their Way

1 Mak-ing their way down through the a-ges, sin - ners and saints have
 2 Mak-ing their way all the world o-ver, Chris-tians as - sem - ble
 3 Mak-ing our way sea - son by sea-son, pil - grims, we jour - ney

heard God's call: wealth - y and poor, pow - er - ful, low - ly,
 on this day, hear - ing the Word, shar - ing the Ban - quet,
 till life's end, trav - el - ing light, shar - ing the rich - es,

Je - sus' dis - ci - ples, one and all. Gath-ered for wor-ship, of - fer-ing thanks,
 learn-ing to walk in Je-sus' way. Mem-bers of Christ, u - nit - ed in love,
 car - ing for strang-er as for friend, till in the joy of long-ing ful-filled,

the great-est with the least have come to share this feast.
 they seek our God to know, and so to - geth - er grow.
 to - geth - er we will come to our e - ter - nal home.

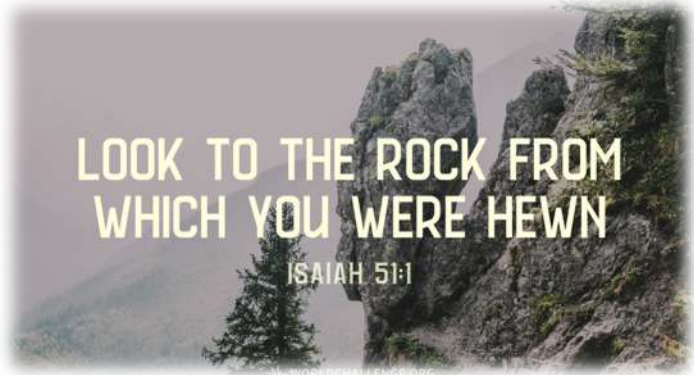
Greeting + Prayer of the Day

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.

First Reading

Isaiah 51:1-6

- ¹Listen 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.
- ²Look 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.
- ³For 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.
- ⁴Listen 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.
- ⁵I 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.
- ⁶Lift 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.

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.**

¹ 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.

² 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.

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, ⁵so 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 exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity;
the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation + Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20 + Homily



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

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

¹⁷And 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."* ¹⁸And 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."* ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less* ELW 596

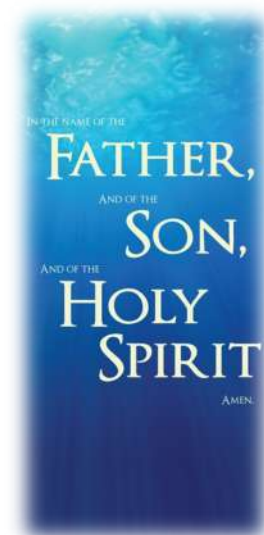
Apostles' Creed

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.



Offering + Peace + Prayers of the People The Great Thanksgiving + Holy Communion

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks...

It is right to give our thanks and praise.



Leader: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy...

*And so, with the Church on earth, and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name, and join their unending hymn:*

Holy, Holy, Holy



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

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.

Communion Hymn

Rock of Ages

ELW 623

ALL are welcome to partake at Christ's Table.

Post-Communion Prayer + Blessing

Sending Hymn

We All Are One in Mission

ELW 576

Dismissal

Go in peace! Share the harvest!

Thanks be to God!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcement about making sure to get to Fellowship Hour EARLY to celebration Rev. David Christenson's 50 years of Ordained Ministry!



REMINDER: Our Annual Time Change kicks in **ON September 6, 2026**. St. Stephen's worships at 9a and Gethsemane worship moves to 10:30a.



August 23, 2026, Tuned Into God
Exodus 20:3-11

Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.



Pray: Light a candle and open your devotion time with a prayer.

Holy God, open our eyes to see you in every good thing around us. Free us from the desire to pursue other gods—those things of the world that pull us away from your unending goodness, grace, and mercy—that we might rest secure in the knowledge that you provide all we need. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



Read: Read the key verse from Sunday's reading.

You shall have no other gods before me. (Exodus 20:3)



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

God's first three commandments reiterated the fierce love God has for God's people.