



A Welcoming Christ-Centered Community
11223 – 51 Ave NW, Edmonton, AB T6H 0L5
Ph: 780-434-4012
Email: church@holyspiritlutheran.ca
Website: www.holyspiritlutheran.ca
Facebook: Holy Spirit Lutheran Church



August 23, 2026 – Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost Service of Holy Communion

Pastor: Rev. Liz Bell
Assisting Minister: Margie N
Ministers: Every member
Ushers: Thompson N & Paul T

Council President: Karen Oko
Musician: Isaac Courneyea
Video/Live Stream: Anton Chell
Worship Host: Sara Dorow

Welcome

Processional Hymn 'Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness' (ELW 843)

Invocation

Call to Worship – *"For Everyone Born"*

Children's Time

Reading Romans 12:1-8

¹I 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. ²Do 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. ³For 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. ⁴For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Gospel Verse - Now the Feast and Celebration Liturgy

Gospel Matthew 16:13-20

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. ¹⁸ 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.

Sermon – Rev. Olav Traa, Assistant to the Bishop, Synod of Alberta and the Territories

Song of the Day ‘Give Me Jesus’ (ELW 770)

New Creed

**We are not alone, we live in God's world.
We believe in God: who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We trust in God. We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus,
crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us. We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.**

Prayers of Intercession

In our prayers: Gertie B, Carl C, Susan K, Dorothea K, Cody M, Brendan S, Pr. Erin T, Shirley E, Faye P, Pr. Rod A, Carola U, Darlene & Randy F, Anna E, Pathma D, Brenda K, Lasantha J, and those we hold dear in our hearts.

Peace

Musical Gift from Isaac – ‘Great is Thy Faithfulness’

Offertory ‘Come to Me, All You Who are Weary’ Liturgy of the Beloved

Offering Prayer

Thanksgiving at the Table – *spoken*

Lord's Prayer – Reconciling Works

**Our Mother and Father,
our beloved parent,
in whom we move and breathe and have our being,
the hallowing of your name shines forth
in the diversity of your children.
May your peace and love, justice and equality,
inclusion and belonging reign here on earth as in heaven.
Along with ourselves, grant that God's beloveds
who have been marginalized might have their daily needs met—
that they might find gainful employment without discrimination;
that they might have access to medical care without fear;
that they might have their rights and lives protected,
and that they might find a loving community
to belong to and call their own.
Forgive us for the ways that we have fallen short
and failed so many of your children.
Forgive us of the times we turned away,
or did not care; for the times we laughed or judged
unique expressions of your image;
for the times we have misspoken, asked too much,
or failed to hear as we forgive those who might have failed us.
Lead us away from the temptation to be complacent
in the face of injustice.
But instead give us courage to stand up
and stand with your beloved children.
For your love and justice is to be made manifest
now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

Communion Songs

'Lamb of God' Now the Feast and Celebration Liturgy

'Welcome Table' (ACS 969)

'Love Has Brought Us Here Together' (ACS 1040)

'Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom' (ACS 971)

Blessing

Community Life

Sending Song *'Christ Be Our Light'* (ELW 715) ref, vs 2, ref

Dismissal

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