

St. Olaf Lutheran Church
Sunday, August 23, 2026
13th Sunday after Pentecost

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

Welcome & Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
we confess to you all our sins.
Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.
In your mercy, call us back to you.
Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.
Restore us to dwell in your peace.
In Christ's name we pray,
Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me,
all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."
In the name of God,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.

Rest in God's love. **Amen.**

***Hymn**

The Church's One Foundation

ELW 654

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

C: And also with you.

***Kyrie**

pg 203

***Glory be to God**

pg 204

***Prayer of the Day**

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.

Please be seated.

First 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,
but I blessed him and made him many.

³ For 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.

⁴ Listen 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.

⁵ I 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.
⁶ Lift 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

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 138

¹ 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 a- | bove all things.**

³ When 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.**

⁵ They 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.**

⁷ Though 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 pur- | pose for me;
O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works | of
your hands.**

Second Reading: Romans 12:1-8

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.

L: Word of God. Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God

***Gospel Acclamation (Alleluia)**

pg 205

***Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 16th chapter

C: 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.

P: The gospel of our Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Blessing of Teachers and Students

Sermon

Pastor Emily Sauer-Alvarez

***Hymn**

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

ELW 597

***Apostles Creed**

pg 105

*** Prayers of Intercession**

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

***Peace** (*Feel free to share a handshake or hug*)

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

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

Offering: *Please consider giving an offering for the mission and ministry of St. Olaf. We can continue to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ with your support and generosity. God bless you. Also, please pass the attendance sheets down your row and fill out your info.*

***Offering prayer**

Loving God,

we offer at you the gifts of our hearts.

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

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

Amen.

***Lord's Prayer**

***Blessing**

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,

✠ one God,

bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.

Amen.

***Hymn**

We Are All in One Mission

ELW 576

***Dismissal**

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

Assisting in Worship

Presider: Pastor Jim McColley

Assisting: Pastor Emily Sauer-Alvarez

Organist: Jason Swedlund

Reader: Nancy Hamilton

Ushers: Craig Hamilton, Viv Nore, Karla Berg, Terry Hansen

Tech: Bob Younie

Required weekly offerings to cover expenses: \$11,700

8/16

Offering: \$3177

Attendance: 97