

**PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

4672 N Cedar Ave. Fresno, CA 93726

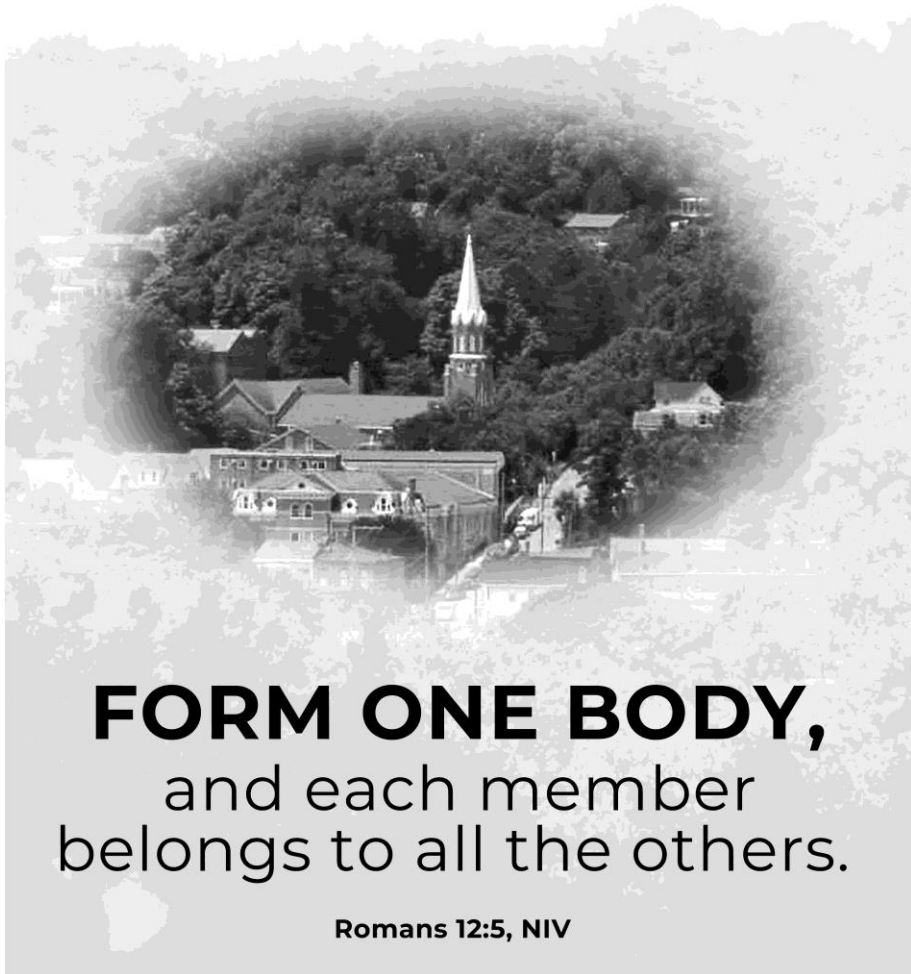
Rev. Michael N. Vernava

Rev. Khai N. Lee

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 27, 2023

...so in Christ we,  
though many,



**CREATIVE WORSHIP**

**As We Gather: Calling A Faithful Pastor**

O Gracious Father, You led Your holy apostles to ordain ministers for the proclamation of Your Word and the Faithful administration of the Sacraments of Christ. Grant to this congregation the guidance of the Holy Spirit to choose a suitable pastor according to Your will for the blessing of Your Church in this place; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**PRELUDE**

*Organist*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

*“Arioso” – Handel  
– Laura Shaghoian, pianist*

**OPENING HYMN**

*“From All That Dwell Below the Skies” LSB 816*

- 1 From all that dwell below the skies  
Let the Creator’s praise arise;  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Let the Redeemer’s name be sung  
Through ev’ry land by ev’ry tongue.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**FORM ONE BODY,**  
and each member  
belongs to all the others.

**Romans 12:5, NIV**

2 Eternal are Thy mercies, Lord;  
Eternal truth attends Thy Word.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore  
Till suns shall rise and set no more.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

△ 3 All praise to God the Father be,  
All praise, eternal Son, to Thee.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Whom with the Spirit we adore  
Forever and forevermore:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text (sts. 1–2): Isaac Watts, 1674–1748; (st. 3): William W. How, 1823–97 Text: Public domain

## INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the  
Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P That we may rest on Jesus and His unchanging grace, let  
us with repentant hearts confess our sins in the  
presence of God and of one another.

P How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord, is laid for  
your faith in His excellent Word!

**C Heavenly Father, Your Word tells us that we all have  
sinned and fall short of Your glory. By what we have  
done and by what we have failed to do, we have lived  
shaky lives that falter when we do not stand firm in  
You.**

P Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee!

**C Lord Jesus, have mercy upon us. You are the rock of  
ages in whom we find protection and deliverance.**

P On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is  
sinking sand!

**C Holy Spirit, enable us to trust the promises of Your  
Word, confident in the forgiveness of sins found in  
Christ Jesus, our solid rock. Amen.**

P Upon this your confession, I am blessed to proclaim the  
certainty of God’s saving grace to all of you! In the stead  
and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, our  
mighty rock and fortress, I forgive you all your sins in  
the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the  
Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

## KYRIE

L In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

L For the peace from above and for our salvation.  
Let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

L For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of  
the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to  
the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

L For this holy house and for all who offer here their  
worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

L Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C Amen.**

## COLLECT

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess Him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

## OLD TESTAMENT

*Isaiah 51:1–6*

<sup>1</sup>“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.

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>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.

<sup>4</sup>“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.

<sup>5</sup>My 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.

<sup>6</sup>Lift 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.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE

*Romans 11:33—12:8*

<sup>33</sup>Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

<sup>34</sup>“For who has known the mind of the Lord,  
or who has been his counselor?”

<sup>35</sup>“Or who has given a gift to him  
that he might be repaid?”

<sup>36</sup>For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

<sup>1</sup>I 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. <sup>2</sup>Do 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.

<sup>3</sup>For 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. <sup>4</sup>For as in one

body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. <sup>6</sup>Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; <sup>7</sup>if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; <sup>8</sup>the 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM

138

P I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart;  
before the gods I sing your praise;

**C I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks  
to your name for your steadfast love and your  
faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things  
your name and your word.**

P On the day I called, you answered me;  
my strength of soul you increased.

**C All the kings of the earth shall give you thanks, O LORD,  
for they have heard the words of your mouth,**

P and they shall sing of the ways of the LORD,  
for great is the glory of the LORD.

**C For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly,  
but the haughty he knows from afar.**

P Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my  
life; you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my  
enemies, and your right hand delivers me.

**C The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me;**

**your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.**

**Do not forsake the work of your hands.**

### HOLY GOSPEL

*Matthew 16:13–20*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the  
sixteenth chapter.

**C Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup>Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” <sup>14</sup>And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” <sup>15</sup>He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” <sup>17</sup>And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup>I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” <sup>20</sup>Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to You, O Christ.**

### MESSAGE HYMN “Built on the Rock” LSB 645

1 Built on the Rock the Church shall stand  
Even when steeples are falling.  
Crumbled have spires in ev’ry land;  
Bells still are chiming and calling,  
Calling the young and old to rest,

But above all the souls distressed,  
Longing for rest everlasting.

- 2 Surely in temples made with hands  
God, the Most High, is not dwelling;  
High above earth His temple stands,  
All earthly temples excelling.  
Yet He who dwells in heav'n above  
Chooses to live with us in love,  
Making our bodies His temple.
- 3 We are God's house of living stones,  
Built for His own habitation.  
He through baptismal grace us owns  
Heirs of His wondrous salvation.  
Were we but two His name to tell,  
Yet He would deign with us to dwell  
With all His grace and His favor.
- 4 Here stands the font before our eyes,  
Telling how God has received us.  
The altar recalls Christ's sacrifice  
And what His Supper here gives us.  
Here sound the Scriptures that proclaim  
Christ yesterday, today, the same,  
And evermore, our Redeemer.
- 5 Grant, then, O God, Your will be done,  
That, when the church bells are ringing,  
Many in saving faith may come  
Where Christ His message is bringing:  
"I know My own; My own know Me.  
You, not the world, My face shall see.  
My peace I leave with you. Amen."

## MESSAGE

**"We Are the Church, the Body of Christ"**  
**Romans 12:1-8**

## APOSTLES' CREED

LSB 158

- C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father  
Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and  
the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.**

## OFFERTORY *"We Give Thee But Thine Own"* LSB 781 (v. 1-2)

- 1 We give Thee but Thine own,  
Whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is Thine alone,  
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

2 May we Thy bounties thus  
As stewards true receive  
And gladly, as Thou blessest us,  
To Thee our firstfruits give!

Text: William W. How, 1823–97 Text: Public domain

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, “Peace be with you,” as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).*

## LORD’S PRAYER

**C 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.**

## HYMN “O Christ, Our True and Only Light” LSB 839

1 O Christ, our true and only light,  
Enlighten those who sit in night;  
Let those afar now hear Your voice  
And in Your fold with us rejoice.

2 Fill with the radiance of Your grace  
The souls now lost in error’s maze;  
Enlighten those whose inmost minds  
Some dark delusion haunts and blinds.

3 O gently call those gone astray  
That they may find the saving way!  
Let ev’ry conscience sore oppressed  
In You find peace and heav’nly rest.

4 Shine on the darkened and the cold;  
Recall the wand’ers to Your fold.  
Unite all those who walk apart;  
Confirm the weak and doubting heart,

5 That they with us may evermore  
Such grace with wond’ring thanks adore  
And endless praise to You be giv’n  
By all Your Church in earth and heav’n.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Text: Public domain

## CLOSING PRAYER

P Gracious Jesus, our Lord and our God, at this hour You bore our sins in Your own body on the tree so that we, being dead to sin, might live unto righteousness. Have mercy upon us now and at the hour of our death, and grant to us, Your servants, with all others who devoutly remember Your blessed passion, a holy and peaceful life in this world and through Your grace eternal glory in the life to come, where, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, You live and reign, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

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 HYMN

*“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less” LSB 575*

1 My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;  
No merit of my own I claim  
But wholly lean on Jesus’ name. *Refrain*

*Refrain*

*On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.*

2 When darkness veils His lovely face,  
I rest on His unchanging grace;  
In ev’ry high and stormy gale  
My anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain*

3 His oath, His covenant and blood  
Support me in the raging flood;  
When ev’ry earthly prop gives way,  
He then is all my hope and stay. *Refrain*

4 When He shall come with trumpet sound,  
Oh, may I then in Him be found,  
Clothed in His righteousness alone,  
Redeemed to stand before His throne! *Refrain*

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt. Text: Public domain

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## POSTLUDE

*Organist*