

OFFERING/OFFERING SONG

“Give Thanks”

Give thanks with a grateful heart. Give thanks to the Holy One, Give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ his son. Give thanks with a grateful heart. Give thanks to the Holy One, Give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ his son.

And now let the weak say I am strong, Let the poor say I am rich.
Because of what the Lord has done for us, And now let the weak say I am strong,
Let the poor say I am rich. Because of what the Lord has done for us. Give Thanks.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

L) Lord in your mercy C) Hear our Prayer

HOLY COMMUNION (continuous)

- ✝ Words of Institution
- ✝ The Lord’s Prayer
- ✝ Distribution of the Sacrament
- ✝ Benediction

CLOSING SONG

“Shall We Gather at the River”

ELW #423

- 1 Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?
- Refrain*
Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.
- 2 On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,
we will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day. *Refrain*
- 3 Ere we reach the shining river, lay we ev'ry burden down;
grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown. *Refrain*
- 4 Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease;
soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace. *Refrain*

DISMISSAL L) Go in peace, Serve the Lord and your neighbors. C) Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE



Thirteenth Sunday of Pentecost



Willow Creek and Benton Lutheran Churches

August 23rd, 2026

Vicar Kendra Kappler and Pastor Renae Boehmer

Accompanist: Lisa Rave, Willow Creek, Kari Vosburg, Benton

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

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.***

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthens you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

“The Church’s One Foundation” v-1,3,5

ELW #654

- 1

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation by water and the word.
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.
- 3

Though with a scornful wonder this world sees her oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up: "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.
- 5

Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
Oh, blessed heav'nly chorus! Lord, save us by your grace,
that we, like saints before us, may see you face to face.

PRAYER OF THE DAY
O God, *with all your faithful people we praise you, for through your Son Jesus Christ you have revealed yourself to us. When our faith is strong, remind us that our hope rests in you; when our faith is rocky, hold us firmly in your grace. Give us courage to confess our faith, and humility to recognize what we do not yet understand. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

FIRST READING **Isaiah 51:1-6**
¹Listen 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.
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.
L) Word of God, Word of Life. *All) Thanks be to God.*

SECOND READING **Psalms 138**
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.*
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.
⁶*The 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.
⁸*You will make good your purpose for me; O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.*
L) Word of God, Word of Life. *All) Thanks be to God.*

CHILDREN'S SONG/MESSAGE

“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”

WOV 775

Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Jesus, Name Above All Names”

Jesus, name above all names, Beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.
Emmanuel, God is with us, Blessed Redeemer, Living Word.

GOSPEL READING **Matthew 13:3-23**
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. 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 loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.
²¹From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”
L) Word of God, word of life. *All) Thanks be to God.*

MESSAGE

“Rocky Faith”

Vicar Kendra Kappler

SONG OF THE DAY

“Just As I Am, without One Plea”

ELW #592

1

Just as I am, without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

2

Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

3

Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

4

Just as I am; thy love unknown has broken ev'ry barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

APOSTLE'S CREED

ELW page 105

SHARING THE PEACE

L) The peace of Christ be with you all. *C) And also with you.*