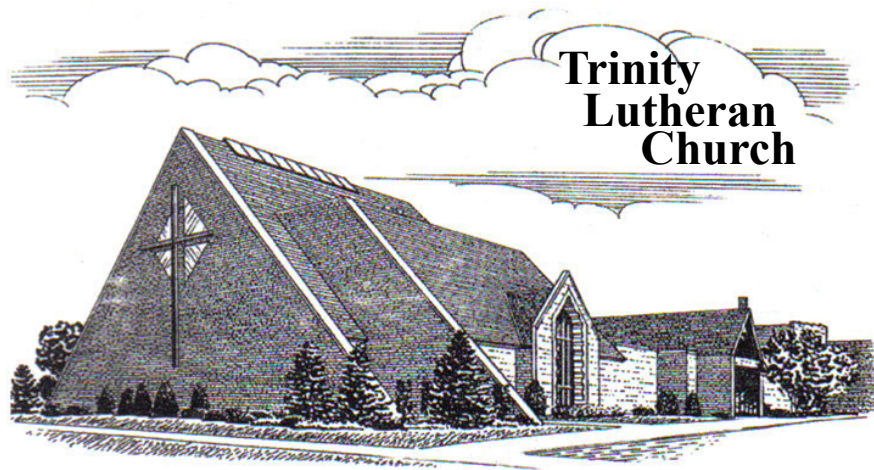


## **Proper 13**



**July 27-Aug 2, 2026**

# Weekly Outline

## **Invocation**

L: You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you,

**C: because he trusts in you.**

L: Almighty Father, Lord of heaven and earth, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us after your great goodness; according to the multitude of your mercies, do away our offenses; wash us thoroughly from our wickedness, and cleanse us from our sins; for Jesus' sake,

**C: Amen.**

## **Scripture**

**July 27: Isaiah 55:1-5**

**July 29: Romans 9:1-5**

**July 31: Matthew 14:13-21**

## **Devotion**

### **Closing Prayer**

L: I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that you would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please you. For into your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.

**C: Amen.**

## Monday

The basement is a land of enchantment for my kids. Every bin contains something new and unexpected. One day (as they were opening totes they shouldn't have), they discovered a bunch of old toys from Ashlie's childhood, including a set of plastic food. They immediately set up a restaurant and spent the next several hours running plates of food to their father, who would diligently nibble at it, assure them that it was delicious, and try to disappear unnoticed.

Kids are fun because they have such an imagination. But just think if plastic food was the only food in the whole house. Fake nibbling and exclamations of deliciousness would no longer cut it. We can live on fake food just as well as we can live without water—not very long! But that is exactly what we try to do. God created each person for himself. He is the source of true life, but instead of turning to God to receive life from him, we instead look for life in the things of the world. So God asks us, "Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?" He stands next to us with the bread of life, wondering why we are nibbling at plastic.

No matter how hard we try, or how much money we spend on the things of the world, we will never be truly satisfied because our hearts are hungry for true life. They are hungry for God. To rescue us from this false food, God sent true bread from heaven, Jesus Christ our Lord, who gave his body on the cross for the life of the world. Whoever receives him will never hunger. Whoever believes in him will never thirst. Come to the table of the Lord to eat true bread. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## Wednesday

In Romans 9–11, Paul considers the place of Israel in God's plan. Paul himself was a Jew, and his heart longs for the salvation of his brothers and sisters. In every town he visited, he found the local synagogue and preached the Gospel to his brothers. But in each and every one, he was eventually thrown out. So in Romans 9:4, he writes, "For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh."

But despite the unbelief of the Jews at that time (an unbelief that continues for most Jews to this day, and indeed, for most people around the world), God had a plan and purpose for them. Paul writes, "To them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all." The purpose of God in adopting Abraham and his children as his own people was to reveal himself in history through them. It was for the people of Israel that God parted the Red Sea. It was to the people of Israel that he gave the Law. It was from Israel that he chose the prophets. And it was because of the promise given to Abraham that God chose a Jewish woman, Mary, to be the mother of his Son. Israel occupies a unique place in history because it is through them that the true God revealed himself to the world.

Today, many Christians wonder about the continued place of the Jews in God's plan. I don't know what God will do, and neither does anyone else. As Paul writes in Romans 11, "Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!" But instead of speculating about what we do not know, we cling to what God has revealed: salvation has come to the world through a Jew, Jesus Christ our Lord, who is the Savior of all people, Jews and Gentiles alike. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## Friday

In Matthew 14, we find Jesus in a desolate place, an uninhabited wilderness. But not only do we find Jesus and his disciples; we also find five thousand men, along with many more women and children. The day is getting late, and since there is nothing for anyone to eat (it is a wilderness, after all), the disciples tell Jesus to send the people away so that they can find food for themselves. Jesus says, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." Are there any more fearsome words in Scripture than these: "You give them something to eat"?

They are fearsome words because Jesus places responsibility for feeding this great multitude on the shoulders of his disciples, but they are incapable of meeting it. They have no food to offer the crowds. But they do have Jesus. So presenting him with five loaves and two fish, Jesus orders the crowds to sit. Then he blesses the bread, breaks it, and hands it to his disciples. He breaks more and gives more until the multitude is fed and twelve large baskets are filled with leftovers. The disciples fulfill the responsibility placed on them by Jesus by giving the crowds the good things handed to them by Jesus. Jesus is what the crowds need, not mere bread (see John 6). And if the disciples are to feed the world, they must give the people Christ. That is the meaning of this story.

Those fearsome words of Christ, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat," still ring in the ears of the Church and of every Christian. Every person is born into a desolate place, a place full of sin, full of evil, full of death. Left to themselves, they will starve. Because the need is so great, we would send them away to scrounge for whatever they can find in the things of the world. But Jesus says to us, "No. You feed them." But not only does he give us the command, he also places in our hands the only bread that satisfies the hungry heart, himself. We feed the crowds as we give them Jesus. In his name, Amen.

## **Evening Prayer**

You may pray one or more of the following after dinner or before bed:

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day; and I pray you that you would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.



Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray thee, Lord, my soul to keep; if I should die before I wake, I pray thee, Lord, my soul to take; and this I ask for Jesus' sake. Amen.



Visit, O Lord, our home, and drive from it all the snares of the enemy; let your holy angels dwell in it to preserve us in peace, and may your blessing be upon us evermore; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

## **A Parent's Blessing**

You may place your hand on the head of your child before kissing them goodnight and say:

My loved one, rest securely,  
for God this night will surely  
from peril guard your head.  
Sweet slumbers may he send you  
and bid his hosts attend you  
and through the night watch o'er your bed. Amen.

## Memory Verse

