

First Presbyterian Church of Rolla
Worship Service for the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 2026

Pre-Service Music: *Brethren, We Have Met to Worship* William Moore

Welcome and Announcements:

Prelude: *Speak O Lord* Stuart Townend and Keith Getty

Song of Greeting #403: *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty* vs 1

Responsive Call to Worship/Prayer of the Day

Let the First Presbyterian Church of Rolla say,

If the Lord had not been on our side, where would we be?

Prayer of the Day

Son of God, Son of Man, you offered your body on the cross. Help us to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice of thanksgiving, that we may be transformed and reformed by your word, in the name of our Sovereign Lord, Christ Jesus. Amen.

Opening Hymn #263: *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!* (stand)

Call to Confession:

We seek the will of God, but still find ourselves conformed to this world, instead of being transformed into God's image.

Let us seek forgiveness for the ways we have turned away from justice and mercy.

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, when faced with earthly powers that seem overwhelming, we crumble. We fear this world. We fear losing our status, our stability, our station more than we fear you. Forgive our shortcomings and teach us to trust in you when we take a risk for what we know is right. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

If God was not on our side, we could not stand in the judgment.
But God is with us, steadfast and faithful, as we seek to live in peace.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Passing the Peace of Christ

Gloria #583: *Glory to God* English/Latin

Hymn of the Day #700: *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

Time for sharing joys and concerns, and the prayer list.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Merciful God. **Receive our prayer.**

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

Hymn #87: *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* (seated)

Prayer for Illumination:

Faithful God, how blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. Sanctify us by your Word and Spirit so that we may glorify you in the company of the faithful; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scriptures for the Day:

Old Testament Lesson: Exodus 1:8 - 2:10.

Second Lesson: Romans 12:1 - 8

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 16: 13 - 20.

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved.

Keep these words in your heart. The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

Thanks be to God. Deuteronomy 6:6

Sermon: *Whose Cries Do You Hear?* Jonathan Kimball

To the Lord our God, Alpha and Omega, be all glory and honor forever. **Amen.** Revelation 21:6

Affirmation of Faith *Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.32–33*

The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong. The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord.

Dedication of Tithes and Offerings: (please be seated)

Offering #712: *As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought* vs. 1 and 3

Prayer of Dedication:

Merciful and gracious God, you abound in steadfast love and faithfulness. With gratitude, we bring our gifts to you. Bless these gifts and bless our lives that together we may share your mercy and grace for the world you dearly love. Amen.

Sending Hymn #269: *Lead On, O King Eternal!* (stand)

Charge and Benediction:

(remain standing)

The blessing of the one God
—Spirit, Son, and Father—
be with you now and always. **Alleluia!**
Ephesians 4:4–6

Lead a life worthy of your calling,
giving glory to God in all things. **Amen.**
Ephesians 4:1

Go in peace. Live in love. **Serve the Lord!**

Postlude: *All Things Bright And Beautiful* Cecil Alexander

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