



Week of August 23 – August 29, 2026 13th Sunday after Pentecost

FOCUS VERSE

Matthew 16:18

“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.”

SERMON NOTES:

What stood out in this week’s sermon? (Theme, phrase, reference, etc.) What questions stir up within you? What do you want to explore further?

FOR FURTHER THOUGHT by Rev. Daniel Locke

It is easy to focus on Peter. After all, he has just made his great confession of faith, and the history of the church has held him up as the model apostle. But I think it’s worth noticing and remembering that this declaration is not about Peter’s fortitude but Christ’s promise. Jesus says, “I will build my church.”

That promise is both humbling and comforting. The church has never depended solely on the wisdom of its leaders, the size of its membership, or the strength of its programs. Generation after generation, Christians have worried about the future of the church. Yet Jesus reminds us that the church belongs to him. We are called to serve, witness, and participate in God’s mission, not our own. Thank God the success of God’s kingdom does not depend on us alone.

CONSIDER

What anxieties do you have about the future of the church? How might Christ’s promise reframe our trust and confidence? Our vision and mission? Our witness and invitation?



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What anxieties do you have about the future of the church? How might Christ’s promise reframe our trust and confidence? Our vision and mission? Our witness and invitation?

BEYOND SUNDAY:

**Readings intended to help you reflect and digest this week's worship service.*

MONDAY: Romans 2:1-11 (*The Righteous Judgment of God*)

Most **MEMORABLE** verse for you, in this passage, at this time?

What makes this verse so **MEANINGFUL**?

TUESDAY: Exodus 2:11-15 (*Moses Flees to Midian*)

Memorable: _____

Meaningful: _____

WEDNESDAY: Matthew 26:6-13 (*The Anointing at Bethany*)

Memorable: _____

Meaningful: _____

BEFORE SUNDAY READINGS:

**Readings intended to help you prepare for the upcoming Sunday:*

THURSDAY: Jeremiah 14:13-18 (*Denunciation of Lying Prophets*)

Memorable: _____

Meaningful: _____

FRIDAY: Psalm 26 (*Plea for Justice and Declaration of Righteousness*)

Memorable: _____

Meaningful: _____

SATURDAY: Matthew 8:14-17 (*Jesus Heals Many at Peter's House*)

Memorable: _____

Meaningful: _____

Read Ahead: August 30, 2026 – 14th Sunday after Pentecost (Prop 17A)
Jeremiah 15:15-21; Psalm 26:1-8; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

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