

SECOND REFORMED CHURCH



Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 23, 2026 - 9:45 am

THE APPROACH TO GOD

PRELUDE “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” John Zundel, setting Joel Raney

CALL TO WORSHIP

Adapted from Zechariah 9:9-12

Come and worship, people of God!

Sing and shout your praise!

For our God comes to us:

triumphant and victorious,

yet gentle and humble of heart.

Christ comes bringing peace,

offering hope and freedom to all who despair.

Together, let us worship God!

*SONG OF WORSHIP

#87 “Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God who promises to hear:

We confess that we are broken people,

a people whose lives are marred by sin.

We seek our own advancement at the expense of others.

We acknowledge that “we’re only human,”

but then deny the humanity of those who are unlike us.

We try to change, but slip too easily into old habits.

We help others, but only when it is convenient.

We seek justice, but only as long as we’re not required to sacrifice.

#375 “Lord Have Mercy”

Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord, have mercy. (Repeat)

Please use this period of silence for personal reflection.

God who promises to help:

forgive us.

Set us free from our brokenness

that we might be restored to healing and wholeness

and agents of your restoration

in our schools, our neighborhoods, and our workplaces.

In Christ we pray. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Adapted from Zechariah 8:7-8

Thus says the LORD of hosts:

I will save my people from the east country and from the west country.

They shall be my people and I will be their God,

in faithfulness and in righteousness.

Friends, God's faithfulness and righteousness are revealed in Jesus Christ.

Know that—in Christ—you are forgiven people

and go forth to live in that peace. **Amen!**

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

THE WORD OF GOD

BACK-TO-SCHOOL BLESSING

In baptism, God promises by grace alone:

to forgive our sins,

to adopt us into the Body of Christ, the Church,

to send the Holy Spirit daily to renew us,

and to resurrect us to eternal life.

This promise is made visible in the water of baptism.

Water cleanses, purifies, refreshes, sustains. Jesus Christ is living water.

Baptism is a visible reminder that we belong to God.

In baptism,

we promise to love, encourage, and support one another throughout every age and stage of life:

by modeling the gospel of God's love,

by following the ways of Jesus,

and by journeying together in community.

Baptism is a visible reminder that we belong to one another.

Today, we send you out as teachers, students, and staff,

into classrooms, hallways, gymnasiums, cafeterias, offices, and more

with these promises ringing in your ears and resting upon your hearts.

We send you out surrounded by the love of God

and the love of this community

so that you may share that love with others.

STUDENTS & STAFF/TEACHERS ONLY:

We receive the truth of our belonging

and carry it with us into the world.

Congregation, bless these students, teachers, and staff.

You are God's beloved people. With you, God is well pleased.

PRAYER OF BLESSING

*SONG OF PREPARATION

"Ancient Words"

SCRIPTURE & SERMON

Zechariah 9:9-12

THE RESPONSE TO GOD

*SONG OF THANKSGIVING

#147 "Praise God from Whom..."

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known:

Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Tithes/offerings placed in the baskets at the entrance of the sanctuary are brought forward as a sign of our response to God's call on our lives.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

*SONG OF RESPONSE

“Shout for the Blessed Jesus Reigns”

*BENEDICTION

*SENDING SONG

“My Friends, May You Grow in Grace”

*The congregation is invited to stand and turn toward the center aisle,
blessing one another in song.*

**My friends, may you grow in grace,
and in the knowledge of our Lord, and Savior.
My friends, may you grow in grace,
and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.
To God be the glory, now and forever, now and forever, amen.
To God be the glory, now and forever, now and forever, amen.**

*POSTLUDE

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”
by Nancy Folkerts

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

87

G D $\frac{G}{B}$ C $\frac{C}{E}$ G $\frac{Am}{C}$ $\frac{G}{D}$ D7 G

1 Come, Chris-tians, join to sing Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 2 Come, lift your hearts on high, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 3 Praise yet our Christ a - gain, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

G D $\frac{G}{B}$ C $\frac{C}{E}$ G $\frac{Am}{C}$ $\frac{G}{D}$ D7 G

loud praise to Christ our King; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 let prais - es fill the sky; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 life shall not end the strain; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

G $\frac{D7}{F\#}$ G $\frac{C}{E}$ G D G D $\frac{G}{B}$ Am $\frac{G}{B}$ D

Let all, with heart and voice, be - fore his throne re - joice;
 Christ is our Guide and Friend; to us he'll con - de - scend;
 On heav-en's bliss - ful shore his good-ness we'll a - dore,

G $\frac{G}{B}$ $\frac{D7}{A}$ G C $\frac{C}{E}$ $\frac{D}{F\#}$ D G Em $\frac{Am}{C}$ $\frac{G}{D}$ D7 G

praise is his gra-cious choice: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 his love shall nev - er end: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 sing - ing for - ev - er - more, "Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!"

Ancient Words

F B^b C

1 Ho - ly words long pre-served for our walk in this world, they re -
Words of life, words of hope, give us strength, help us cope. In this

2 Ho - ly words of our faith hand-ed down to this age came to
Ho - ly words long pre-served for our walk in this world, they re -

Dm C F B^b F/C C 1,3 F D.C.

sound with God's own heart, O let the an - cient words im-part.
world wher - e'er we roam 7 an-cient words will guide us

us through sac - ri - fice. O heed the faith - ful words of Christ.
sound with God's own heart. O let the an - cient words im -

2,4 F Refrain C Gm F

home.

An - cient words, ev-er true, chang-ing me and chang-ing
part.

B^b C Dm C F B^b F/C C F

you. We have come with o - pen hearts, O let the an-cient words im - part.

Shout, for the Blessed Jesus Reigns 261

C F G/D C

1 Shout, for the bless - ed Je - sus reigns; through dis - tant
 2 He calls his cho - sen from a - far; they all at
 3 Gen - tiles and Jews his laws o - bey. All lands and

F C G/D C G D G

lands his tri - umphs spread. And sin - ners freed from
 Zi - on's gates ar - rive. Those who were dead in
 na - tions of - ferings bring and, un - con - strained, their

C D G G7 C Dm C/G G7 C

end - less pains, own him their Sav - ior and their Head.
 sin be - fore by sov - ereign grace are made a - live.
 hom - age pay to their ex - al - ted God and King.

4 Oh, may his holy church increase,
 his Word and Spirit still prevail,
 while angels celebrate his praise
 and saints his growing glories hail.

5 Loud hallelujahs to the Lamb
 from all below and all above!
 In lofty songs exalt his name,
 in songs as lasting as his love.