

*For the week of Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
August 27<sup>th</sup> through September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023*

**Notes for the Week — On This Rock, Matthew 15:21-26**

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. 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.”

This is such an amazing, grace-filled moment. Jesus asked his disciples who others say that He is and the answers are all over the board. But then He asks who they say that He is, and Peter, speaking on behalf of the disciples, proclaims, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

We can get so used to confessing this mystery that we don’t ponder it. But take a moment to consider, many who adhere to the Jewish faith reject Jesus simply because they refuse to believe God would ever come in human flesh. I have heard a well-known Jew admit that there is nothing in the Scripture that would exclude God coming as a man, but the Jewish Talmud, the authoritative traditions and teachings of Rabbinic Judaism, leaves no room for such a possibility. Why? Because the idea that a transcendent God would condescend Himself to become man is simply too much. In other words, “He just wouldn’t.”

I agree. The idea of God becoming man is simply too much to believe. That is why Jesus declared to Peter, “flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.” For all who want to focus this passage on Peter, Jesus is clear. The rock upon which the church is built is not the person or even office Peter. And if it is in the office of Peter, it is only in the office as one who receives and confesses the true faith of Christ as revealed to him by the Father.

That revelation and confession is what the Church is founded upon, and that revelation and confession of who Jesus is cannot become by all the might and terror of hell. Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, and all the power and schemes of hell can only flee from His presence. And that same revelation, which led Jesus to declare Peter blessed, is given to you and me. As we receive, believe, and confess this revelation from the Father, that Jesus is the Christ, God’s own Son, then we can hear those same words spoken to us from the lips of Jesus, “Blessed are you!” And you are truly blessed by Jesus because you are made to be His own, the one from whom all hell must flee! Thanks be to God!

***The Order of Meditation and Prayer***

*Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate.  
Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.*

**INVOCATION**

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

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

**VERSE: EPHESIANS 2:19B-20**

Fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone.

**PSALM 138 and/or the appointed daily psalms.**

**Prayer on the Psalm**

*Renewed thanks do we return unto You, O Father of mercy, for all Your loving-kindness toward us; and chiefly, because You have called us into the kingdom of Your Son, our Savior. Cleanse us from sin by His blood, and remember not our transgressions against us. Do not forsake the work of Your own hands that, delivered from our enemies, we may evermore praise You. Amen.*

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	97, 98	101	103	105	107	108, 110	113, 114	116, 117
Evening	99, 100	102	104	106	109	111, 112	115	118

**BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK:**

	Bible Narrative for the Week	Second Reading
Sunday	Matt. 16:13–20	
Monday	The Worship of the Golden Calf—Exodus 32:1–14	1 Peter 1:1–12
Tuesday	God’s Wrath Is Poured Out upon Idol Worshipers—Exodus 32:15–35	1 Peter 1:13–25
Wednesday	The Lord Renews His Covenant with Israel—Exodus 33:1–3 (4–5); 34:1–10, 27–35	1 Peter 2:1–12
Thursday	Moses Sets Up the Tabernacle—Exodus 40:1–3, 16–38	1 Peter 2:13–25
Friday	The Burnt Offering—Leviticus 1:1–17	1 Peter 3:1–7
Saturday	Jeremiah 15:15–21	Romans 12:9–21

**The Catechism: The Ten Commandments — The Third and Fourth Commandments**

<p><i>What is the Third Commandment?</i>  <b>Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.</b></p>	Preschool+
<p><i>What does this mean?</i>                      We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.</p>	Second Grade+
<p><i>What is the Fourth Commandment?</i>  <b>Honor your father and your mother.</b></p>	Preschool+
<p><i>What does this mean?</i>                      We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.</p>	First Grade+

**DEVOTION OR MEDITATION**

**DAILY PRAYER**

Select from among the following prayers as time and circumstances allow:

**Collect of the Week**

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.  
**Amen.**

### **Daily Themes for Prayer**

- Sunday:** *For the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacrament.*
- Monday:** *For faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.*
- Tuesday:** *For deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with sin.*
- Wednesday:** *For marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.*
- Thursday:** *For the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed Sacrament of Christ's body and blood.*
- Friday:** *For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.*
- Saturday:** *For faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.*

### **In Our Prayers this Week**

**Our Congregation:** Joseph & Randi Helget, Sydney, Gavin, Avery; John & Linda Herrick; Jonathan Herrick; Mary & Mia Herrick; Zach Herrick

**Baptismal Birthdays:** Justine Kennington; Wesley Kennington; Alli Matthews; Nancy Shaver; Baili Williams; Luke Peoples; Vinson Barry; Debra Carey; Kay Gerdes; Doris King; Connie Miller

**Wedding Anniversaries:** Jack & Lisa Davis

**Members of the Congregation:** Nancy Leadbetter; Nancy Shaver; Xander Daniel; Alan Barraza

**Friends of our Congregation:** Judy; Kristena; Kenzie

**Other:**

**Our Circuit:**

*Trinity Lutheran Church, Garnett*

*Zion Lutheran Church, Vassar*

**Our District Staff and President, Rev. Justin Panzer.**

*Janet Powell, Administrative Assistant*

*Jackie Schaefer, Communications Specialist*

**Our Synod and President, Rev. Matthew Harrison**

**Our Community:** *City of Wellsville; USD 289*

**Our State and Governor, Laura Kelly**

**Our Nation and President, Joseph Biden**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

#### **MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER FROM THE CATECHISM**

*I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.*

—or—

*I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.*

**HYMN OF THE WEEK**

**“Built on the Rock”**

**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.”

Text: Nikolai Fredrik Severin Grundtvig, 1783–1872, abr.; tr. Carl Döving, 1867–1937, alt.  
Text: Public domain

**Looking Forward to “The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost”**

**September 3, 2023**

**Readings: Jeremiah 15:15-21 | Romans 11:28-21 | Matthew 16:21-28**

After St. Peter confessed that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, our Lord “began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised” (Matt. 16:21). Upon hearing this “theology of the cross,” Simon Peter stumbled into a satanic “theology of glory.” But the glory of God is revealed in the Passion and cross of His incarnate Son. The faithful prophets, such as Jeremiah, suffered persecution and rejection in anticipation of Jesus’ cross. Yet the Lord did not abandon them; He remembered them, and He was with them to deliver them (Jer. 15:15–20). By His cross, Jesus has redeemed the world, and in His resurrection, He has vindicated all who trust in Him. Thus, the Christian life is a discipleship of self-sacrificing love. Since Christ Jesus has reconciled us to God, we “live peaceably with all” (Rom. 12:18). By the certainty of His cross and resurrection, we “rejoice in hope,” and we are “patient in tribulation” and “constant in prayer” (Rom. 12:12)

