

Psalm 124

If the LORD hadn't been for us—let Israel now repeat!—if the LORD hadn't been for us, when those people attacked us then they would have swallowed us up whole with their rage burning against us! Then the waters would have drowned us; the torrent would have come over our necks; then the raging waters would have come over our necks! Bless the LORD because God didn't hand us over like food for our enemies' teeth! We escaped like a bird from the hunters' trap; the trap was broken so we escaped! Our help is in the name of the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.

Matthew 16:13-20

Now when Jesus came to the area of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the other prophets." He said, "And what about you? Who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Then Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, because no human has shown this to you. Rather God who is in heaven has shown you. I tell you that you are Peter. And I will build my church on this rock. The gates of the underworld won't be able to stand against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Anything you fasten on earth will be fastened in heaven. Anything you loosen on earth will be loosened in heaven." Then he ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.



Sunday, August 23, 2026, 9:00 am

**Please stand if it is comfortable for you*

PRELUDE

WELCOME & GREETING

SONG OF BEGINNING

Panis Angelicus

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: If God had not been on our side, where would we be?

People: **Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.**

Leader: When the waters rise and the world presses in, who will stand with us?

People: **God is our refuge and our deliverer.**

Leader: Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do you say that I am?"

People: **Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God!**

Leader: Blessed are those who put their trust in the Lord, for God does not abandon us.

People: **We belong to Christ, and we will proclaim his name.**

All: Come, let us worship the God who rescues us,
sustains us, and builds the Church upon the
confession of faith.

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 124

*HYMN *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*
vs. 1-2 & 4, #110 Red Hymnal

WITNESSING GOD'S LOVE TO OUR CHILDREN
*Children Kindergarten and under may go to the Nursery. 1st
through 5th grade may go to the Chapel for Children's Church.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE
Gracious God, we confess that we often forget that you are on
our side. When the waters rise and trouble surrounds us, we look
first to our own strength, our own plans, and our own abilities.
We forget that our help comes from you. We confess the times
we have followed the voices of the world rather than listening
for your voice. Forgive us, God, for our fear, our self-reliance,
and our lack of faith. Forgive us when our lives fail to bear
witness to the truth that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living
God. Make us a people who trust your saving grace, who
depend upon your strength, and who boldly proclaim your love.
Remind us again that our help is in you as we make our silent
confessions (*silent confession*).

SUNG RESPONSE *Change My heart, O God*
#2152 Black Hymnal

MINISTRY OF MUSIC *Seek Ye First*

Summer Theme: *S.O.S. – Summer of Service*

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 16:13-20

SERMON *The Question That Shapes Everything*

*HYMN *Christ for the World We Sing*
vs. 1-4, #568 Red Hymnal

A TIME FOR PRAYER

OFFERING OUR LIVES AND OUR BLESSINGS
Invitation
Offertory
Doxology #94 Red Hymnal

*CLOSING BLESSING

*SUNG *They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love*
RESPONSE vs. 1-2, #223 Black Hymnal

POSTLUDE

Participating in Worship:
Rev. Jenny Arneson, Pastor
Karla Hess, Reader
Terry Twedell, Children's Time
Linda Barrett, Donna Keifer, Special Music
Sue Lundeen, Organist