

Traditional Worship

August 23, 2026

Time after Pentecost

Lectionary 21

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

Verso in d – Domenico Zipoli
Built on a Rock – arr. Lani Smith

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL *

As the bell is rung the assembly stands for the Opening Hymn.
*A * in the order of service indicates that those who are able are invited to stand.*

WELCOME *

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

Assembly: **And also with you.**

OPENING HYMN #645 *

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS *

Leader: In the name of the Father,
and of the ✠ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Assembly: **Amen.**

Leader: We come before God and each other in a time of Confession.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Leader: Merciful God,

Assembly: we confess that we have not always built our lives upon you, our Rock.
We have trusted our own strength rather than your strength.
We have allowed fear to take hold of our hearts.
When others have needed compassion, we have sometimes turned away.
When we have been hurt,
we have held on to anger rather than seeking forgiveness.
When we have been wrong, we have been slow to confess our sin.
Forgive us, O God.
Forgive the ways we have failed you and failed one another.
Take away our fear and pride.
Turn our hearts again toward you.
Make Christ the foundation of our lives.
When we stumble, raise us up.
When we are discouraged, remind us of your promises.
Teach us to hear the words of Jesus and put them into practice,
so that our lives may bear witness
to your love, mercy, and justice.

Assembly: Amen

Leader: Hear the good news: Christ is our sure foundation.
God forgives our sin, restores us by grace,
and gives us new life.

In ✠ Christ, we are forgiven and set free to live in hope.

Assembly: Amen

HYMN OF PRAISE *

Glory to God



PRAYER OF THE DAY *

Leader: 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.

Assembly: Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Exodus 1:8-2:10

The brave Hebrew midwives defied Pharaoh to save many infants from death. When the mother of Moses placed him in a basket in the Nile, the daughter of Pharaoh found him, adopted him, and raised him. Moses' sister and mother also played crucial roles in this drama.

⁸ Now a new king arose over Egypt who did not know Joseph. ⁹ He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. ¹⁰ Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." ¹¹ Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. ¹² But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. ¹³ The Egyptians subjected the Israelites to hard servitude ¹⁴ and made their lives bitter with hard servitude in mortar and bricks and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

¹⁵ The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, ¹⁶ "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live." ¹⁷ But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. ¹⁸ So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this and allowed the boys to live?" ¹⁹ The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." ²⁰ So God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and became very strong. ²¹ And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. ²² Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live."

^{2:1} Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. ² The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. ³ When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. ⁴ His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

⁵ The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. ⁶ When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. ⁷ Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" ⁸ Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. ⁹ Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. ¹⁰ When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

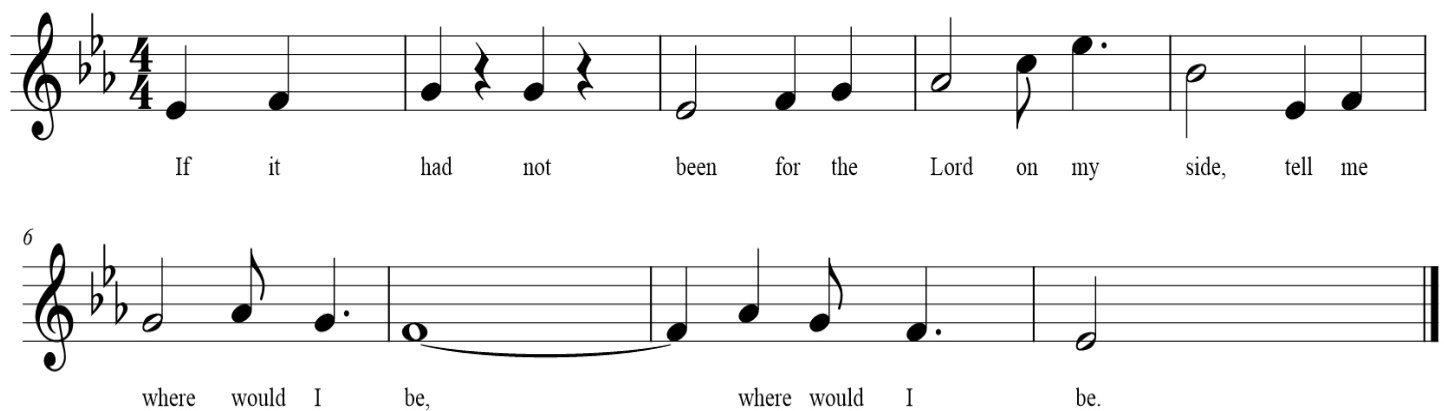
Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 124

*The Psalm Refrain is sung by the Cantor and then the Assembly joins in the Psalm Refrain.
The Cantor sings the Psalm Verses and the Assembly joins in the Psalm Refrain as indicated.*



¹ If the LORD had not been on our side, let Israel now say;

² if the LORD had not been on our side, when enemies rose up against us,

³ then would they have swallowed us up alive in their fierce anger toward us;

⁴ then would the waters have overwhelmed us and the torrent gone over us;

⁵ then would the raging waters have gone right over us.

⁶ Blessed be the LORD who has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth...*Refrain*

⁷ We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; the snare is broken,
and we have escaped.

⁸ Our help is in the name of the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth...*Refrain*

SECOND READING

Romans 12:1-8

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.

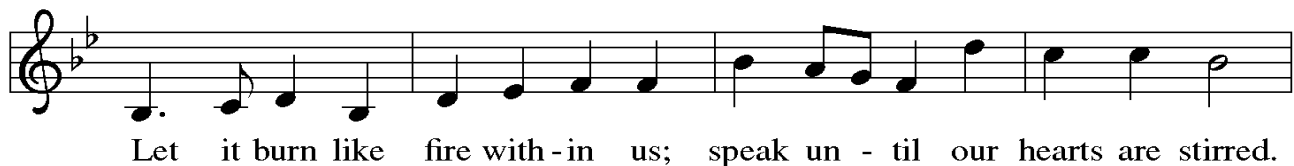
¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern 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, ⁵ so 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 encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *



HOLY GOSPEL*

Matthew 16:13-20

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.

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the sixteenth chapter.

Assembly: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And 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. ¹⁸ And 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." ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

Assembly: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY #652 *

Built on a Rock

APOSTLE'S CREED *

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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 *

The assembly responds to each petition ending in “Merciful God,”

Assembly: receive our prayer.

The assembly responds to the final petition ending with “All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Assembly: Amen.

PEACE *

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

Assembly: And also with you!

*The assembly greets each other with
“peace be with you...and also with you.”*

You’re invited to share God’s peace with those around you.

If you’re worshipping on Facebook, you may also greet one another in the comments.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

In Christ’s body and blood given to us, God forgives us and nourishes us for mission.

OFFERING

Upon This Rock – Jay Althouse

As we respond to hearing God’s Word and prepare to feast at God’s table we contemplate the many ways we serve the Kingdom of God through our time, talents, and gifts.

Offering plates will be passed among the assembly by the ushers.

Gifts can also be given electronically using this QR Code.



*Upon this rock we will build Thy Church, for here Thy Temple stands.
How lovely this, Thy dwelling place, built with loving hands.*

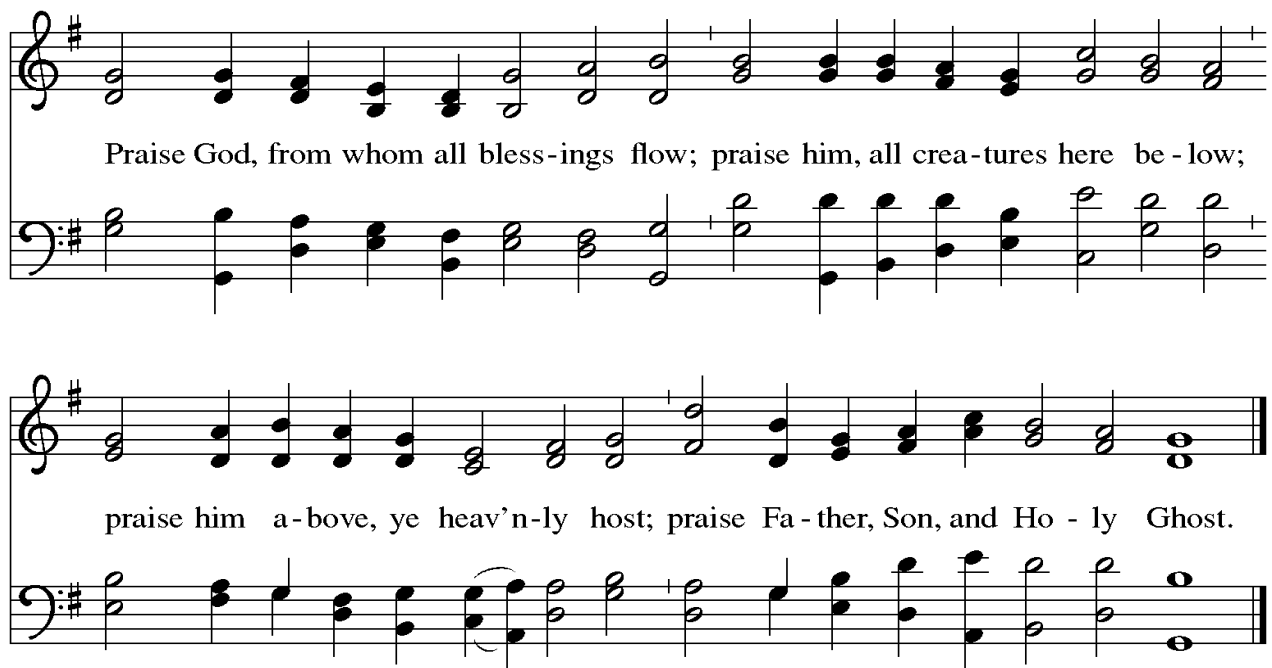
*Upon this rock we will build Thy church, and we shall be the stone.
This strong foundation shall survive until we see Thy throne.*

*Those in need of grace shall find this holy place.
Upon this rock Thy church will stand till we see Thy face.*

*Upon this rock we will build Thy church and praise Thy holy name.
This house shall flourish with Thy love; to heaven thy power proclaim.*

OFFERTORY *

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be - low;

praise him a - bove, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

GREAT THANKSGIVING *

Leader: The Lord be with you.

Assembly: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

Assembly: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

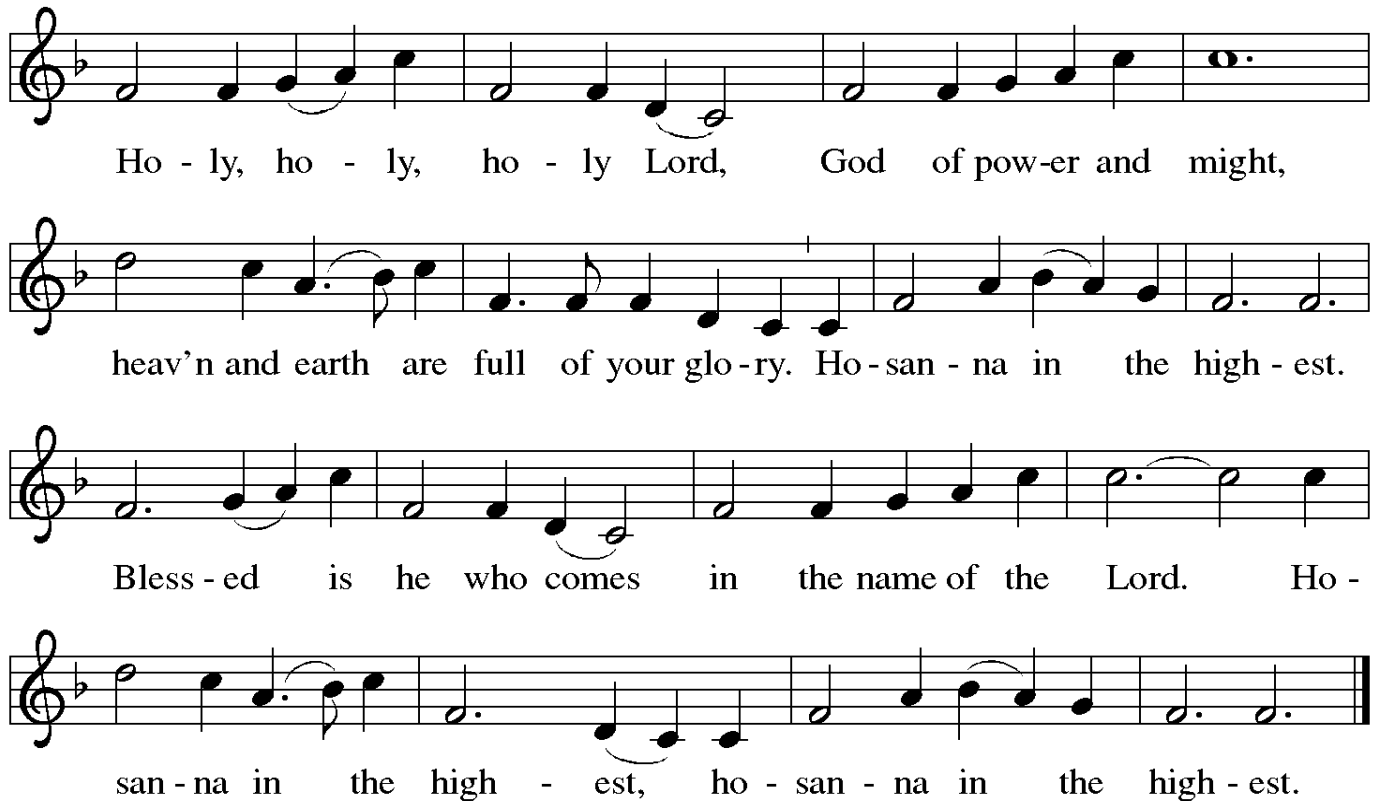
Assembly: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is indeed right, our calling and our joy,
to give you thanks and praise,
holy and faithful God.

You have always called your people to stand for life and trust your promises.
In the days of Pharaoh, when fear ruled the land, the Hebrew midwives
revered you and refused to obey a command that brought death.

Through their courage, you protected your people
and continued your promise to Abraham.

In Jesus Christ, you have gathered a people and built your church upon the rock.
When we are tempted to fear, you call us to faith.
When we are tempted to remain silent, you give us courage to speak.
When the world is shaken, you remind us that Christ remains our sure foundation.
Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



The musical notation is written on four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are as follows:

- Staff 1: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
- Staff 2: heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
- Staff 3: Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
- Staff 4: san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *

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.

LAMB OF GOD *



HOLY COMMUNION

All those who confess Jesus as Lord and Savior are welcome to the table.

We invite you to come forward to receive the communion elements from the servers.

You will be handed a wafer from the server and are invited to select a cup of wine from the tray.

Pre-packaged elements of grape juice and gluten free wafers are available

in the baskets at the communion rail and at each entrance to the sanctuary.

You may partake of the elements at the communion rail and dispose of the cups and packaging in the baskets at the end of each communion rail or take the elements back to your pew to partake of them and dispose of the cups and packaging after the service.

"Bread from the Lord's Table" and/or a pastoral blessing are available for children who do not yet commune.

Leader: The table is prepared.
Come, share in the feast.

As you are served communion:

Communion Server: The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you

Communion Receiver: Amen.

Music at Distribution – *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*
Organ Meditation – arr. Robert Hobby
Hymn #623

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader: Let us pray.

Gracious God,
we give you thanks for this meal and for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ.
You have fed us with your love and strengthened us by your grace.
As you strengthened the Hebrew midwives to stand for life
and trust your promise,
give us courage to live faithfully.
As Christ built his church upon the rock,
make our faith firm and our witness strong.
Send us from this table to love our neighbors,
to speak for those who need a voice,
and to serve with compassion and courage.
Keep us grounded in Christ, our Rock,
and make our lives a sign of your love.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Assembly: **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION & SERVICE

BLESSING *

Leader: May the God who calls us to trust and serve bless you and keep you.
May ☩ Christ, our Rock and sure foundation,
strengthen your faith and guide your steps.
May the Holy Spirit give you courage to stand for life, speak with love,
and serve your neighbors.

Assembly: **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN #654 *

The Church's One Foundation

DISMISSAL *

Leader: Go into the world as God's people.
 Build your life on Christ, our Rock.
 Stand firm in faith, speak for those who need a voice,
 and love your neighbor.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *

The Church's One Foundation – arr. Charles W. Ore

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor Leslie Fox Lott, Transition Pastor
Pastor Denny Asp, Associate Pastor
Deacon Diane Schwiger-Alexander, Director of Youth & Family
Dave Woodyard, Lector & Communion Assistant 8:00
Mary Woodyard, Lector & Communion Assistant 8:00
Bev Sapienza, Lector & Communion Assistant 10:45
Chad Baker, Director of Worship & Music
Alyse Hancock-Phillips, Cantor

FLOWER DEDICATION:

The altar flowers are given by Tim and Kathie Skamfer in honor of Kristin's 37th birthday.

Service Music & Liturgy reprinted and broadcast under OneLicense.net # A-722064, Augsburg Fortress Liturgies License #SBW0464223 & CCLI # 1841035(reprint) & #20141603 (Streaming)

Scripture quotations New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress.

Worship resources from sundaysandseasons.com © 2025 Augsburg Fortress.
