

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 31, 2025

Greetings and Welcome

Prelude by Sandi Watts

GATHERING

Call to Worship

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Confession

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence

P: Most merciful God,

C: 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.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song – “Firm Foundation”

(piano)

*Chorus: Jesus, You’re my firm foundation, I know I can stand secure.
Jesus, You’re my firm foundation, I put my hope in your holy Word,
I put my hope in your holy Word.*

1. (I have a living hope) I have a living hope
(I have a future) I have a future
(God has a plan for me) God has a plan for me
(Of this I’m sure) Of this I’m sure. *Chorus*
2. (Your Word is faithful) Your Word is faithful
(Mighty in power) Mighty in power
(God will deliver me) God will deliver me
(Of this I’m sure) Of this I’m sure. *Chorus*

**Greeting*

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.

**Prayer of the Day*

P: Almighty and ever-living God, we live in darkness with monsters all around us. We see evil in violence, from wars between nations to shootings in our schools. We see the brokenness of this world in accidents and health struggles. Your grace and power alone can overcome the monsters we face. Help us to walk in the light of your Son, the Lamb, our Shepherd, and Light of the World.

C: Amen.

**Sharing Christ’s Peace*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

All are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.

Children’s Sermon

Hymn of Praise – “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less,” vv. 1-2 ELW 597 (*organ*)

- 1 My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
no merit of my own I claim, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.**

Refrain: On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

- 2 When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace;
in ev'ry high and stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain***

WORD

Reading: Revelation 13:1-18

Reader: Barb Davenport

¹And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, and on its horns were ten diadems, and on its heads were blasphemous names. ²And the beast that I saw was like a leopard, its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And the dragon gave it his power and his throne and great authority. ³One of its heads seemed to have received a death blow, but its fatal wound had been healed. In amazement the whole earth followed the beast. ⁴They worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?”

⁵The beast was given a mouth speaking arrogant and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. ⁶It opened its mouth to speak blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. ⁷Also, it was allowed to wage war on the saints and to conquer them. It was given authority over every tribe and people and language and nation, ⁸and all the inhabitants of the earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb that was slaughtered.

⁹Let anyone who has an ear listen:

¹⁰If you are to be taken captive,
into captivity you go;
if you kill with the sword,
with the sword you must be killed.

Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.

¹¹Then I saw another beast that rose out of the earth; it had two horns like a lamb, and it spoke like a dragon. ¹²It exercises all the authority of the first beast on its behalf, and it makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been

healed. ¹³It performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in the sight of all, ¹⁴and by the signs that it is allowed to perform on behalf of the beast it deceives the inhabitants of earth, telling them to make an image for the beast that had been wounded by the sword and yet lived, ¹⁵and it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast so that the image of the beast could even speak and cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. ¹⁶Also, it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be given a brand on the right hand or the forehead, ¹⁷so that no one can buy or sell who does not have the brand, that is, the name of the beast or the number for its name. ¹⁸This calls for wisdom: let anyone with understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number for a person. Its number is six hundred sixty-six.

R: The Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Reading: John 12:27-36*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 12th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁷“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say: ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. ³⁴The crowd answered him, “We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?” ³⁵Jesus said to them, “The light is in you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. ³⁶While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light.”

After Jesus had said this, he departed and hid from them.

P: The gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Song – “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less,” vv. 3-4 ELW 597 (organ)

- 3 His oath, his covenant, his blood sustain me in the raging flood;
when all supports are washed away, he then is all my hope and stay.

Refrain: On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

- 4 When he shall come with trumpet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,
clothed in his righteousness alone, redeemed to stand before the throne! *Refrain*

Sermon: “There Be Monsters!”

Song of the Day – “Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus” ELW 802 (organ)

- 1 Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow his example pure,
through a world that would deceive us and to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in his footsteps treading, trav'lers here, our home above,
full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Savior's bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where you guide.
- 2 Let us suffer here with Jesus, and with patience bear our cross.
Joy will follow all our sadness; where he is there is no loss.
Though today we sow no laughter, we shall reap celestial joy;
All discomforts that annoy shall give way to mirth hereafter,
Jesus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.
- 3 Let us gladly die with Jesus. Since by death he conquered death,
he will free us from destruction, give to us immortal breath.
Let us mortify all passion that would lead us into sin;
and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate of heaven.
Jesus, here with you I die, there to live with you on high.
- 4 Let us also live with Jesus. He has risen from the dead
that to life we may awaken. Jesus, you are now our head,
we are your own living members; where you live, there we shall be
in your presence constantly, living there with you forever.
Jesus, let me faithful be; life eternal grant to me.

**The Apostles' 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 to the dead. 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 of Intercession*

Stewardship Time

by Marilyn Dichsen

—Please take a moment to sign into the Welcome Folder in your pew—

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

**Great Thanksgiving*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

**Words of Institution*

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

**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.

Communion Songs

“In Christ Alone”

(piano)

1. **In Christ alone my hope is found, he is my light, my strength my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My comforter, my all in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.**
2. **In Christ alone who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless Babe;
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones he came to save.
‘Til on that cross, as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied,
For ev’ry sin on him was laid; here in the death of Christ I stand.**
3. **There in the ground His body lay, light of the world, by darkness slain;
Then, bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory, sin’s curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.**
4. **No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow’r of Christ in me;
From life’s first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow’r of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand;
‘Til He returns or calls me home, here in the pow’r of Christ I’ll stand!**

- 1 **Faith of our fathers, living still in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword.
Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy whene'er we hear that glorious word.**

Refrain: **Faith of our fathers, holy faith, we will be true to thee till death.**

- 2 **The martyrs, chained in prisons dark, were still in heart and conscience free;
and blest would be their children's fate if they, like them, should die for thee.**

Refrain

- 3 **Faith of our fathers! We will love both friend and foe in all our strife;
proclaim thee too, as love knows how, by saving word and faithful life.**

Refrain

**Post-Communion Blessing*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: **Amen.**

**Closing Prayer*

SENDING

**Benediction*

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor, and + give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

**Sending Song – “These Are the Days of Elijah” (piano)*

1. **These are the days of Elijah, declaring the word of the Lord;
and these are the days of your servant, Moses, righteousness being restored.
And though these are days of great trial, of famine and darkness and sword,
still we are the voice in the desert crying, ‘Prepare ye the way of the Lord.’”**

*Refrain: Behold, he comes riding on the clouds,
shining like the sun at the trumpet call;
lift your voice, it's the year of jubilee, out of Zion's hill salvation comes.*

**2. These are the days of Ezekiel, the dry bones becoming as flesh;
and these are the days of your servant, David, rebuilding a temple of praise.
These are the days of the harvest, the fields are as white in the world,
and we are the lab’rers in your vineyard, declaring the work of the Lord. *Refrain***

**Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Song Credits

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Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Liddy Stark

Greeter: Hallie Mayner

Reader: Barb Davenport

Usher: Barb Davenport

Pastor: Adam Dichsen

Music Director: Jean Welch

Organist: Sandi Watts

Pianist: Jean Welch

Guitarist: Marilyn Dichsen

Drummers: John Demien & Louis Dichsen

Financial Assistants: Barb Davenport & Monica Proefrock

Chancel Committee: Karen Sibert

Coffee Host: Karen Sibert



Singers:

Benen Dichsen

Terri Kimler

Kris Roth

Melissa Street

Kelly Hartz

Adam Krohe

Cole Street

Church Council Members:

Malinda Carlson

Marilyn Dichsen

Greg Kimler

Monica Proefrock

Ken Devlin

Kelly Hartz

Patty Nelson

Kay Schnitker

Kelly Street

What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, August 31, 9:30am: Worship **Friends from Faith**
10:45am: Bible Study

Saturday, September 6, 8:00am: Cooking for
9:00am: Men's Breakfast

Sunday, September 7, 9:30am: Outdoor Contemporary Worship
11:00am: Indoor Traditional Worship
12:00pm: Bible Study

September 8-12, 11:15am: **Doorbell Dinner Delivery**

News Updates

Lay Ministry Sign-Up Sheets

Sign-Up Sheets are available at the podium in the gathering area. Please take a moment to sign up to be an Usher, Reader, Greeter, Communion Assistant, Coffee Host, Chancel Committee volunteer, and to Donate Altar Plants. **We especially need help on September 7 for the 2 services that day. Thank You!** *We are Gifted to Serve!*

Faith's Little Flock

Faith's Little Flock activities for August: Pam Devlin will have a fun lesson planned for August 31st, as Melissa will be gone that Sunday.

Snacks will include apple sections, graham crackers, and veggie chips. We have also started including children's videos that fit with the theme for the day.

Thank you to everyone who helps with Faith's Little Flock, and to the parents for trusting us with your little ones! We look forward to seeing everyone in August!

Blessings, *Melissa*

Join Us as We "Go Deeper"

After worship scripture and sermon discussions will continue in the Justice Room with Pastor Adam. We will not meet on September 14 because of the Dedication Sunday breakfast.

Final Outdoor Service of the Summer – September 7

September 7 will be our last chance to worship outdoors this summer, and the forecast looks beautiful. Bring a chair and join us on the lawn as we worship in God's creation at

9:30am. If you'd like to listen to the new songs beforehand, you can find them on Faith's YouTube channel or scan the QR code in the September Newsletter (in the pews).

Indoor Traditional Worship – September 7

Join us indoors on September 7 at 11:00am for our traditional worship service with liturgy from the Lutheran Book of Worship led on organ. The Worship Core Team and Church Council would like to continue these services periodically through the year and would like your feedback. After worship, the Council asks that you stay in the sanctuary for a few minutes to share what you enjoy about the service and discuss volunteer opportunities.

Friends from Faith Card Ministry – A ministry team led by Naomi Hahn

On the last Sunday of each month, everyone is welcome to send a greeting card. **Today**, visit the tall table just outside the sanctuary where you can select a card, sign a card, or deposit a card in the mailbox to send. Cards and stamps are provided for your use. If you have extra cards or stamps to spare, please bring them and donate them in the provided jar.

Bible Boot Camp

Bible Boot Camp kicks off with a cookout at the Martin's home on **Sunday, Sept. 14** as we learn about God's creation. We'll read the creation stories in Genesis, explore God's creation at their pond, have a hotdog cookout with homemade ice cream, and sing around the campfire. For the more adventurous, there are kayaks, a row boat, and fishing poles. Parents are welcome to attend and join us for the activities and meal. We will meet at Faith at 4:00 to carpool and be finished at 6:00. Our second Bible Boot Camp session will be Sunday, September 21 at Faith. Meet at 4:30 for lessons on Abraham, Isaac, and Moses. Supper will be provided at 5:30, and we will end at 6:00.

Youth Events in September

Our junior and senior high students are invited to the Martin's home for a cookout and outdoor fun on **Sunday, September 14**. We'll start with hotdogs, brats, and homemade ice cream at 5:30 and then have some fun boating, kayaking, fishing, and more, closing off with singing around the campfire as we watch the sunset. Meet at 5:00 at Faith for a ride or to carpool, and we'll be finished at 8:00.

September 14 is “Abiding in Faith for our Future” Commitment Sunday and Celebration Meal

On Sunday, September 14, we will have our Stewardship Dedication Sunday as we receive pledges for both our annual stewardship appeal and our Abiding in Faith for the Future special three-year appeal to pay off our mortgage. After worship, all are invited to the

Great Room for a breakfast provided by our men's breakfast crew while our Council tallies the pledges and announces the total. Please prayerfully consider how you can give to support our ministry together in these ways. Remember, stewardship is not about fundraising, but it is a spiritual practice.

Music at Faith

As always, we would love to have more people involved in the music ministry at Faith. Please contact Jean Welch if you are interested in sharing your musical gifts at our worship services – all are welcome! jrwelch53@msn.com or 217-652-7009 (phone/text)

Musical Musings

Last year, during Pastor Adam's sermon series on "What is a Lutheran," volunteers presented introductions to hymns. They researched about the history and theology, helping us to appreciate the significance of each note and lyric. Sharon Zuiderveld and Naomi Hahn welcome you to join them in offering these musical musings again. Do you have a hymn or song you would recommend? Would you be willing to be a presenter? If so, let them know.

Jacksonville Area Community Food Center

With summer here and kids being out of school, there is need for lunch foods that kids can "cook" easily at home. Some ideas: canned pasta and meat (Chef Boyardee), canned chicken or tuna, cereal, canned soups, peanut butter and jelly, mac and cheese, Ramen noodles, instant oatmeal, juice, canned fruit, Gatorade, and Jello or pudding cups. Please consider donating to the Food Center – you can put your donations in the cloth bins in the Mission and Ministry Center (coat closet).

Doorbell Dinners September 8-12

Help us deliver meals in the community through our community-wide Doorbell Dinners ministry. We are in need of drivers & deliverers to cover the needs of five routes — time commitment is 11:15-12:30 each day. For more information and to sign up, visit the signup counter by the Fair Trade coffee sales.