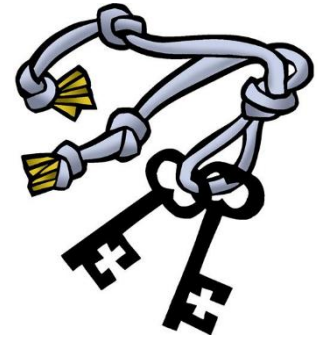


# Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 27, 2023 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 10



## Prelude Music

## Announcements

## Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

C: Amen.

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

P: Merciful God,

C: ... we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Righteous God,

C: ... we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

## Gathering Song:

*In Christ There Is No East or West*

ELW #650

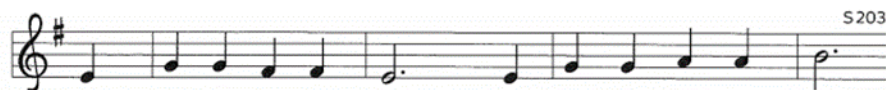
## Greeting

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!

## Kyrie

p. 203



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.  
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.  
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

## Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray together,

**C: 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.**

## 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 that pursue righteousness, you that 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: The Word of the Lord

**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 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 steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands**



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

**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.

P: A reading from... **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 the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

**"Solid Intuition (Keys to the Kingdom)"**

*Pastor Paul Busekist*

**Song of the Day:**

***My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less***

***ELW # 596***

**Apostles Creed**

**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.**

**Prayers of the Church / Sign of the Peace** *(Let us give one another a sign of peace according to your comfort level.)*

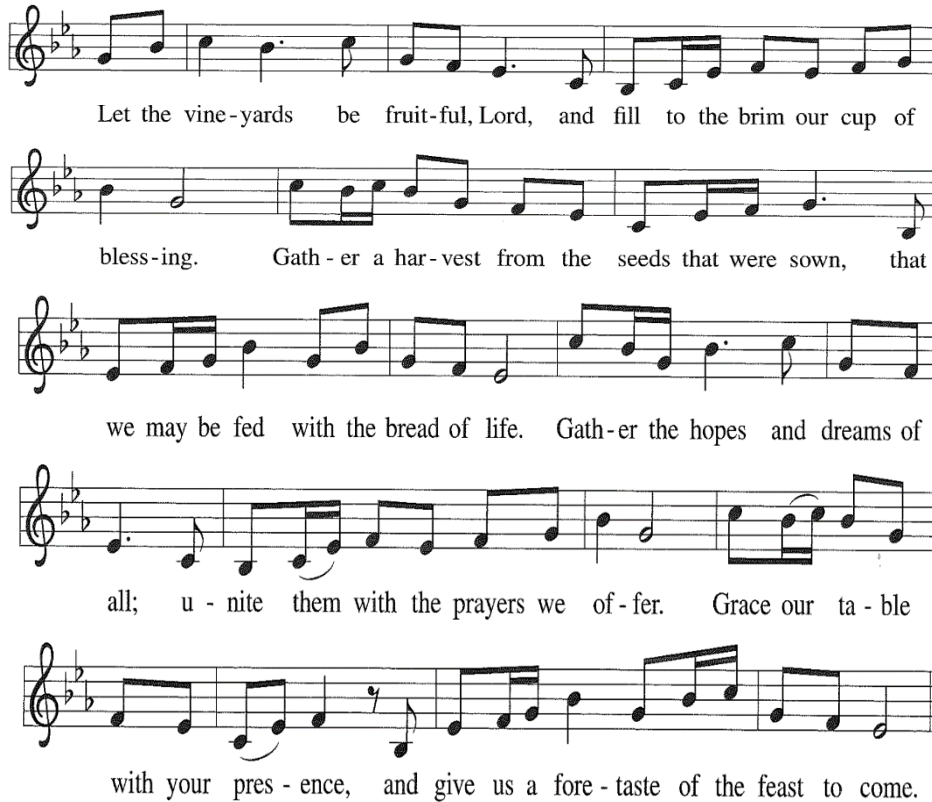
## Offering

Offering Song:

Zeke Clemons

Offertory:

### Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble  
with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray.

C: God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## 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.

**Communion** (Please note: gluten-free wafers and white grape juice cups are available)

Communion Songs:

**You Are Mine**  
**Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation**

**ELW #581**  
**ELW # 645**

## Final Blessing

P: The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed † bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age.

C: Amen.

## Sending Song:

## *All Things are Possible*

### Verse 1

Almighty God, my Redeemer, my hiding place, my safe refuge; no other name like Jesus, no pow'r can stand against You.

### Verse 2

My feet are planted on this rock and I will not be shaken; my hope it comes from You alone, my Lord and my salvation.

### Chorus

Your praise is always on my lips, Your word is living in my heart; and I will praise You with a new song, my soul will bless You Lord. You fill my life with greater joy, yes, I delight myself in You; and I will praise You with a new song, my soul will bless You Lord.

### Verse 2

My feet are planted on this rock and I will not be shaken; my hope it comes from You alone, my Lord and my salvation.

### Chorus

Your praise is always on my lips, Your word is living in my heart; and I will praise You with a new song, my soul will bless You Lord. You fill my life with greater joy, yes, I delight myself in You; and I will praise You with a new song, my soul will bless You Lord.

### Bridge

When I am weak You make me strong, when I'm poor I know I'm rich; for in the power of Your name all things are possible, all things are possible; all things are possible, all things are possible.

### Chorus

Your praise is always on my lips, Your word is living in my heart; and I will praise You with a new song, my soul will bless You Lord. You fill my life with greater joy, yes, I delight myself in You; and I will praise You with a new song, my soul will bless You Lord.

### Bridge

When I am weak You make me strong, when I'm poor I know I'm rich; for in the power of Your name all things are possible, all things are possible; all things are possible, all things are possible.

## Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Share the harvest.

C: Thanks be to God.



**Bethlehem** August 27, 2023  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

1050 Peninsula Drive  
Traverse City, MI 49686  
(231) 947-9880  
[www.bethlehemtc.org](http://www.bethlehemtc.org)

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

8/27—Jim Williams  
8/28—Sheila Mosley  
8/29—Danna Bugai

8/29—Katherine Word  
8/30—Bill Froehlich  
8/30—Bonnie Gamble

9/1—Mary Belle Woodring  
9/1—Marilyn DuMond  
9/3—Sue Allen

**Building and Office Hours are: 9:00am – 2:30pm, Monday – Thursday.**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** We often find the front door and/or the kitchen door unlocked when there is no one in the building. Please be sure that the doors are locked when you leave.

**Please Note:** \_\_\_\_\_

Barbara Oster/Administrative Assistant works 9:00am-2:30pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and some Wednesday mornings.

Phil Anderson/Bookkeeper works 8:30am-12:30pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. During the week of Labor Day, Phil will go back to working on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Alanna Steffunick/Ministry Coordinator works 9:00am-2:30pm – in the office on Tuesday and Thursday and from home on Wednesday

**Offerings:** The offering plates are now passed during the service. The vase in the back of the Sanctuary is still available for those who prefer not to touch the offering plate.

**Today's altar flowers are donated by:** *James Hinds in Memory of Janice (Jan) Hinds*

**The September issue of the STAR is now available.** For current issues of the Star, feel free to check online at [www.bethlehemtc.org](http://www.bethlehemtc.org) < About Us > "The Online Bethlehem Star" or type this URL to get these directly: <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/the-bethlehem-star-newsletter>.

**The October/November/December Christ In Our Home is now available.** Please take a copy for yourself and also for friends and family.

WE NEED YOU!! We are looking for someone who would be willing to lead the Adult Bible Study on Sunday mornings at 9:15. Last year we discussed the readings for the day which was very well received. You would be responsible for finding people who would be willing to lead the discussion. For further information, contact Nancy Ammann 946-8433.

**Looking for a link to last month's full Council minutes?** Type this address/url into your web browser to get the latest approved minutes from Council: [bethlehemtc.org/Council-Minutes](http://bethlehemtc.org/Council-Minutes) OR you may call the office to request a copy.

**Prayer Requests:**

- Prayer Chain: Please contact Jan Stretlien at [jstretlien@gmail.com](mailto:jstretlien@gmail.com) or 231-947-3265
- Prayers read from the altar: Please call Administrative Assistant in the church office 231-947-9880

**Due Dates for STAR/Bulletin/Screen Announcements:**

- STAR: The third Friday of the month sent to [admin@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org) (Please note STAR in subject line)
- Bulletin/Verbal Announcements: Tuesday of the week sent to [admin@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org) (Bulletin/Worship Folder is prepared on Tuesday and printed on Thursday morning.) (Please note Bulletin or Announcement in subject line)
- Screen Announcements/Weekly BLC Emails: Tuesday of the week sent to [alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org)

**Celebrate a new child in your life with a rose on the baptismal font!** Cost \$10.00 per rose. Contact Barbara Oster at [beo6475@yahoo.com](mailto:beo6475@yahoo.com) or 231.668.7038.

**Norm Fred has helped a previously homeless couple for a few years.** They are proud people and do not like to be given charity but they will accept help in the form of donated cans that they can recycle for money. Please bring in your recyclables in for them. **Leave them by the garage.** These are nice people. There, but for the Grace of our God, go we.

**Choir News from Tony Bero:** Greetings, friends! I hope you've been having a great summer. This summer has been a busy one; I taught a session at Interlochen Arts Camp, my wife and I purchased a home in Grawn. With that purchase came lots of home improvement projects that have kept me busy in addition to teaching my piano students, working with the choir at Immanuel Lutheran, and squeezing in our annual family camping trip. As summer begins its wind-down, I invite you to consider joining the choir as we resume our rehearsals on Thursday, September 7 at 7:00 pm. We will begin preparing, For the Beauty of the Earth, by John Rutter. We will also set dates and times for September rehearsals. I hope you can attend!

**Join us to celebrate Rally Day (a.k.a “God’s Work, Our Hands” Sunday) and welcome in the start of the school year! Sunday, September 10th, 2023, 11:30am - 1:00pm** We will have a variety of games set up (hopefully outside, if we are blessed with good weather!) and will be providing hotdogs, cookies, chips, and drinks for everyone. We are welcoming families from the communities to this event as well! Come join us, have some fun, and get a little bit of info about our Sunday School and Adult Education! We invite YOU!

**While some of the adults and all of the kids are outside enjoying special fun activities after the service on Sunday 9/10,** we hope many of the rest of you will wear your casual clothes and come prepared to spruce up the inside of BLC. This has been done twice before in the past year and it really makes a difference in our church. Feel free to bring your own special cleaning supplies or use what is available here at the church. We will work for 45-50 mins and anyone who would like to can stay to share a meal with the kids. Jana Rockne has agreed to be the “Queen Merry Maid” who will direct you to the needed locations.

**Sunday School will resume on September 17th at 9:15am**

**Now scheduling for directory photography sessions.** Please stop by our table and make your appointment on Sundays after the service, today through 9/24. Online scheduling will be available Monday-Friday. Photo dates will September 27th, 28th, 29th from 2pm - 8:30pm, and September 30th from 10am - 4pm. Each family photographed receives a complimentary 8x10 portrait and a directory! You can schedule your appointment online at: [www.ucdir.com](http://www.ucdir.com). Click on the appointment scheduling login on the right side, enter **mi1773** in the Church Code field and enter **photos** in the Church Password field. Follow the prompts to schedule your family's appointment time. If you have 6 or more in your family, please use 2 consecutive time slots. The online scheduling option is only available Monday - Friday. Appointments fill up quickly, so schedule as soon as possible to secure your preferred date and time. Questions? Please contact Kathy Ancinec (989) 906-2764 or Christine Hubert (231) 357-7722.

**Spotlight on Zeke:** So many of us enjoy Zeke’s talents with religious music, but did you know that he plays other kinds of music at various locations in the Traverse City area? Here is a list of his engagements in the next month that are close to TC:

Fri 9/1—Brady’s Bar at 6:30  
Sun 9/10—Bel Lago Winery in Cedar at 3:00  
Sat 9/23—Bel Lago Winery in Cedar at 3:00  
Fri 9/29—Brady’s Bar at 6:30  
Sat 10/7—Hotel Indigo at 6:00

**BLC Book Club resumes:** The TC library has upgraded their book club bag selection so there are more choices!!! For Sept 26 the book *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver is in the book club box outside the front doors of church. This book is a Pulitzer Prize winner and has been on the “Best seller” list for weeks. Please try to join in person in the office conference room at 5:30 that Tues. If you need us to include you via ZOOM please contact Cindy at [cmonroe@chartermi.net](mailto:cmonroe@chartermi.net) so a connection can be established.

**XYZ Potluck has returned!** Join us for good food, laughter and fellowship on Friday, September 8th at 12 Noon. After lunch, we will have a program by our very own Tom Rockne whose topic will be “Africa is a Huge and Diverse Continent.” He will speak on his travels across Africa. While predominately geared toward seniors, we welcome any adult who would like to attend.

**Copies of the Living Lutheran magazine** can be picked up at the welcome table on Sunday mornings or from the Shooting STAR box below the outside mailbox.

**Are you looking for the Caring Table for your donations?** It has been moved inside the coat room to the right. Also, the area for the Oleson and Family Fair receipts is in the lower cabinets below the mailboxes (under the A-B-Cs...). The cabinet door is marked with the receptacle inside.



**Coffee and Cookies:** You are welcome to stay after the Sunday service for coffee, cookies and conversation. This will be done as many Sundays as there are volunteers to make the coffee and/or bring cookies, etc. There is a sign-up sheet available near the cookies. There are open dates, so please sign up!

**Name tags:** Your name tags are in your mailboxes. Please retrieve them so you can proudly wear them on Sunday mornings. We often have visitors and with so many recent new members it helps them if they can see a friendly face and attach a name to it.

**Adult Bible Study:** will resume on September 20th with the Gospel of John.

**The Zoom Bible Study:** will on September 13th with a study the Book of Isaiah. Contact Pr Paul or Barbara Oster if you are interested in attending.

**Food Pantry: HELP!!!** Our outdoor food pantry has finally been found by those in need and there is hardly anything left in it!!! Please take some time and buy some extra staple items when you go shopping. The shelves in the pantry are labeled. You can place your items right in the cupboard or you can bring them inside church and leave them on the CARE table in the coat room.

**A big thank you to all who turned in Olesons' receipts.** We just received a check from them for \$304.88. Last year received \$651.20. Let's see if we can do even better this year! Please continue to drop off your receipts at Bethlehem. Please note they do not expire. Thank you!

**Have something important going on at Bethlehem that you'd like others to know about?** Maybe a Small Group? A Club Event? Feature it on the Screen Announcements, weekly emails and on our Facebook Events Page! If there is something you'd like featured or included in any of these, please reach out to [alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org) If you are not getting the weekly emails for any reason, please contact Alanna.

**Please consider signing up for Altar Flowers for a Sunday service.** Please use the sign-up poster in the Narthex by signing on the date you request. Then fill out a pink slip with the necessary information and place it and a check for \$40 (payable to Bethlehem Lutheran Church or BLC) in the offering plate on Sunday morning (Preferable) or during the week, in the Administrative Assistant's mailbox near the church office entrance. You may select either "in honor" or "in memory" or "to celebrate". If someone has already signed on the date you would like, feel free to add your name – we welcome more than one on a Sunday.

**The church calendar is below. Please be sure to notify the office ([admin@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org) or 231.947.9880) to be sure that your group is of the calendar.**

**Sunday, August 27**

10:00am--Worship Service (S)

**Monday, August 28**

4:00pm—Chair Yoga (FH)

5:30pm—Sabbatical Meeting (Offsite)

**Tuesday, August 29**

**Bulletin articles due today**

9:00am—Property Work Group

**Wednesday, August 30**

11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)

**Thursday, August 31**

5:30pm—ACA

7:00pm—Indian Woods Neighborhood Assn (FH)

**Sunday, September 3**

10:00am--Worship Service (S)

11:15am—Worship and Music meeting (CR)

