

Friends of the Chapel Weekly Scripture Study

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 19, 2026

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 44:6–8

English Standard Version Scripture Text

⁶ Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel

and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:

“I am the first and I am the last;

besides me there is no god.

⁷ Who is like me? Let him proclaim it.

Let him declare and set it before me,

since I appointed an ancient people.

Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen.

⁸ Fear not, nor be afraid;

have I not told you from of old and declared it?

And you are my witnesses!

Is there a God besides me?

There is no Rock; I know not any.”

Historical Context

Isaiah 44 speaks to Jewish exiles living in Babylon, surrounded by idols and uncertainty. God reassures His people that He alone is the eternal King, Redeemer, and Rock. While Babylon appeared powerful, Isaiah reminds Israel that history belongs to the LORD, whose covenant promises never fail.

Verse-by-Verse Exegetical Commentary

Verse 6 – The LORD is the First and the Last, the only true God.

Verse 7 – God alone declares the future and governs history.

Verse 8 – God's people need not fear because there is no other Rock.

Theological Themes

- The uniqueness of God
- God's sovereignty
- Confidence instead of fear
- Covenant faithfulness

Epistle Reading

Romans 8:18–27

English Standard Version Scripture Text

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Historical Context

Paul encourages first-century Christians living with hardship and uncertainty by placing present suffering within God's larger plan of redemption. He teaches that all creation longs for renewal and that the Holy Spirit intercedes for believers even when words fail.

Verse-by-Verse Exegetical Commentary

Verses 18–21 – Present suffering cannot compare with future glory.

Verses 22–23 – Creation and believers await complete redemption.

Verses 24–25 – Hope waits patiently for God's promises.

Verses 26–27 – The Holy Spirit intercedes according to God's will.

Theological Themes

- Hope amid suffering
- Renewal of creation
- The ministry of the Holy Spirit
- Future glory

Concluding Reflection

Isaiah and Paul point believers beyond present circumstances to God's unchanging faithfulness. Because the Lord alone rules history and His Spirit faithfully intercedes, Christians can face suffering with hope and confidence.

Thoughts for Consideration

1. Why does Isaiah stress that there is no God besides the LORD?
2. How does God's sovereignty help us face uncertainty?
3. What hope does Paul offer in times of suffering?
4. How does the Spirit's intercession encourage believers?
5. How can you live this week with greater hope in God's promises?