

Welcome to



August 23, 2026
13th Sunday
After Pentecost

The vision of Gethsemane Lutheran Church is to:

GROW UP in His Word,
GROW OUT in his Ministry,
GROW TOGETHER in His Love.

Pastor James Jennings
Preschool Director: Kim Perry
Administrative Assistant: Schawna Briney
Elder on Duty: Fred Caton

+ PRESERVICE MUSIC +

+ WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS +

+ OPENING SONG +

"The Heart of Worship"
(When the Music Fades)

When the music fades
All is stripped away
And I simply come
Longing just to bring
Something that's of worth
That will bless Your heart

*I'll bring You more than a song
For a song in itself
Is not what You have required
You search much deeper within
Through the way things appear
You're looking into my heart*

**I'm coming back
To the heart of worship
And it's all about You
All about You Jesus
I'm sorry Lord
For the thing I've made it
When it's all about You
All about You Jesus**

King of endless worth
No one could express
How much You deserve
Though I'm weak and poor
All I have is Yours
Ev'ry single breath

*I'll bring You more than a song
For a song in itself
Is not what You have required
You search much deeper within
Through the way things appear
You're looking into my heart*

**I'm coming back
To the heart of worship
And it's all about You
All about You Jesus
I'm sorry Lord
For the thing I've made it
When it's all about You
All about You Jesus**

"The Heart of Worship," words and music by Matt Redman
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+ INVOCATION +

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

- P** As we enter into God's presence, we bring our lives to Him. It is appropriate for us to approach Him humbly, confessing our sins, and asking for the new life He gives. We pray together:
- C** **Almighty God, as we live from day to day it is so easy for us to forget about how serious sin is. Sin keeps us broken and keeps us from realizing Your great power and mercy that builds us up with Your love, forgiveness, and salvation. O Lord, forgive us. Have mercy upon us, and Give us life again. Amen.**
- P** "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23). Today I assure you that the new life God promises you is yours. By His mercy and grace, through the death and resurrection of His Son Jesus, your sins are forgiven. Death and sin no longer have their hold over you. In Christ you are a new creation; the old is gone, the new has come!
- C** **We praise God for His grace and salvation! Amen!**

The 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.

⁵My 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.

⁶Lift 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.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The Epistle Reading

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.

¹I 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 everyone 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 function, 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 service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:1—12

The Sermon on the Mount

¹Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

The Beatitudes

²And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.
⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.
¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
¹¹“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.
¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Kids Songs
“God Is”
“Love Round”

Blessing of the Backpacks & Children’s Message

We Pray Together

C God of Wisdom, we give you thanks for schools and classrooms and for the teachers and students who fill them each day. We thank you for this new beginning, for new books and new ideas. We thank you for sharpened pencils, pointy crayons, and blank pages waiting to be filled. We thank you for the gift of making mistakes and trying again. Help us to remember that asking the right questions is often as important as giving the right answers.

P Today we give You thanks for these Your children, and we ask You to bless them with curiosity, understanding and respect. May their backpacks be a tool for them so that they have everything they need to learn and grow this year in school. Guide them by Your love. All this we ask in the name of Jesus, who as a child in the temple showed his longing to learn about You, and as an adult who taught by story and example Your great love for us.

C Amen

Message “Service & Blessings”

Message Song

“Blessed Be Your Name”

Blessed Be Your Name
In the land that is plentiful
Where Your streams of abundance flow
Blessed be Your name

Blessed Be Your name
When I’m found in the desert place
Though I walk through the wilderness
Blessed Be Your name

*Every blessing You pour out
I’ll turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in, Lord
Still I will say*

Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name

Blessed be Your name
When the sun's shining down on me
When the world's 'all as it should be'
Blessed be Your name

Blessed be Your name
On the road marked with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering
Blessed be Your name

Every blessing You pour out
I'll turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in, Lord
Still I will say

Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name

You give and take away
You give and take away
My heart will choose to say
Lord, blessed be Your name

Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name

Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name

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Apostles' Creed

Blessing our Gethsemane Lutheran **Preschool Teachers and Staff**

Offering

Prayers of the Church

P Lord, in Your mercy
C Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

We Worship as We Go - The Sending and Benediction

P Go in peace; serve the Lord.
C Thanks be to God!

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.

+ CLOSING SONG +

“How Great Is Our God”

The splendor of the King
Clothed in majesty
Let all the earth rejoice
All the earth rejoice
He wraps Himself in light
And darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice
And trembles at His voice

***How great is our God
Sing with me***

***How great is our God
And all will see how great
How great is our God***

Age to age He stands
And time is in His hands
Beginning and the End
Beginning and the End
The Godhead three in one
Father Spirit Son
The Lion and the Lamb
The Lion and the Lamb

***How great is our God
Sing with me***

***How great is our God
And all will see how great
How great is our God***

Name above all names

Worthy of all praise

My heart will sing

How great is our God

How great is our God

Sing with me

How great is our God

And all will see how great

How great is our God

“How Great Is Our God”, words and music by Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves and Ed Cash
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+ POST SERVICE MUSIC +

What’s Happening @ Gethsemane

The Tuesday morning Bible Study
"Bird's Eye View of the Bible" will
be on hiatus the remainder of the
summer and resume Tuesday,
September 1 with the New
Testament!

Sunday Morning Bible Classes @ 10:15 a.m.

Stay for coffee and cookies after the 9 a.m.
worship service then join a Bible class!

Women’s Bible Study: “Bless These Lips” –
Led by Maria Keeling – Meets in the Library

“Study the Book of Mark” – Led by Pastor
James Jennings – Meets in the Life Center

Flowers for August 23rd:

By Ed Johnson in remembrance of his
mother and Vicki’s mother.

By Janet and Jim Goodman in honor
of son Matt on his 39th birthday today.

*Rev. James Jennings – Pastor
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