St. John's Episcopal Church

Saugus, Massachusetts

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 2026 - 9am Holy Eucharist

Prelude

Processional: *A mighty fortress is our God* (*vv. 1-3*) Hymnal #**688**

1. A mighty fortress is our God,
   a bulwark never failing;
   our helper he, amid the flood
   of mortal ills prevailing:
   for still our ancient foe
   doth seek to work us woe;
   his craft and power are great,
   and, armed with cruel hate,
   on earth is not his equal.

2. Did we in our own strength confide,
   our striving would be losing;
   were not the right man on our side,
   the man of God's own choosing:
   dost ask who that may be?
   Christ Jesus, it is he;
   Lord Sabaoth his Name,
   from age to age the same,
   and he must win the battle.

3. And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us;
we will not fear, for God hath willed
his truth to triumph through us,
the prince of darkness grim,
we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure,
for lo! his doom is sure,
one little word shall fell him.

Opening Acclamation:

Blessèd be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And blessèd be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts be open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Confession:

'How often have I longed to gather your children, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings,' says the Lord, 'but you would not come to me.'

Let us as wayward children return to God and confess our sins.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Kyrie: Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Absolution

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Gloria *Heritage Mass* – in pew rack.

Glory to God in the highest!
Peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
In the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect of the Day A Prayerbook for Australia

O God, fount of all wisdom, in the humble witness of the apostle Peter you have shown the foundation of our faith: Give us the light of your Spirit, that, recognizing in Jesus of Nazareth the Son of the living God, we may be living stones for the building up of your holy church; through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

First Lesson:

A reading from *The Prophet Isaiah (51:1-6)*

Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the Lord. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. 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. 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.

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. 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. 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 for ever, and my deliverance will never be ended. The Word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

Psalm 138

Let us recite the psalm responsively, alternating verses.

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

2 ***I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your Name, ****
because of your love and faithfulness;

3 For you have glorified your Name *
and your word above all things.

4 ***When I called, you answered me; ****
you increased my strength within me.

5 All the kings of the earth will praise you, O Lord, *
when they have heard the words of your mouth.

6 ***They will sing of the ways of the Lord, ****
that great is the glory of the Lord.

7 Though the Lord be high, he cares for the lowly; *
he perceives the haughty from afar.

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

9 The Lord will make good his purpose for me; *
O Lord, your love endures for ever;
do not abandon the works of your hands.

Second Lesson:

A reading from *The Letter of Paul to the Romans (12:1-8).*

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-- what is good and acceptable and perfect.

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. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. The Word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

Sequence Hymn: *Thou art the Christ, O Lord* (*vv.1–3*) DARWALL'S 148 (eg, #625)

1. "Thou art the Christ, O Lord,
   The Son of God, most high!"
   Forever be adored,
   that Name in earth and sky.
   In which, tho' mortal strength may fail,
   the saints of God at last prevail!

2. Oh, surely he was blest,
   with blessedness unpriced,
   who taught of God, confessed
   the Godhead in the Christ!
   For of Thy Church, Lord, Thou didst own
   thy saint a true foundation-stone.

3. Thrice fallen, thrice restored!
   The bitter lesson learnt,
   that heart for Thee, O Lord,
   with triple ardor burnt.
   The cross he took he laid not down
   until he grasped the martyr's crown.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *Matthew (16:13-20).*
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." 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. 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. 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." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The Gospel of the Lord. ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

Sequence Hymn: *Thou art the Christ, O Lord (v. 4)* DARWALL'S 148 (eg, #625)

1. Oh bright triumphant faith!
   Oh courage void of fears!
   Oh love, most strong in death!
   Oh penitential tears!
   By these, Lord, keep us lest we fall,
   and make us go where Thou shalt call.

Homily Fr. Walter Connelly

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Peace and Announcements

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you:" Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

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

Invitation to the Offering

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Offertory: *The Church's one Foundation (vv. 1, 2, 4, 5)* Hymnal #525

1. The Church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is his new creation,
by water and the word;
from heaven he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.

2. Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation,
one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy Name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with every grace endued.

4. Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace forever more;
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blessed,
and the great Church victorious
shall be the Church at rest.

5. Yet she on earth hath union
with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we
like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with thee.

Doxology *(v. 3)* Hymnal #380

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

God of glory, receive all we offer this day as a symbol of our love, and increase in us that true and perfect gift. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

The Great Thanksgiving *Common Worship* - Prayer G

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 our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, Lord God, our light and our salvation; to you be glory and praise for ever. From the beginning you have created all things and all your works echo the silent music of your praise. In the fullness of time, you made us in your image, the crown of all creation. You give us breath and speech, that with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven we may find a voice to sing your praise.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
+Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord. As a mother tenderly gathers her children, you embrace a people as your own. When they turned away and rebelled, your love remained steadfast. From them you raised up Jesus our Savior, born of Mary, to be the living bread in whom all our hungers are satisfied. He offered his life for sinners, and with a love stronger than death he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died, he came together with his friends and, taking the bread, he gave you thanks. He broke it and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat; this is my Body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks, and said: "Drink this, all of you; this is my Blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

Dying, you destroyed our death,
Rising, you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Father, we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross; we remember his dying and his rising in glory, and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand. Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you these gifts of your creation; may they be for us the Body and Blood of your dear Son.
As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence, form us in the likeness of Christ by the working of the Holy Spirit, and build us into a living temple to your glory.

Remember, Lord, your Church in every land. Reveal her unity, guard her faith and preserve her in peace. Remember Sean, our presiding bishop; Julia, Ian and Mary our bishops, and all who minister in your Church.

Remember all your people, and those who seek your truth. Remember all peoples of the Middle East; may they know your healing presence and quest for peace.

Remember all those in need, especially Nancy Scarry, Malcolm Silva, Teddi, Terrie Sevier, Gail Smith, Dom & Joanie Tello, Nancy White, Rachel, Abigail, Claire, Jesse Tucker, and Iris Mendez.

Remember Norman, Adeline, and John Monroe, Florence & Robert Fenna, and all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.

Bring us at the last with Blessed Mary of Nazareth, Blessed John the Evangelist and all the saints to the vision of that eternal splendor for which you have created us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, by whom, with whom, and in whom, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise.

Blessing and honor and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Fraction: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) *Heritage Mass* – in pew rack

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

The Invitation to Holy Communion

In fellowship with our sisters and brothers worshiping online, let us join together in praying for that spiritual communion shared by all Christ's disciples.

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

The gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" *(Mt 11:28-29).* All those wishing to share in the life of Christ are welcome at God's altar.

Post-communion Prayer

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing:

Life is indeed short, and we have so little time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So be swift to love and hasten to be kind. And the blessing of our gracious God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. ***Amen.***

Recessional: *Glorious things of Thee are Spoken (vv. 1-3)* Hymnal #**522**

1. Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God;
   he whose word cannot be broken formed thee for His own abode;
   on the Rock of Ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose?
   With salvation's walls surrounded, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

2. See! the streams of living waters, springing from eternal love,
   well supply thy sons and daughters and all fear of want remove.
   Who can faint, while such a river ever flows their thirst to assuage?
   Grace which, like the Lord, the giver, never fails from age to age.

3. Round each habitation hovering, see the cloud and fire appear
   for a glory and a covering, showing that the Lord is near.
   Thus deriving from their banner, light by night, and shade by day,
   safe they feed upon the manna which he gives them when they pray.

Dismissal:

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude:

Welcome to St John's Episcopal Church. All those wishing to share in the life of Christ are invited to receive Holy Communion. Proceed up the aisle on the right, allowing room on the left for others to return. You may kneel or stand at the rail to receive. Most people receive the consecrated Host in the hands, and some receive on the tongue. We have not returned to the Common Cup but offer individual Communion Cups. Please deposit the empty cups in the tray as you return. If you would prefer a blessing instead of Holy Communion, simply cross your hands over your chest as the priest approaches. Please join us for fellowship and refreshment in Ashworth Hall after worship.

Parish Calendar

Aug	**30**	**Sun**	**Boston Harbor Cruise, 4-6pm (*details below*)**
Sept	12	Sat	Founders Day Ice Cream Social, 10am-2pm, or while supplies last (*volunteers needed*)
Sept	18	Fri	Lobster Roll Sale (*see flyer in pew*)
Oct	10	Sat	Roast Beef Dinner (*Limited seating at 5 & 6:30pm: see flyer or website to RSVP*)
Dec	5	Sat	Christmas Craft Fair (*basket / table donations & helpers needed – please see insert*)

Announcements:

Boston Harbor Cruise: from the Winthrop Town Pier (next to Winthrop Yacht Club). We will need a head count, so please leave a message at the office if you are coming.

Prayer List: Come September 1st, we will rebuild our prayer list from scratch. Please notify the office of the people for whom we should pray. Each name shall remain on the list for four weeks unless you request otherwise.

Parish Cycle of Prayer

(Please help to keep this list current and inform the office of any changes – thank you.)

Week One of the Month:

Emily Graves Autori, Nicholas Bettencourt, Paul Brophy, Norma Cahill, Barbara Cox, Ken DiBiccari, Jim & Tim Eldridge, Joanne & Paul Felci, Ruth Garrett, Allison Gray, and Roger Nelson

Week Two:

Will Hare, Bruce Higgins, Louis Hoelzl, Jeanne Kelly-Smith, John K., Janet Lancaster, Melissa McSheffery, Matt, Mary & Dante, Harriet Miraglia, Jonelle Moloney, Joe W., and Debbie & Mike Rossetti

Week Three:

Erica Moore, Jeanine Morris, Fran Muise, Sara Murray, Lisa P., Catherine Pothier, Keelan Pothier, Shirley Raithel, Sandy & David St. Clair, Marilyn Aham, Amy Wright, Nina Lafauci, Steve P., Janice Noseworthy, Gary Battite, and Norma Jordan

Week Four:

Nancy Scarry, Malcolm Silva, Teddi, Terrie Sevier, Gail Smith, Dom & Joanie Tello, Nancy White, Rachel, Abigail, Claire, Jesse Tucker, and Iris Mendez

Participants in this Service:

The Rev. Walter J. Connelly, Jr., Priest-in-Charge
Stephen Sikorski, Music Director
Linda Graves, Lay Reader ~ Colleen Marcotte, L.E.M.

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