

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6

- 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,
that I might bless him and multiply him.
³ For the LORD comforts Zion;
he comforts all her waste places
and makes 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 "Give attention to me, my people,
and give ear to me, my nation;
for a law will go out from me,
and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples.
⁵ My righteousness draws near,
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will judge the peoples;
the coastlands hope for me,
and for my arm they wait.
⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and they who dwell in it will die in like manner;
but my salvation will be forever,
and my righteousness will never be dismayed."

Epistle: Romans 11:33-12:8

- ³³Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom
and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are
his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!
³⁴ "For who has known the mind of the
Lord,
or who has been his counselor?"
³⁵ "Or who has given a gift to him
that he might be repaid?"

³⁶For from him and through him and to him
are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

^{12:1}I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by
the mercies of God, to present your bodies as
a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God,
which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be
conformed to this world, but be transformed
by the renewal of your mind, that by testing
you may discern what is the will of God, what
is good and acceptable and perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to every-
one among you not to think of himself more
highly than he 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
the members do not all have the same func-
tion, ⁵so we, though many, are one body in
Christ, and individually members one of
another. ⁶Having gifts that differ according
to the grace given to us, let us use them: if
prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷if ser-
vice, in our serving; the one who teaches, in
his teaching; ⁸the one who exhorts, in his
exhortation; the one who contributes, in gen-
erosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one
who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

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,
others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one
of the prophets." ¹⁵He said to them, "But who
do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter replied,
"You are the Christ, the Son of the living
God." ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are
you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood
has not revealed this to you, but my Father
who is in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are
Peter, and on this rock I will build my church,
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against
it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom
of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth
shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you
loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."
²⁰Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell
no one that he was the Christ.

About the Cover: The word *therefore* always follows a reason. The first eleven chapters of Paul's letter to the Romans set the stage for Paul's exhortation to live the sanctified life God has set in place for us. We have all sinned and deserve condemnation, but salvation is the free gift accomplished by the atoning sacrifice of Christ's death on our behalf. We are justified by faith in Him. We have been united to Jesus by Baptism. We have died to sin and been raised to newness of life. It is all the gracious work of God, which is the foundation for *therefore*.

I APPEAL TO YOU
THEREFORE, BROTHERS,
BY THE MERCIES OF GOD,
TO PRESENT YOUR BODIES
AS A LIVING SACRIFICE,
HOLY AND ACCEPTABLE TO GOD,
WHICH IS YOUR SPIRITUAL WORSHIP

ROMANS 12:1



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13th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
August 23, 2026

Service of Prayer & Preaching LSB p.260
Hymn “O Bless the Lord, My Soul” LSB #814 (all)
Opening Versicles

This is the day that the Lord has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
From the rising of the sun to its setting,
The name of the Lord is to be praised.
Common

Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.
Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.
Teach me Your paths.
Sanctify us in Your truth.
Your Word is truth.
From the rising of the sun to its setting,
The name of the Lord is to be praised. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

*****Psalm of the Day Ps. 138*****
The Lessons
The Gospel

Common Responsory
Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.

Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.
Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

Glory be to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.
Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

Apostles’ Creed & The Lord’s Prayer LSB p.264
Hymn “We Praise You, O God” LSB #785
Sermon

Offering
Prayers & Collects
(Pastor’s statement ends: “Let us pray to the Lord”
The people respond: “LORD HAVE MERCY”)

Morning Prayer
I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Benediction
Hymn “Take My Life and Let It Be” LSB #783 (all)

Announcements

SERMON NOTES

Sermon Title _____

Texts _____

Main Ideas / Thoughts _____

I Want to Remember _____

What Response Does God Want? _____