

***Propers and Music for the
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**
Lectionary 16 | Year A | July 19, 2026

PRELUDE “Ich ruf” zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ” from *Orgelbüchlein* — Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750); arr. by August Stradal (1860–1930)

****Call to worship (see Service of Holy Communion)**

GATHERING HYMN ELW 689 “Praise and Thanksgiving”
****Apostolic Greeting**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 44:6–8

⁶Thus says the Lord, the Sovereign of Israel, and Israel’s Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: I am the first, and I am the last; besides me there is no god. ⁷Who is like me? Let them proclaim it; let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be. ⁸Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there besides me any other deity? There is no other rock; I know not one.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 86:11–17

The psalm is spoken responsively. The congregation speaks the verses in bold.

- ¹¹Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.
- ¹²**I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart,
and glorify your name forevermore.**
- ¹³For great is your love toward me;
you have delivered me from the pit of death.
- ¹⁴**The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a
band of violent people seeks my life;
they have not set you before their eyes.**
- ¹⁵But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.
- ¹⁶**Turn to me and have mercy on me;
give your strength to your servant, and save the
child of your handmaid.**
- ¹⁷Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me
may see it and be put to shame;
because you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:12–25

¹²So then, my dear family, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with Christ so that we may also be glorified with Christ.

¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

****Gospel Acclamation**

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴Jesus put before [the crowds] another parable: “The dominion of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ ²⁸He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves

said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?"²⁹But he replied, "No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn."

³⁶Then Jesus left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." ³⁷Jesus answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son-of-Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of God's dominion; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son-of-Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his dominion all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the dominion of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

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

SERMON

Carrie Ballenger

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 516 "Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast"

****Prayer of Intercession**

OFFERTORY MUSIC "O Traurigkeit, o Herzeleid," BWV 404 — J.S. Bach; arr. by Luke Dahn (b.1976)

****Offering**

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

ELW 469 "By Your Hand, You Feed Your People"

ELW 464 "Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal"

****Table Blessing**

SENDING HYMN

ELW 694 "Sing to the Lord of Harvest"

****Dismissal**

POSTLUDE Cello Suite No. 1 in G major, BWV 1007 — J.S. Bach; arr. by Eleonor Bindman (b.1965)

SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister: Carrie Ballenger; *Assisting Minister:* Katie Emmons; *Reader & Intercessor:* Chris Porter;
Hospitality: John Gregg; *Musician:* Xiaolu Chen

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THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ARE ASKED FOR:

Cheri Agaskar — UniLu member; Polly Allen — UniLu member; Ellen Bartlett — sister of Gail Bucher; C. Paz Betancourt — mother of Ricardo Pulgar; Lorraine and Roland Blanchard — friends of Gail Bucher; Bruce Brolsma — UniLu Member; Ed Bucher — UniLu member; Gail Bucher — UniLu member; Gloria Contardi and Ricardo Ibarro — Ricardo Pulgar's aunt and her husband; Alice Conway — sister of Karin Kutrieb; Scott Evans — son-in-law of Nancy Gould; Bob Flannery — UniLu member; Nancy Gould — UniLu member; Pat Hermann Bruntz — cousin of Imogene Stulken; Mary Howarth — mother of Anne Howarth; Charles Jaferian — grandson of Nancy Gould; Lee Krein — aunt of Anne Howarth; Duncan McCoy Norton — son of Megan McCoy; Anne Minton — colleague of Imogene Stulken; Larry Nichols — UniLu member; The Ralston-Lamb family — UniLu members; Jeanette Searson — sister of Imogene Stulken; We pray with the family and friends of Phyllis Steele at her passing; Kate Turley — mother of UniLu member Karen Turley; Julie Wilson — UniLu member; Carl Yanagawa — husband of Imogene Stulken's friend Sally Yanagawa

For our siblings at Faith Lutheran Church in Cambridge and their pastor, Robin Lutjohann.

For our siblings in the Evangelical Lutheran Church, especially: in Jordan and the Holy Land, including the staff of Augusta Victoria Hospital on the Mount of Olives and all those for whom they provide care; and the Christian Lutheran Church in Honduras, Iglesia Cristiana Luterana de Honduras (ILCH).

For all who are seeking refuge, who are facing immigration challenges, who have been deported to homes that are not home, and who have been separated from their families.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we remember the peoples of Djibouti and Somalia.