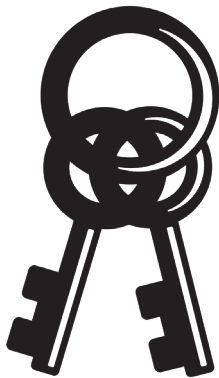


Pentecost 13

August 23, 2026

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 16 (Year A)

Peter’s confession of Jesus’ true identity is a confession of his faith. As followers of Christ, we also are called to make public confession of our faith. St. Paul asserts that this is manifested in a transformation of our old selves into people with a mission and purpose in the Body of Christ. He encourages us to stand firm in the face of pressure to conform to the ways of the world, even as the Spirit enables us to serve.



THIS WEEK’S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6 **The Lord Will Comfort Zion**
God reminded Israel from whence they came. They were chosen and descended from Abraham and Sarah, whom God called and multiplied into a great nation. This is good news for those who are in the desert wastelands, those who need comfort, and those who aren’t sure where to turn. God’s salvation is forever.

Psalm 138 **A Psalm of Thanksgiving**
The Lord would take notice and save the psalmist from whatever he was concerned about. Whether it was an enemy’s wrath, poverty, or trouble, the Lord would rescue the psalmist with his right hand.

Second Reading: Romans 11:33-12:8 **Be Transformed**
St. Paul offered the church in Rome some fatherly advice for the Christian journey. He urged them to not be conformed to the world or the pressure put on them by the culture that surrounded them, but rather to be transformed by the renewing of their minds that are set on Christ Jesus. Each member of the Body of Christ was given a specific function within the body to be exercised for the good of all.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:13-20 **Peter’s Confession**
Jesus had just been tested by the religious leaders, and when he met up with his disciples, he asked them two poignant questions: “Who do people say that I am?” and “Who do you say that I am?” Peter answered correctly, even if he only understood for that moment: “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.”

Liturgical Color: Green

- In Ordinary Time use either the Kyrie OR the Hymn of Praise.
- Use the Apostles’ Creed.

Whether we’re conscious of it or not, our words and actions show the world what we believe. Peter’s confession to Jesus that he believed Jesus was the Messiah was a confession of faith. “Who do YOU say that I am?” is a question that each of us must answer on our own, and yet it is likely the most important question we will ever be asked. Consider having worshipers write their own confessions of faith as an exercise in articulating their own beliefs. Collect them and use them in worship at a later date, or print them in the newsletter for all to meditate upon.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
Built on the Rock	365	---	645	652	91	91
Christ is Made the Sure Foundation	367	747	909	645	---	---
The Church’s One Foundation	369	---	644	654	88	88
My Hope is Built on Nothing Less	294	---	575	596	192	192
Faith of Our Fathers	500	---	---	812	216	216
Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God	---	783	712	---	---	---
Comfort, Comfort Now My People	29	---	347	256	98	98
Praise and Thanksgiving	409	---	789	689	---	---
The King of Love My Shepherd Is	456	---	709	502	198	198
Will You Come and Follow Me	---	---	---	798	---	---

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW= Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV= With One Voice, ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB= The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC= The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at “Hymns and Music.”

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles
Christ in Me (CCLI# 6256719)
Christ Be Magnified (CCLI# 7139866)
Take My Life (CCLI# 1617154)
10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord) (CCLI# 6016351)
Cornerstone (CCLI# 6158927)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.