

Sunday Worship Service – August 23, 2026

All worship words from ELW Setting Six, unless otherwise noted in the footnotes.

Welcome and Announcements

A Moment for Reflection

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn *“Soli Deo Gloria”* #878 (verses 1,3,4,5)

1. **O God of blessings, all praise to you!
Your love surrounds us our whole life through.
You are the freedom of those oppressed;
you are the comfort of all distressed.
Come now, O holy and welcome guest:
Soli Deo gloria! Soli Deo gloria!**
3. **All praise for music, deep gift profound,
through hands and voices in holy sound;
the psalms of David, and Mary’s praise,**

in wordless splendor and lyric phrase,
with all creation one song we raise:
Soli Deo Gloria! Soli Deo Gloria!

4. **All praise for Jesus, best gift divine
through word and witness, in bread and wine;
incarnate love song of boundless grace,
priest, teacher, prophet in time and space,
your steadfast kindness with human face:
Soli Deo Gloria! Soli Deo Gloria!**
5. **A billion voices in one great song,
now soft and gentle, now deep and strong,
in ev'ry culture and style and key,
from hill and valley, with sky and sea,
with Christ we praise you eternally:
Soli Deo Gloria! Soli Deo Gloria!**

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.

Kyrie (ELW page 165)

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Canticle of Praise "Glory to God" (ELW page 167)

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

1. **Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory. (Refrain)**
2. **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)**

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

Scripture 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. A reading from the Book of Isaiah, the 51st chapter:

Listen to me, you who look for righteousness, you who seek the LORD:

Look to the rock from which you were cut and to the quarry where you were dug. Look to Abraham your ancestor, and to Sarah, who gave you birth. They were alone when I called them, but I blessed them and made them many.

The LORD will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her ruins. He will make her desert like Eden and her wilderness like the LORD's garden. Happiness and joy will be found in her— thanks and the sound of singing.

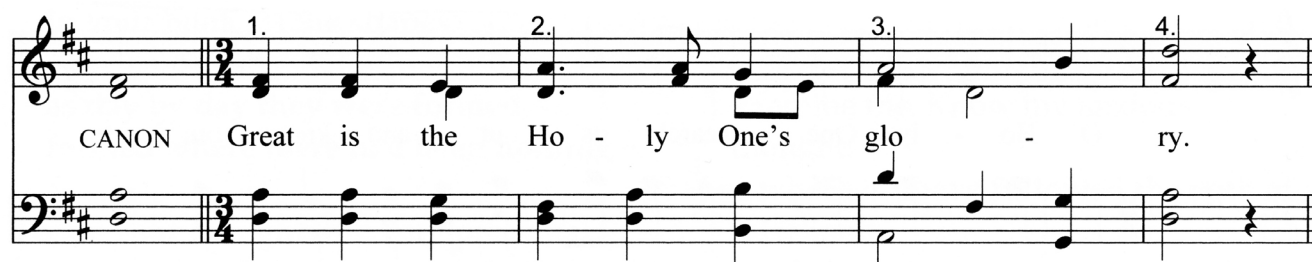
Pay attention to me, my people; listen to me, my nation, for teaching will go out from me, my justice, as a light to the nations. I will quickly bring my victory. My salvation is on its way, and my arm will judge the peoples.

The coastlands hope for me; they wait for my judgment. Look up to the heavens, and gaze at the earth beneath. The heavens will disappear like smoke, the earth will wear out like clothing, and its inhabitants will die like gnats. But my salvation will endure forever, and my righteousness will be unbroken.

Here ends the reading.

Inspire our understanding, Spirit of God.

Psalm 138



Holy One, with all my heart I thank you
and sing to you before the divine assembly.

I bow down to your holy temple.

I praise your name because you are loving and faithful,
and have magnified your name and your word.

**On the day I called, you answered
and empowered my very soul. (Refrain)**

All rulers of the world praise you, Holy One,
for they have heard the words you speak.
They sing of your ways, "Great is the Holy One's glory!"

**You are highly exalted, yet you watch over the poor
and are aware of the proud from far away. (Refrain)**

When I come upon scoundrels, you enliven me to face the enemies' fury,
stretching out your hand, saving me with your right hand.

**You will avenge me! O Holy One, your faithful love is eternal;
do not desert what your hands have made! (Refrain)**

Scripture Reading: Romans 12:1-8

Paul has concluded the doctrinal section of his letter. He now turns to practical application of the gospel. He first tells us how we are to behave in the Christian community. A reading from the Letter to the Romans, the 12th chapter:

So, brothers and sisters, because of God's mercies, I encourage you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice that is holy and pleasing to God. This is your appropriate priestly service. Don't be conformed to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you can figure out what God's will is—what is good and pleasing and mature.

Because of the grace that God gave me, I can say to each one of you: don't think of yourself more highly than you ought to think. Instead, be reasonable since God has measured out a portion of faith to each one of you. We have

many parts in one body, but the parts don't all have the same function. In the same way, though there are many of us, we are one body in Christ, and individually we belong to each other. We have different gifts that are consistent with God's grace that has been given to us. If your gift is prophecy, you should prophesy in proportion to your faith. If your gift is service, devote yourself to serving. If your gift is teaching, devote yourself to teaching. If your gift is encouragement, devote yourself to encouraging. The one giving should do it with no strings attached. The leader should lead with passion. The one showing mercy should be cheerful.

Here ends the reading.

Inspire our understanding, Spirit of God.

Gospel Acclamation “Alleluia. Lord to Whom Shall We Go” (ELW page 171)

Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. *(repeat)*

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:13-20

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 16th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now when Jesus came to the area of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Human One is?” They replied, “Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.” He said, “And what about you? Who do you say that I am?”

Simon Peter said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Then Jesus replied, “Happy are you, Simon son of Jonah, because no human has shown this to you. Rather my Father who is in heaven has shown you. I tell you that you are Peter. And I'll build my church on this rock. The gates of the underworld won't be able to stand against it. I'll give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Anything you fasten on earth will be fastened in heaven. Anything you loosen on earth will be loosened in heaven.” Then he ordered the disciples not to tell anybody that he was the Christ.

The gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: A Message of Hesed

Hymn of the Day *“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”* #733

1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain: Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.
2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *(Refrain)*
3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *(Refrain)*

Apostles' Creed

Let us confess our faith together using the words of the 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.**

Prayers of Intercession ¹

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation. Each petition will end with "Merciful God" and the congregational response "receive our prayer."

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, especially Ukraine, Iran, Sudan, and Gaza. 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 (*especially*). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Almighty and merciful God, whose Son became a refugee and had no place to call his own; look with mercy on those who today are fleeing from danger, homeless and hungry. Bless those who work to bring them relief; inspire generosity and compassion in all our hearts; and guide the nations of the world towards that day when all will rejoice in your Kingdom of justice and of peace. Be with the refugee family we are seeking to sponsor that any roadblocks to their coming here would be removed. 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.**

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.**

¹ *Prayers of Intercession* from **Sundays and Seasons** © Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MN

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.**

Offering / Offering Prayer ²

(An Offering Plate is placed on the Altar)

Loving God,

we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.

**Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.**

**We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.**

The Credence Table is moved to the center.

The Great Thanksgiving

Preface

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus (ELW page 173)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

² Offering Prayer from sundaysandseasons.com © 2024 Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MN.

Thanksgiving at the Table ³

Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food,
you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.

You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and fed your
people Israel with manna from heaven.

You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread,
and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life given for us
and his rising from the grave,
we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.

By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal:
strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want,
and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy
Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

**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.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

³ *Thanksgiving at the Table* from **With One Voice** (Autumn) © 1995 Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MN.

Communion Invitation

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all is now ready.

Communion Instructions

Communion Distribution (begin with communing the online congregation)

Lamb of God (ELW page 174)

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.**

Hymn during Communion “One Bread, One Body” #496

Refrain: **One bread, one body, one Lord of all;
one cup of blessing which we bless,
and we, though many throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.**

1. **Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
woman or man no more. (Refrain)**
2. **Many the gifts, many the works,
one in the Lord of all. (Refrain)**
3. **Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,
gathered to one for all.. (Refrain)**

Hymn during Communion “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” #742

1. **What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry ev’rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; oh, what needless pain we bear –
all because we do not carry ev’rything to God in prayer!**
2. **Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged – take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev’ry weakness – take it to the Lord in prayer.**
3. **Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge – take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he’ll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.**

Communion Blessing

May the precious body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you, and keep you in his grace now, and unto life everlasting.

Prayer after Communion

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.

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.

Benediction Song *"May the Grace of Christ Attend Us"* (#963 Voices United)

**May the grace of Christ attend us, and the love of God surround us,
And the Holy Spirit keep us, now and ever. Amen.**

Commission

Go in peace, inspired by the risen Christ to love and serve.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude – Beth Hendricksen