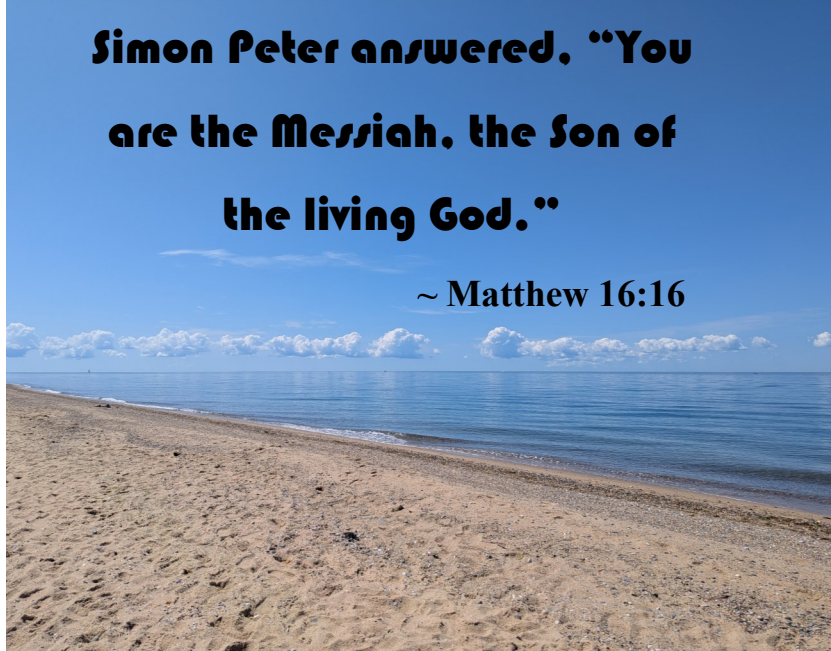


**Simon Peter answered. "You
are the Messiah, the Son of
the living God."**

~ Matthew 16:16



Sunday, August 23, 2026
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
Pastor Sara Stall-Ryan
P.O. Box 202, 183 William Street
Portland, CT 06480
860-342-2860
www.zionlutheranportland.org
email: zion.lutheran@snet.net

HOLY COMMUNION

Setting Four

*Regular font: Worship Leader; **Bold font: Congregation***

GATHERING

Prelude:

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

we confess to you all our sins.

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray,

Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me,

all you who are weary

and are carrying heavy burdens,

and I will give you rest."

In the name of God,

Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,

your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

GATHERING HYMN

"God is Here!"

ELW 526

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Living God, you accept our stumbling faith, our misplaced answers, our false horizons, and through them build a way of peace: empower us to bind the wounds of the world and loose the debts of oppression, that all may confess the grace that is your work alone; through Jesus Christ, anointed for the world. **Amen.**

WORD

Please be seated

FIRST READING

Isaiah 51:1-6

- ¹ 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.
- ² Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah, who bore you,
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.
- ³ For the LORD will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places
and will make 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.
- ⁴ Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation,
for a teaching will go out from me
and my justice for a light to the peoples.
- ⁵ I will bring near my deliverance swiftly;
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.
- ⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens
and look at the earth beneath,
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats,

but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 138

¹ I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with ¹ my whole heart;
before the gods I will ¹ sing your praise.

² **I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your
name, because of your steadfast ¹ love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name and your word a- ¹bove
all things.**

³ When I called, you ¹ answered me;
you increased my ¹ strength within me.

⁴ **All the rulers of the earth will praise ¹ you, O LORD,
when they have heard the words ¹ of your mouth.**

⁵ They will sing of the ways ¹ of the LORD,
that great is the glory ¹ of the LORD.

⁶ **The LORD is high, yet cares ¹ for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty ¹ from afar.**

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you ¹ keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
your right ¹ hand shall save me.

⁸ **You will make good your pur- ¹pose for me;
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not
abandon the works ¹ of your hands.**

SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-8

¹ I 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. ²
Do 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.

³ For 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. ⁴ For as in one body we have many
members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so
we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we

are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL READING Matthew 16:13-20

The holy gospel according to Matthew the 16th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

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

Please be seated

SERMON

Pastor Sara Stall-Ryan

One Minute of Silence is kept for reflection.

Please stand

HYMN OF THE DAY “Built on a Rock”

ELW 652

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With bold trust in God’s unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God’s creation.

A brief silence.

God, our rock, you are the foundation on which the church is built. Strengthen and encourage your faithful people everywhere they gather, that they boldly proclaim your word of life to all the world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You spoke and all creation came into being. Field and forest, wetland and wilderness—all reveal your glory. Sustain and nourish your creation (local areas of ecological concern may be named). Teach us to be wise stewards of all you have made. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You bring deliverance to nations and peoples. Come to the aid of nations experiencing war, conflict, disease, famine, and disaster (especially). Guide the work of relief agencies and peacemaking organizations. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You regard the lowly and hear us when we cry out to you. Be present among all who struggle with addiction, housing insecurity, incarceration, and mental illness, that they know they are not alone. Hear our prayers for all in need this day (especially). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You draw together people with differing gifts. Lift up the many and varied gifts and talents of this congregation and strengthen the bonds of fellowship that all may be united as the body of Christ. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Your steadfast love endures forever. We give thanks for the faithful who died in the hope of this promise. Strengthen us in faith until the day we join them at your eternal banquet. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PEACE

pg. 152

MEAL

Please be seated

OFFERING

Please Stand

OFFERING PRAYER

Loving God,
we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.
Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.
Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

Eternal God, in the abundance of your love you have caused all things to be; from dust and spirit you have woven our humanity; in all our wanderings you never cease to call us to fullness of life.

You gave us Jesus, son of Mary, the bread of life broken for the world; he fed us and feasted with us, he healed us and suffered for us; his dying and rising have set us free from the poverty of sin and famine of death.

Therefore, with all whom you have made, cherished and called, with all who hunger for your kingdom and will not rest until all your children are fed, with the broken saints and redeemed sinners of all the ages, we take up the son of your praise:

(spoken)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Please kneel or sit

We ask that you Holy Spirit will fall upon us and upon these gifts that these fragile, earthly things may be to us the body and blood of our lord and brother, Jesus Christ; who, on the night that he was betrayed, gathered with his faltering friends for a meal that tasted of freedom. Calling them to his table, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said; ‘This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me.’ In the same way after supper, he took the cup, saying: ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, whenever you drink it, to remember me.’ As on that night, so here and now he offers himself in touch and taste beyond all words can hold.

Great is the mystery of faith

Christ has died

Christ is risen

Christ will come again.

Therefore, in our eating and drinking we are filled with the life-giving presence of Christ; we proclaim him as creation’s host, transforming poverty into plenty in the reckless generosity of love.

Inspire us with the hope that one day death and greed will be no more and people without number will come from east and west, north and south to share the kingdom meal. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom and with whom and in whom in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honour and glory be yours, Mother of blessings, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

LORD’S PRAYER

pg. 154

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

DISTRIBUTION

Please kneel or sit

COMMUNION HYMNS

“All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly”

ELW 461

“We Walk by Faith”

ELW 635

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Compassionate God,
through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

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

SENDING HYMN "Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen"

ELW 548

DISMISSAL

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

Postlude:

Prayer List

For Health:	Charlotte D	Don R	For Safety:
Joyce G	Jonathan A	Fred B	Andrew C
Cathy L	Curt R	Bill B	Todd S
Marion B	Joan A	Roselies K	Michael C
Lily V	Dick C	Alexis S	Tyler G
Holly N	Karen R	Justin Z	Erik B
Lisa A	Pat J	Tom Z	Justin Earl B
Dylan G	Alexis R	Marjorie T	Evan G
Aiden J	Malynda A	Patricia W	David P
Helen A	Annamaria T	Sandra C	
Matthew A	Lee T	Bill B	
Bud J	Michael G	Family of	
Jessica A	Barbara S	Jacqueline E	

SERVING TODAY

Deb Gustafson - Lector
Pauline Neumann - Worship Assistant
Rick Borg, Donna Berndtson - Ushers/Greeters
Marie DeGraff - Altar Guild
Sarah Dzialo - Organist

**Bob and Karen Redman celebrated their 60th
wedding anniversary on August 19th.**

Congratulations!

Blessing of the Backpacks will take place
during the outdoor service on **August 30th**. All
students may bring their backpack to church to
be blessed even if they have already started
the school year.



Please Recycle Ink and Toner Cartridges Here.

There is a container to leave your used ink and
toner cartridges for us to recycle.



Thank you to Judy G. for organizing
and hosting coffee hour today.

Council Members: President - Kathy Richards, Vice President -
Paula Brown, Secretary - Barbara Helming, Financial Secretary -
Rick Borg, Other Members - Beth Keser, Bob Redman, Peter
Willse, Christine Kelsey, Kate Schneider

**25th Anniversary of September 11th
A Community Memorial Gathering
1st Congregational Church, 554 Main St. Portland
Friday, September 11th at 7:00 p.m.**

Join us and members of our community as we come together to honor the lives lost, remember the courage shown and pray for peace, healing and hope.

Let us stand together with music, readings, speakers, prayer and hope.



The **Worship & Music Committee** is collecting snack donations for the summer months (while school is out) to be donated to the Food Bank. We will be collecting **June, July and August.**

**PUT THIS
ON YOUR
CALENDAR!**

Mark Your Calendar

Rally Day this year is
September 13th, with the
first Sunday School classes start a
week later on September 20th.



The **Word in Season Daily Devotions for July August and September** are available in the Narthex and the Red Box outside the preschool doors.



Make sure to use a **Goodwill Good Neighbor Donation Card** whenever you donate to Goodwill. See Donna Berndtson for the donation cards and details.

Today: August 23, 2026

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Worship/Communion

11:30 a.m. True Vine Church

This Week:

Monday: **6:00 p.m.** N/A

Tuesday: **7:00 p.m.** Council

Friday: **7:00 p.m.** N/A

Next Sunday:



August 30, 2026

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Worship/Communion

Outdoor Service and

Blessing of Backpacks

11:30 a.m. True Vine Church

Next weeks readings: Jeremiah 15:15-21; Psalm 26:1-8;
Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

Attendance: Last week - 47; Last year - 54

MISSION STATEMENT

As members of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, we exist to honor and proclaim the life of Jesus Christ through our words, actions and deeds.

VISION STATEMENT

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church shall be a prominent magnet in the community to draw people to a new life in Jesus Christ.

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