

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, August 23, 2026

Introduction to the day

In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 51:1-6

Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants, so now God offers comfort to Zion. God's deliverance will come soon and will never end.

PSALM: Psalm 138

O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever. (Ps. 138:8)

SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-8

In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by the time in which we live but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20

At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.

GOSPEL MESSAGE - Revealing God

Jesus came to earth as God *incarnate*, meaning "in or having bodily form." This was no accident. The prophets of the past had used their bodies and their words so people could understand God. In Christ, God was revealed in flesh and blood, allowing us to know who God is and what God's priorities are for creation.

Peter points this out to us, saying that Christ is "the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). As a *living* God, moving among us as Jesus Christ, God reveals Godself directly. God reveals the divine nature and priorities through Jesus' earthly life. Jesus lives without possessions, sharing in the suffering of people who are poor and oppressed. On the Galilean coast he feeds thousands of people before teaching them. He befriends outcasts like Zacchaeus the tax collector and the Canaanite woman. He calls out the greed and misplaced priorities of the wealthy by flipping tables. Instead of merely telling us, Christ incarnate shows us that God has a serious concern for all people on the margins of society.

As the church is formed into the body of Christ, we too now reveal to the world who God is and what God's priorities are. How does our ministry show God's concern for those who are poor and marginalized today?

Do we seek out and walk alongside people cast out by dominant society? Do we not only preach the word but make sure people are fed as well?

By accompanying our neighbors in their struggles for dignity, justice, and the right to flourish, we do the good work of followers of Jesus, striving with God for the end of all oppression and death, for a world made whole.

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.

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. 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.. 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 Chris Burchat, Natasha Gagnon-Burchat, Claude Jeannotte, Lillian Jeannotte, Glenda Panke, Cheryl Renaud, Joanne Robinson, Bernadette Schueneman, Adam Schroeder, Heather Schruder, Doug Sell, Roy Zadow, those in long term care facilities and senior residences. In this moment of silence, we name out loud or in the quiet of our hearts, those who need your healing touch. 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.**

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.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Announcements:

Sunday, August 23rd – 13th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 AM – Grace – Service of the Word

Grace – Helpers – Greeter: Marc and Angela Mercier;

Reader: Victoria Neuman

Bell Ringer: Robert Pape; **Elevator:** Claude Jeannotte;

Head Usher: Zig Mintha

10:30 AM – Bonnechere – Service of the Word

Cemetery Service – Potluck following worship.

Monday, August 24th

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM - Quilting at Grace

7:00 PM – Grace Church Council

Tuesday, August 25th

10:00 AM – Bible Study

Wednesday, August 26th

1:00 PM – Worship & Music Meeting

Sunday, August 30th – 14th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 AM – Grace – Joint Service - SOW

Grace – Helpers – Greeter: Ian Edwards;

Reader: Lori Jessup; **Bell Ringer:** Robert Pape;

Elevator: Claude Jeannotte; **Head Usher:** Zig Mintha

Following worship, join us downstairs for our End of Summer Potluck Social". Everyone is welcome.

1:00 AM – Bonnechere Cemetery

– Burial of Caroline Schroeder

Fellowship - August 30, 2026

The Ladies Aid of Grace, Eganville would like to invite everyone to an "**End of Summer Potluck Social**" on August 30, 2026, in the Fellowship Hall following worship. Hot dogs and condiments will be provided.

Please bring your favourite salad or dessert or any other food item you might like for this event. Everyone is welcome. Please join us on this fifth Sunday in August.

Starting Sunday, September 6th

we will be returning to our Fall Worship Schedule:

Bonnechere 9 AM - (3rd and 4th Sunday of the month)

Grace 10:30 AM

Sunday School starts September 13th at 10:30 AM