

13th Sunday after Pentecost — August 23, 2026

Prelude *Prelude from Partita on Westminster Abbey* arr. by Charles Callahan

Tune "Westminster Abbey" in Public Domain, adapt. from an anthem of Henry Purcell, 1659-1695

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"Partita on Westminster Abbey", organ solo - All rights reserved

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Welcome & Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

WOV Pg. 10

L: The leader leads the congregation in the invocation. The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

P: Amen

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

P: Amen

L: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

L: Most merciful God,

All: 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

L: 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.

P: Amen

Children's Sermon

Opening Hymn

Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

ELW 645

Text: Latin hymn, c. 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt. in Public Domain

Music in Public Domain by Henry Purcell, 1659-1695; arr. Ernest Hawkins, 1802-1868

Apostolic Greeting

WOV Pg. 28

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

P: And also, with you

Gloria

WOV Pg. 29

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest; glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth. Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and

Father: We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest; glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest; glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen. Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest; glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth, and peace to God's people on earth.

Prayer of the Day

L: The Lord be with you

P: And also, with you

L: 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. **P: Amen**

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. Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

P: Thanks be to God!

Psalm 138 (*spoken responsively*)

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.**

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.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

P: Thanks be to God

Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation

WOV Pg. 31

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel according to Matthew in the 16th Chapter. P: 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. ⁸ 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. This is the Gospel of the Lord. **P: Praise to you, O Christ**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

ELW 596

Text in Public Domain by Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt.

Music in Public Domain by William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

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 into hell.

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

- L: Heavenly Father, we ask that Your healing presence surround all who suffer in our church, our community, and throughout the world. May they feel Your comfort, receive Your peace and find strength in Your loving care.
Lord, in your mercy, **P: Hear our prayer**
- L: Heavenly Father, we lift up our leaders in the church, in our community, and in our country. Grant them wisdom, compassion, and discernment as they make decisions that affects the lives of many. Lord in your mercy, **P: Hear our prayer**
- L: Heavenly Father, we hear the cries of those who are abused, malnourished, neglected, and in need. Help us to be Your light in the world, working to protect, feed, comfort, and care for all who are vulnerable. Lord in your mercy, **P: Hear our prayer**
- L: Heavenly Father, we pray for those whose hearts are hardened by anger, hatred, or unbelief. Open our hearts and minds to Your love and truth, and help us reflect Your light by showing kindness, patience, and grace to everyone we meet.
Lord in your mercy, **P: Hear our prayer**
- L: And for any other needs, Lord, we seek your divine grace. Lord in your mercy, **P: Hear our prayer. Amen**

Peace

- L: The peace of Christ be with you always. **P: And also, with you**

Please share a sign of God's peace.

The offering is received



Anthem

In Every Land Begin the Song

Words by J. Paul Williams, 1937-2010 Music by Joseph M. Martin, b. 1959

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In every land begin the song, let hallelujahs fill the air. Sing praise to whom all praise belongs, a song of joy declare. God's love all love excelling, God's love is ever sure. God's love is never failing, love transcending, in every land began the song. In every church begin the song, let hallelujahs fill the air. Sing praise to God with voices strong, your song of joy declare. God's love all love excelling, God's love is ever sure. God's love is never failing, love transcending, in every church begin the song. In every heart begin the song. Let hallelujahs fill the air. Sing out the truth and right the wrong;

God's wondrous love declare. God's love all love excelling, God's love is ever true.
God's love is never failing, love transcending, love excelling, Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
everywhere begin the song!

Offertory Hymn

WOV Pg. 35

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, Lord, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

Offertory Prayer

Great Thanksgiving

WOV Pg. 36-40

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

The Proper Preface is spoken

L: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

P: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Last week when we were gathered to receive this sacrament the pastor consecrated these elements of bread and wine. Together we were reminded of the events of the Last Supper and the promise Jesus made to us there. We recalled the way that he took bread and wine and invited us to eat and drink. He assured us that in these elements, we would be receiving his own body and blood. Our Lord told us that this meal is a pledge of a new covenant between God and humanity. Trusting in Jesus' holy words, we are set free from our sin and all that stands between us and the promise of new life in Christ. Today we will again accept what has been given to us- these gifts of bread and wine- and the promise of mercy that come to us in and through them. We will also speak together the prayer that Jesus taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER

**All: 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

Agnus Dei **WOV Pg. 39**
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of
God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you
take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion is distributed.

Communion Music *Meditation on "Melita"* **arr. by Lani Smith**
Tune "Melita" in Public Domain by John B. Dykes, 1823-1876
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Post Communion Prayer

Benediction **WOV Pg. 41**
L: Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
P: Amen

Closing Hymn *The Church's One Foundation* **ELW 654**
Text in Public Domain by Samuel J. Stone, 1839-1900
Music in Public Domain by Samuel S. Wesley, 1810-1876

Dismissal **WOV Pg. 41**
AM: Assisting Minister: Go now in peace, to love and serve the Lord and your
neighbors. **P: Thanks be to God**

Postlude *Built on a Rock* **arr. by Lani Smith**
Words by J. Paul Williams, 1937-2010 Music by Joseph M. Martin, b. 1959
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Thank you for coming. May God's peace be yours today.

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

The following is a list of those who need your prayers. Our hope is that you will take this listing home with you and in your daily prayers remember those listed below. If you would like to add or subtract for this list, please write name(s) on the Prayer of Concerns form in the Narthex located on the stand-up desk to the right of the exit doors or email the office. Thank you!

Joe Abbott	Charlotte Madia	Justin Wade & Family	Kyle W.
Casaundra Abeling	Audrey Marquard	The Videtto Family	Rowan
Roberta Alteri	Abigail Marine	Eveyln Walters	Stefan Nikola J
Ben, Sheryl & Nic Ahrens	Eric Marine	Sue Watkins	Janet E.
Michelle Ahrens	Richard Marine	James Weber	Wendy Fedor
Coni Aparo	Janis Martin	Diane Wright	Laurie Otis
Charlie Blakeslee	Gil & Marilyn Martin	Bruce Yauney	John Fleming
Kathy Ann Campbell	Michael Meyers	Clayton Young	Ethan Troy Danner
Angelo & Nicole Capasso	Brigitte Mueller	Clarence & Priscilla	Fred Rakyta & family
Vinni Carey	Bob Murphy	Ed	Ryan English
Kathleen Wiley Kelly	Barbara Nalette	Jaiden	Mae Johnson
Emma Cortina	Karen Ness	Steve	Jackie Fleming
Emily Decker	Tom O'Brien	Lou W.	Kiley Lombardo
Irene Douglas	Karen Pagano	Todd	Christine & Fran Gaffney
Judy Elliott	Maria Payne	Robert K.	Patricia & Richard Sawitzke
Diane Engle	Melissa Pilbin	Hagbard	Shannon Hilton
Jan Eucalitto	Lisa & Dennis Polzun	Peanut	Deb & Jon Sterling
Weston Faith	Ed & Susan Regner	Diane L.	David Little
Amy Falls	Baerbel Roehl	Sandie Harper	Carol Vrluk
Bruce & Liz Falls	Andi Craig	Pam Ewing	Terry
Rosemarie Foth	Vincent Scarozzo	Michelle	Eric Walsh
Steven Fosbrook	Jean Schlapfer	Marci	Joyce Young & family
Bob Frantz	Sarah Seelye	Diane Tanner	The family & friends of
John Lewis	Lucille Videtto	Olive	Cecile Scheidel
Danise Hall	Paul Smith	Carol Deleppo	The family of Howard
Marilyn Killingbeck	Marge Kiernan		Kreidwise
Renate Higgins	Sigrid Smitley		
Kathleen Hilton	Lori Sola		
Shaelynn Holmgren	Tom Sterling Sr.		
Bob Hauser	Ruth Ann Stone		
Rusty Judd	Patricia Switzer		

OUR NURSING HOME MEMBERS

Dee Gammon
Midge Rosenbeck
Mae Fay
Francine Ahrens
Betty Hilton
Walter Joray

OUR MILITARY FRIENDS

Lord Jesus, Savior of the World and King of Peace and King of Peace, watch over our sons and daughters in the service of their Country. Protect them from the physical and moral dangers. Keep them close to you and help them live the commandments. Lord, Jesus give them courage to serve their country with honor and dignity. Be with them when they are in danger; strengthen them when they face hardship. Above All Lord, grant that when their service is finished that they may return to us, sound in mind, body and soul. Amen.

Tyler Quinn
Eric Beuis
Dominic Boscarino
Ethan & his Marine Unit
Major Zachary Fulton
Brandan Holbrook
Jonathan Connell
Tom Gregg, Fr.
Eric Bremer
Peter Hutchinson
Ben Speaker
Noah Braatz
Christian Braatz
Aiden Avenia
Sydney Craig & her Army unit



Around the Church

Around the Church

Event	Date	Time
Blessing of Backpacks	8/23	
Hilltop Parent's Orientation	8/26	6-8:00 pm
Toastmasters	8/26	7:00 pm
Hilltop Board Mtg (zoom)	8/27	4:45 pm
Next Concert		
Blue Rhythm Band, Sat. Aug. 29 th		5:30-7 pm
New Members Join	8/30	
Blood Drive	9/3	1-6 pm
New Members' Class	9/5	10-12 n
First Communion Class	9/12	9-12 n

Tuesdays

New Tai Chi class 10-11:30am \$12

Bible Study

No Bible Study this week

Wednesdays

Members Tai Chi 11:00 am

Quilting Group 1:00 pm

Offerings Summary:

Needed Weekly	\$6,290
Received	\$2,590
Shortfall	-\$3,700
YTD	-\$74,888

**GIFT CARDS ARE AVAILABLE FOR
PURCHASE IN THE NARTHEX**

Minimalist bulletin

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 Apostolic Greeting
 Glory or Kyrie Pg 138
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 Second Reading
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 Reading of the Holy Gospel
 Sermon
 Hymn of the Day
 Creed
 Prayers of the People
 Peace
 A Capella Choir Anthem
 The Offering is received
 Offertory Hymn ELW 140
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 Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) pg. 146
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 Post-communion prayer
 Benediction
 Closing Hymn
 Dismissal
 Postlude

The Rev. Dr. G. Scott Cady

Music Director Marcia Newcome

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- Christmas Eve survey please fill it out if you have not already.
- Those interested in becoming official members please fill out a form found on the table in the narthex.
- Looking ahead, we'll be taking a large group picture of you all on September 20, Rally Day, for use in publicity. Anyone who does not want to be in the picture will be able to exit first.
- Sandra Heintz (a church member) is searching for someone to help walk her small rescue dog a few times a day while she is home convalescing from a fall. If interested, please contact her at (860) 489-7511.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
CALLING ALL KIDS!
 Bring your backpacks to church!
Blessing of the Backpacks
 Sunday, August 23, 2026
 during 10:00 am worship service
 Everyone is asked to bring in school supplies and backpacks to be donated to children in need.



Gift Cards for sale!
 AVAILABLE ON SUNDAY!
 CAN ALSO ORDER! Can't find what you need? We can order it for you!
 CHURCH GETS A PERCENTAGE! Your purchase helps support our church.
 YOU PAY the value OF THE CARD.
 We take CASH, CHECKS, CREDIT CARDS
 Thank you for supporting our church!



Grieving the death of a spouse?
Or do you know someone who is?

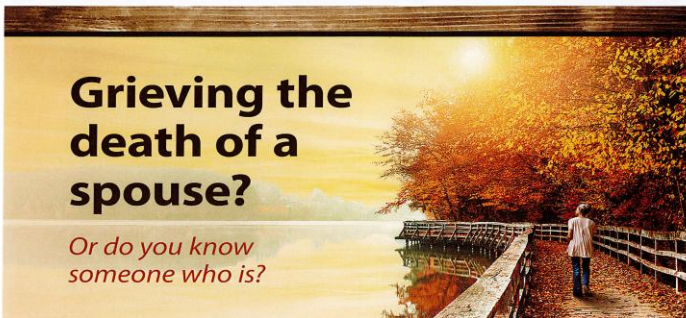
Your life has changed forever. The daily emotions and challenges can seem too hard to bear.

Find help at a Loss of a Spouse seminar.

LOSS OF A SPOUSE
 Please join us for this encouraging seminar.

GRIEF SHARE

August 23, 2026, 3:00-5:00 PM
 Trinity Episcopal Church
 Register at: 860-482-6027
 or griefshare.org



Reminder of the next concert on
Saturday, August 29th

ST. PAUL'S CONCERT SERIES

837 Charles St., Torrington

FREE! 5:30-7

**20
JUN**

SOUTH ROAD



ROCK AND ROLL

**25
JULY**

**ACOUSTIC
STEAMER**

CHILL ROCKIN'

**29
AUG**

**BLUE RHYTHM
BAND**

BLUES AND R&B

**19
SEP**

STILL PICKIN'

BLUEGRASS

**24
OCT**

Jarrold Cattey

JAZZ

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