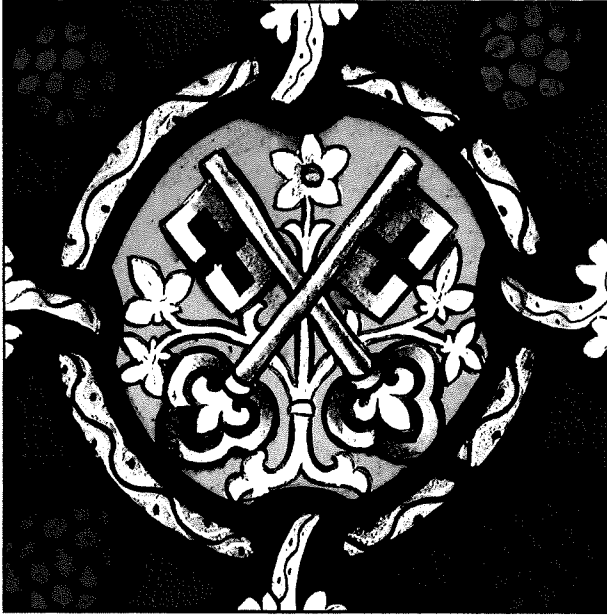


The 13th Sunday after Pentecost

August 23rd, 2026 ~ 8:30am



+ Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church +
2451 Saucon Valley Rd. Center Valley, PA 18034
Office: 610-865-4144

The Rev. Lisa K. Borrell, Pastor ~ 610-762-2139
Quinette Brucker, Dir. of Music/Organist
610-428-3838

WELCOME

() Please stand as you are comfortable and able*

Prelude Music

Welcome & Announcements

*Opening Litany (from the Christian Aid website)

- P: Lord Jesus, You are a Lord who walks beside your people. So we pray for people who walk for justice.
- C: You are a Lord who raises up those who are bent low. So we pray for those held down by the grindings of life and the indifference of the world.**
- P: You are a Lord who feeds the hungry So we pray for all who long for bread and the means to provide it.
- C: You are a Lord who celebrates the small and the insignificant. So we pray for the children and for those who are never noticed.**
- P: You are a Lord who says 'Follow me.' So we pray for courage and faith in our hearts that we may take up the cross and find it leads to life. Amen.

*Hymn #786

"O Holy Spirit, Enter In"

*The Greeting and Prayer of the Day

- 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.**
- P: Let us pray. ~ O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong founda-

P: tion 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.**

The First Reading ~ Isaiah 51: 1-6

Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants, so now God offers comfort to Zion. God's deliverance will come soon and will never end.

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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 138 (read responsively, lector then congregation)

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 above 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 purpose for me; O LORD, your steady
love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.**

The 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.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

***The Gospel Acclamation (sung by all)**



The 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.

The Holy Gospel according to the 16th chapter of St. Matthew.

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.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sermon

***Hymn #652**

"Built on a Rock"

***The Apostles' Creed (professed together)**

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



I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, 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, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come 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

***The Prayers of Intercession**

Merciful God ... **Receive our prayer.**

Anthem **"My Life Flows on in Endless Song"**

Blessing of the Communion Elements



The Lord's Prayer (traditional ~ prayed by all)

+ Communal Reception of the Sacrament +

This morning, the sacrament will be distributed by method of intinction; that is, the Pastor will dip the wafer into the chalice, hand it to the recipient so that they may place it in their own mouth.

Post-Communion Blessing and Benediction

P: The God of all grace bless you now and forever. Amen.

***Closing Hymn #820 "O Savior, Precious Savior"**

***Dismissal**

Go in peace and serve the Lord in love. ♥

Thanks be to God!

Postlude Music



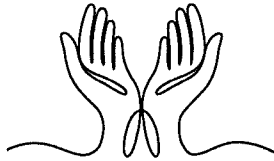
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Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Annual License #.36667 NRSV Bible 2026.
Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches.*

No formal offering is taking during the worship service. Two plates are located out in the narthex hallway to receive your financial gifts to Friedens. Thank you.

*thank
you*

... to Maureen Wagner for serving as our lector

... to Drew Wagner for serving as our live stream tech



To remember in prayer ... Ronald Black, Bob Brown, Shauna and Dan Brucker, Caitlin Carfagno, Richard Eisenhart, Faye, Hope Geary, Chris Geist, Harlan, Janet Heckman, Jeanne Logan, Lori Remaly, Barb Shaneberger, Kathleen Tuomela May, Darrell Tuomela, Joe Ulmer, Leon Warmkessel, George Weiser, people living in war-torn countries, victims of oppression, injustice, violence, and natural disasters, and other dear ones we name before God. †



The altar flowers have been sponsored by Diane and Bob Ernst in loving memory of Howard Weiss.

♥ Thank you for your donations of:

#2 Pencils, Colored Pencils, Pens, Markers

Expo/Dry Erase Markers, Scissors, Rulers, & Folders

for our school supply collection throughout August!



... VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ...

to help with Friedens' church stand at
Coopersburg Community Day which will be
held on Saturday, September 19th.

If you are able to help in any way, please
use the sign up sheet which is on the table
in the narthex hallway or speak directly
with Nancy Filler. Thanks!

