

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 16, 2026



PRELUDE

We arrive from many places as music gathers us into one shared moment in the Spirit.

WELCOME STATEMENT

Everyone is invited into God's story and the life of this community.

GATHERING SONG

GREETING

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

God of the living, we confess that we have not lived as the risen body of Christ in the world. We have failed to abide in your love, and have not loved one another as you love us. Strengthen us with your Spirit, that we may draw our life from you, the vine, and bear fruits of your grace and mercy in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our ✠ risen Lord, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

KYRIE ELEISON

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SONG OF PRAISE

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SPECIAL MUSIC

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

FIRST READING

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God's imminent intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the Israelite community—not race, nationality, or any other category.

A reading from Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come and my deliverance be revealed.

And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it and hold fast my covenant—these I will bring to my holy mountain and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. Thus says the Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel: I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

Holy wisdom, holy word. **Thanks be to God.**

May God be merciful to us and bless us; may the light of God's face shine upon us.

Let your way be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

The earth has brought forth its increase; God, our own God, has blessed us.

May God give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

SECOND READING*Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32*

God has not rejected Israel. Rather, the call and gifts of God are irrevocable so that, while all have been disobedient, God has mercy upon all.

A reading from Romans.

Paul writes: I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

Holy wisdom, holy word. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION*"Help Us O Lord"**Blue Book, Page 4***GOSPEL READING***Matthew 15: [10-20] 21-28*

Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.

The gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

ELW 588

STATEMENT OF FAITH *(from ‘Dakota Road: Remembering the Promise’ edition)*

We believe God is our creator and has promised to love us always. We believe Jesus Christ, fully God and fully human, is God’s promise living among us. He experienced all the pain and joy and challenges of human life. God’s forgiving love was revealed to us when Jesus suffered death on the cross. He came back to new life and has promised us new life in unity with God. We believe the Holy Spirit is God’s promise touching our spirits and animating our lives, guiding us - even through our most difficult moments. We believe God is among us in community. Mysterious, yet very real, God promises to be with us always, even to the end of the age. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

After each petition, Song Response: *“The Spirit intercedes for us...”*

Receive our prayers... in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. And also with you.

OFFERING**PRESENTATION OF GIFTS**

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OFFERING PRAYER

In response to your promise of life, we offer our life. In response to your promise of love, we offer our love. In response to all of your promises, we offer our gifts. Amen.

**THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION/EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Blessed are you, O God, creator of heaven and earth...Glory and praise to you, O God, Author of life, Word made flesh, Power of the Most High, now and forever. Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome to God’s table of grace, receiving Christ’s presence as nourishment for the journey.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All who wish to know the love of God in Jesus Christ are invited to Holy Communion. Inform a communion assistant if you need a gluten-free host. Grape juice is located in the center ring of the tray. If you are not receiving the sacrament today, please come forward with your arms crossed over your chest for a blessing.

COMMUNION HYMN

“Lamb of God”

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COMMUNION HYMN**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Compassionate God,...through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

“Let’s Go Out”

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SENDING

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news! **Thanks be to God.**

