

Esther Lutheran Church, ELCA
Youth Service
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, August 23rd, 2026
Knowing Christ - Making Christ Known Through Faith, Hope & Love

Introduction:

In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were created. 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.

PRELUDE

BELL: Wyatt Asleson

ANNOUNCEMENTS & JOKES: Arewen Dobratz

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Please stand as you are able

***CALL TO WORSHIP:** Presley Bosl

L: Our help is in the name of our God,

C: **Who made heaven and earth.**

L: We have escaped from danger

C: **Because God protected us.**

L: Our help is in the name of our God,

C: **Who made heaven and earth!**

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, whose compassion endures forever.

C: Amen.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:** Autumn Dobratz

L: We confess our sins before God and one another.
Pause for silence and reflection.

L: Patient God,

C: You have taught us all we need to be your faithful people.
And yet we persist in going our own way, doing our own thing,
and minding our own business when we ought to be about the
business of your kingdom. Forgive our selfish neglect of
others and bring us back into wholeness with our brothers and
sisters. Amen.

L: God is merciful, patient, kind and forgiving. We have been
pardoned for all that we have done, and all that we have
overlooked. May we give now as we have received: generously and
extravagantly, in the way of our loving teacher, savior and friend.

C: Amen.

***GATHERING SONG:**

"10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)" - Matt Redman

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before, O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning

It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before, O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name
You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
Your name is great and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

So bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul
Worship his Holy name
Sing like never before, O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name (bless You, Lord)

And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore (forevermore)

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before, O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name (c'mon)

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before, O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name
Yes, I will worship Your holy name

Lord, I'll worship Your holy name

Sing like never before, O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name
Jesus, I will worship Your holy name
Worship Your holy name

***GREETING:** Wyatt Asleson

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY:** Wyatt Asleson

P: God of truth,

C: You reveal the truth to us, even when the world hides it. Show us how to live as your faithful followers, who stand firm in your promises and live in the hope of new life, for the sake of Jesus our savior. Amen.

Please be seated

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 51:1-6: McKinnely Bosl

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.

¹Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, and who seek the Lord. Look to the rock from which you were cut and to the quarry from which you were dug. ²Look to Abraham, your father, and to Sarah, who gave you birth. When I called him he was only one man, and I blessed him

and made him many. ³The Lord will surely comfort Zion and will look with compassion on all her ruins; he will make her deserts like Eden, her wastelands like the garden of the Lord. Joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the sound of singing. ⁴"Listen to me, my people; hear me, my nation: Instruction will go out from me; my justice will become a light to the nations. ⁵My righteousness draws near speedily, my salvation is on the way, and my arm will bring justice to the nations. The islands will look to me and wait in hope for my arm. ⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens, look at the earth beneath; the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment and its inhabitants die like flies. But my salvation will last forever, my righteousness will never fail. Here ends the first reading.

PSALM 138 ~ Congregation reads the *bold* - Jaxson Bosl
O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever. (Ps. 138:8)

¹I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart; before the 'gods' I will sing your praise.

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

³When 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.**

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

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

⁷Though 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.

⁸You 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: Arewen Dobratz

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.

¹I 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. ²Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-his good, pleasing and perfect will. ³For 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. ⁴For 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. ⁶We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving,

then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. Here ends the second reading.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Sanctuary* - acapella - Youth

Lord prepare me to be a Sanctuary

Pure and Holy, tried and true

With thanksgiving, I'll be a living

Sanctuary, for you.

GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 16:13-20: Evy Grinager

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.

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others say Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵Jesus said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you lose on earth will be lost in heaven." ²⁰Then he ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. The word of the Lord...**Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S TIME: "God Has A Purpose For You!" McKinnely Bosl

SERMON/SKIT: "Who Am I?" Youth

SONG OF THE DAY:

"Who You Say I Am" - Hillsong Worship, Brooke Ligertwood

Who am I that the highest King would welcome me?

I was lost but He brought me in

Oh, His love for me

Oh, His love for me

Who the Son sets free

Ooh, is free indeed

I am a child of God

Yes, I am

Free at last, He has ransomed me

His grace runs deep

While I was a slave to sin

Jesus died for me

Yes, He died for me

Who the Son sets free

Oh, is free indeed

I'm a child of God

Yes, I am

In my Father's house

There's a place for me

I'm a child of God

Yes, I am

I am chosen, not forsaken

I am who You say I am

You are for me, not against me

I am who You say I am

I am chosen, not forsaken
I am who You say I am
You are for me, not against me
I am who You say I am
I am who You say I am

Who the Son sets free
Oh, is free indeed
I'm a child of God
Yes, I am

In my Father's house
There's a place for me
I'm a child of God
Yes, I am

In my Father's house
There's a place for me
I'm a child of God
Yes, I am

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: Laney Grinager

L: 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.

L: 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,

C: **Receive our prayer.**

L: 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,

C: Receive our prayer.

L: Heal us of our invisible afflictions: self-doubt, worry, jealousy, unrest, and all that separates us from you and others. Give you spirit's power to those who need you most, especially Jerry, Bruce, Cheryl, Chris, Kristy, Ricky, Larry, Joan, Dennis, Lois, Bev, Gary, Shirley, Joyce, Allison, Becky, Kim, Cadence, Sara, Marg, Karen, Pete, Margaret, and Lynnsy. Merciful God,

C: Receive our prayer.

L: 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,

C: Receive our prayer.

L: 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,

C: Receive our prayer.

L: 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.

C: Amen.

Please stand as you are able

***APOSTLES' CREED: (ELW pg. 217) Chase Stueve**

**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.**

***SHARING OF THE PEACE:** Wyatt Asleson

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: Please share a sign of peace with one another.

Please be seated

OFFERING

*We thank you for our gifts of time, talent, and treasure that help
this congregation, to continue our ministry together, and to make
Christ known in our communities and the world.*

OFFERING SONG: "Way Maker - Single Version" Leeland

You are here, moving in our midst
I worship You, I worship You
You are here, working in this place
I worship You, I worship You

And You are
Way maker, miracle worker
Promise keeper, light in the darkness
My God, that is who You are
And You are
Way maker, miracle worker
Promise keeper, light in the darkness
My God, that is who You are

You are here, turning lives around
I worship You, I worship You
You are here, and You're healing every heart
I worship You, I worship You

And You are
Way maker, miracle worker
Promise keeper, light in the darkness
My God, that is who You are
And You are
Way maker, miracle worker
Promise keeper, light in the darkness
My God, that is who You are

And that is who You are, (That is who You are) yeah
That is who You are (That is who You are), yeah-eh-ay

Even when I don't see it, You're workin'
Even when I don't feel it, You're workin'

You never stop, You never stop workin'
You never stop, Jesus You are

Way maker, miracle worker
Promise keeper, light in the darkness
My God, that is who You are

(I know, I know You are)

Way maker, miracle worker
Promise keeper, light in the darkness
My God, that is who You are

Yeah, that is who You are (That is who You are), Ohh
That is who You are (That is who You are)
Jesus, that is who You are

Please stand as you are able

***OFFERTORY PRAYER: Elliott Arvidson**

L: Dear God:

C: The offering you desire most from us, O God, is the gift of our whole selves to the work of your kingdom. Take these gifts which we now offer and use them to further your purpose in this world. Amen.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER: Spoken: Chase Stueve**

Our Father, which 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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to our neighbor in need

***BLESSING: Sung call and response:** Youth

May the Lord bless and keep you.

May his face shine upon you.

May his blessings go with you.

And give you peace.

Amen.

***SENDING SONG: "What a Friend"** Matt Maher

Everybody has trials and temptations

(Ooh ooh ooh ooh ooh ooh, ooh ooh ooh ooh ooh ooh)

Everybody knows heart break, isolation

(Ooh ooh ooh ooh ooh ooh, ooh ooh ooh ooh ooh ooh)

But we can lay our burdens down (our burdens down)

Lay our burdens down

What a friend we have in Jesus

East to west my sins are gone

I see grace on every horizon

And forever and ever His heart is my home

(Oh oh oh, oh oh oh oh oh)

(Oh oh oh, oh oh oh oh oh)

Everybody has fears, everybody got worries
(Ooh ooh ooh ooh ooh ooh, ooh ooh ooh ooh ooh ooh)
Everybody knows sorrow, devastation
(Ooh ooh ooh ooh ooh ooh, ooh ooh ooh ooh ooh ooh)
But we can lay our burdens down (our burdens down)
Lay our burdens down

What a friend we have in Jesus
East to west my sins are gone
I see grace on every horizon
And forever and ever His heart is my home

No more betrayal, for He is faithful
He fills me up and my cup runneth over
No more betrayal, for He is faithful

How He has proven it over and over

No more betrayal, for He is faithful
He fills me up and my cup runneth over
No more betrayal, for He is faithful
How He has proven it over and over
Over and over

What a friend we have in Jesus
East to west my sins are gone
I see grace on every horizon
And forever and ever His heart is my home

What a friend we have in Jesus
East to west my sins are gone
I see grace on every horizon
And forever and ever His heart is my home

Forever and ever His heart is my home

***DISMISSAL:** Presley Bosl

P: Go in peace.

C: Share your gifts with the world!

IN OUR PRAYERS

Jerry Anderson

Kristy Fyhrie

Larry Sather

Joan Burquest

Dennis Rosenquist

Lois Rosenquist

Ricky Hart

Sara Skoglund

Margaret Wehking

Cheryl Farber - mother of Melissa Schlosser

Rev. Bruce Miller- father of Karin Wagner

Marg Peterson -friend of the Thoms

Gary Borst - friend of the Andersons

Shirley Nesges - friend of the Thoms

Bev Lorine - mother of Mandy Arvidson

Joyce Muyres - friend of the Thoms

Bev Guse-Ohlrech - friend of the Pedersons

Allison Dotzler - friend of Kathy Mittag

Cadence Smith - friend of Mandy Arvidson

Becky Yttrie - friend of the Townsends

Kim Casavan - friend of Mandy Arvidson

Karen Schlosser - mother of Justin Schlosser

Pete Baugh - brother-in-law of Pr. Ken Bowman

Chris Clapshaw - step-brother of Mark Ratajesak

Lynnsy Kamrud - daughter of Gary & Karen Tuil

Family and Friends of: Katie Jahnke, Colleen Burquest, Doug Tvedt,

Jerry Pogose, Terry Burns, Bruce Carter, Gary Willie, Connie Pesta,

Kathy Wilkins, Ivy Christensen, Jim Schlosser, Leroy Olson, Dale

Flemming, Wally Schlosser, and Carter Stockert

THIS WEEK AT ESTHER

Sunday, August 23rd - Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday Fellowship Before and After Worship

10 am - Worship led by The Youth

2 pm - Worship at St. William's

Friday, August 28th

Newsletter Articles due to church office

Sunday, August 30th - Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday Fellowship Before and After Worship

10 am - Worship led by Pastor Preston

2 pm - Worship at St. William's

NEWS AND NOTES

Thank you to our youth for leading worship today! Your energy and willingness to serve has blessed our whole church family!

Ice Cream Still Available! If you missed the Ice Cream Social, you're in luck! We still have individual cups of ice cream available in the basement kitchen freezer. Feel free to help yourself and place your donation in the box provided. Suggested donations: \$2.50 per cup or 5 cups for \$10.



You are invited to the Sixth Annual 2026 Remembrance Day Walks by Humble Hearts Grief Support Services on Sunday, September 13th at the Lake Brophy Park in Alexandria, MN. There is also a walk in Sleepy Eye, MN on Sunday, September 27th. 12 pm - 1 pm is registration, meal, and shopping, 1 pm- 2 pm is the Remembrance Walk, and 2 pm - 3:30 is the

Inspirational Program and Recognition of Loved Ones (Alexandria only - dove release). Scan to register donate and learn more!

Vanco online giving platform is a great way to set up a scheduled giving plan for even when you cannot make it to church.



Scan the QR code, go online to estherlutheran.com, go to the tab "ways to support Esther Lutheran Church" and click on the link <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZP4R> or download the app Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement.
Any questions please ask Mandy Arvidson.

Check out the Esther Calendar on our website to stay up to date on everything happening! Go to estherlutheran.com and click on "Esther Calendar."



We welcome you to join in the weekly "Behold the New Has Come" devotions available on our website estherlutheran.com on the "Behold"

tab. Devotions are posted to the website and emailed out each Monday. If you are not currently on the email list and want to be, please notify Mandy in the office. Each weekly devotion includes a challenge for the week. This past week's challenge is:

How can you humble yourself and acknowledge the mistakes you have made this week? If we are to have any hope of extending grace to others around us who make mistakes, it is important to acknowledge our own mistakes. *"And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us".*

Just as God is pleased when Jesus humbles himself and is baptized by John the Baptist, let us practice humility this week and work on the

words of the Lord's Prayer, "as we forgive those" just as God forgives us.

We hope these devotions and weekly challenges will inspire conversations and stories that we can share with one another as, together, we grow in faith through this initiative.

Sunday School begins on **Sunday, September 13th**! We welcome all children ages 3 through 6th grade to join us.

During worship on September 13th, we will also celebrate the start of the school year with a **Back-to-School Blessing and Prayer**, followed by a **Backpack Blessing** during the Children's Sermon. We hope you'll bring your backpacks and join us for this special day!

Confirmation classes will begin again in September with a **Get-to-Know-You Potluck and Planning Night on Wednesday, September 16th at 6:00 p.m.** Students and their parents are invited to attend. We welcome everyone from **7th grade through adults** to join the class, whether you are preparing for confirmation, have already been confirmed, or would simply like a refresher on the faith. For more information or to sign up, please contact Jewel Townsend.

38th Annual NW MN SWO Convention will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Crookston, MN on September 18-19th.

Fall Conference Gatherings: Conference 5: October 15th at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Moorhead, MN and Conference 8 at Grace Lutheran in Brandon, MN.

You belong here. We believe that each person has unique gifts, are created in God's image, and is a beloved child of God. We welcome you to join us each week to share in the community of faith at Esther -

"Knowing Christ - making Christ known through faith, hope and love". If you would like to become a member of Esther, please contact Mandy in the church office at 218-338-2171 or secretary@estherlutheran.net or Jewel Townsend at 320-760-2503 or jewellht17@gmail.com.

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