

Going Through the Cross to Get the Glory

September 10,
2023



Fifteenth Sunday
after Pentecost

WELCOME, GUESTS!!! We are so glad you came! If you have any questions or would like more information about our church, any member of Grace would be happy to speak with you. Please take the time to fill out a guest register at the church's entrance. Restrooms are located to the left as you exit the sanctuary. Congregational responses are indicated by indent and boldened letters.

THE THEME FOR TODAY'S READINGS – The Church is militant: first the cross, then the crown. The Prayer and Verse of the Day center the lessons. Today, Christ tells us that for him and for us, going God's way means death must come before life. He calls on us to deny ourselves and follow him on the way of the cross. Those words offend our sinful flesh and make our Old Adam cry with Peter, "Never!" They make us accuse God with Jeremiah. So today the Church prays for the never-failing mercy of Christ that we might avoid such wicked and harmful thoughts and instead be guided on the cross-laden path to salvation.

MORNING PRAYER: O Lord Jesus Christ, preserve the congregation of believers with your never-failing mercy. Help us avoid whatever is wicked and harmful, and guide us in the way that leads to our salvation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

ORDER FOR TODAY'S SERVICE: COMMON WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION– CW, p.15



OPENING HYMN:

#125

WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS

****Please Stand for last verse****



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine,



On which the Prince of glo - ry died,
Save in the death of Christ, my God.
Sor - row and love flow min - gled down.
That were a trib - ute far too small;



My rich - est gain I count but loss
All the vain things that charm me most,
Did e'er such love and sor - row meet
Love so a - maz - ing, so di - vine,



And pour con - tempt on all my pride.
I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
De - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, abr., alt.
Tune: HAMBURG (LM) Lowell Mason, 1792–1872.



In the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit. C: A - men.

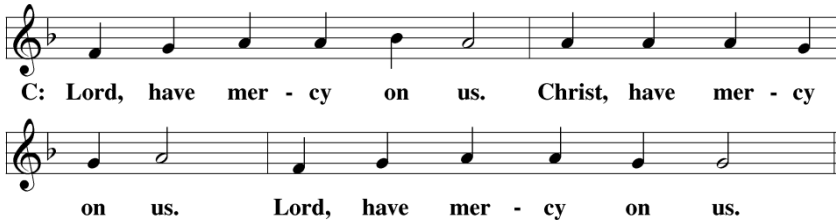
CONFESSION OF SINS

Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this, I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

KYRIE



God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

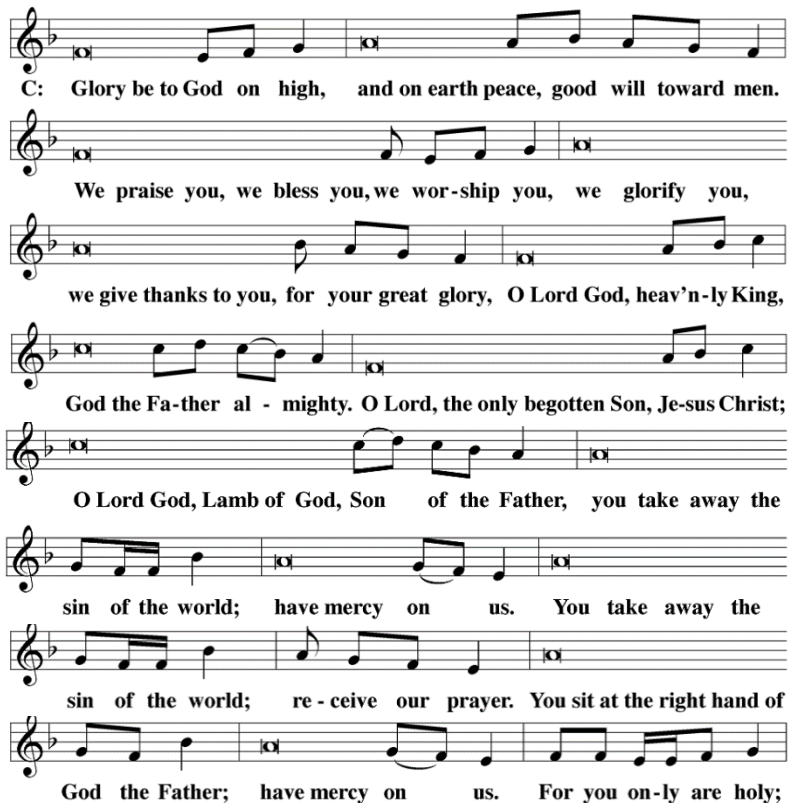


PRAYER AND PRAISE

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

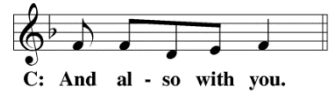
GLORY BE TO GOD

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS





PRAYER OF THE DAY



The Lord be with you.

Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, preserve the congregation of believers with your never-failing mercy. Help us avoid whatever is wicked and harmful, and guide us in the way that leads to our salvation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen



****Please Be Seated****

FIRST LESSON:

JUDGES 16:22 - 31

What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Jesus' words of warning form a perfect picture of Samson. He had the world: strength, fame, power, leadership, love. Yet he was losing his soul. But the God of grace humbled him. Samson repented and took up his cross and followed. He lost his life, but died in faith

But the hair on his head began to grow after it had been shaved.

Meanwhile, the serens of the Philistines gathered to make a great sacrifice to their god Dagon and to celebrate. They said, "Our god has given our enemy Samson into our hands." When the people saw him, they praised their god: "Our god has given our enemy into our hands, the devastator of our land, who has caused the death of many of us."

When they were feeling good, they said, "Send for Samson, so that he can provide amusement for us." They summoned Samson from the prison, and he served as their entertainment. They made Samson stand between the pillars. He said to the young man who led him by his hand, "Put me where I can touch the pillars that support the building, so I can lean upon them." The building was full of men and women, as well as all the serens of the Philistines. On the roof were about three thousand more men and women watching Samson as he was amusing them.

Samson called out to the LORD. He said, "LORD God, remember me, I pray. Give me strength, I pray, this one more time, O God. Let me get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes in one act of vengeance." Samson then grasped the two central pillars supporting the building. He leaned against them, one with his right hand and one with his left. Samson

said, “Let me die with the Philistines.” He pushed with all his strength, and the building fell upon the serens and upon all the people who were inside.

The Philistines he put to death when he died were more numerous than those he had put to death during his lifetime. Then his brothers and his father’s entire household went down, carried him back, and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the tomb of Manoah his father. He had served as judge of Israel for twenty years.

PSALM OF THE DAY:

PSALM 121



Refrain

I lift up my eyes to the hills.*
Where does my help come from?
My help comes from the LORD,*
the maker of heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot slip,*
he who watches over you will not slumber;
indeed, he who watches over Israel*
will neither slumber nor sleep.

Refrain

The LORD watches over you,*
the LORD is your shade at your right hand.
The LORD will keep you from all harm,*
he will watch over your life;
the LORD will watch over your coming and going*
both now and forevermore.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

GALATIANS 6: 12 – 16

Christians will be tempted to give in to license or legalism in order to escape persecution. But Christ told us to expect persecution and burdens that come from carrying his cross. For the Christian, bearing the cross is a point of pride and the basis for our boasting.

Those who want to look good in the flesh are the ones who are trying to compel you to be circumcised. Their only reason is so that they are not persecuted for the cross of Christ. As a matter of fact, those who are circumcised do not keep the law themselves. But they want to have you circumcised, so that they can boast about your flesh. But far be it from me to boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. In fact, in Christ Jesus^[4] circumcision or uncircumcision does not matter. What matters is being a new creation.⁶ Peace and mercy on those who follow this rule, namely, on the Israel of God.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Your words became a joy to me, and the delight of my heart. Alleluia. (Jeremiah 15:16 cf. RSV)



GOSPEL

MATTHEW 16: 21 – 26

Peter's great confession from last Sunday's Gospel showed the disciples understood who Jesus was. But though they understood his person, they still failed to understand his work. He had come to fulfill the redemptive mission for which he was anointed; he had not come to fulfill Israel's earthbound views of Messiah.

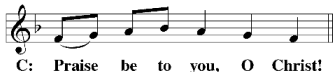
After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



From that time, Jesus began to show his disciples that he had to go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and experts in the law, and be killed, and on the third day be raised again. Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "May you receive mercy, Lord! This will never happen to you."

But Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a snare to me because you are not thinking the things of God, but the things of men." Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. In fact whoever wants to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. After all, what will it benefit a person if he gains the whole world, but forfeits his soul? Or what can a person give in exchange for his soul?"

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



HYMN OF THE DAY:

#465

JESUS, I MY CROSS HAVE TAKEN



1 Je - sus, I my cross have tak - en,
 2 Let the world de - spise and leave me;
 3 Go, then, earth - ly fame and trea - sure!
 4 Haste, my soul, from grace to glo - ry,

All to leave and fol - low you. Des - ti -
 They have left my Sav - ior, too. Hu - man
 Come, dis - as - ter, scorn, and pain! In your
 Armed by faith and winged by prayer. All but

tute, de - spised, for - sak - en, You on
 hearts and looks de - ceive me; You are
 ser - vice pain is plea - sure; With your
 heav'n is tran - si - to - ry; God's own

earth once suf - fered, too. Per - ish ev - 'ry
 not, like them, un - true. And since you have
 fa - vor loss is gain. I have called you
 hand shall guide you there. Soon shall end this

fond am - bi - tion, All I've ev - er
 smiled up - on me, God of wis - dom,
 Ab - ba, Fa - ther! You my all in
 earth - ly sto - ry; Swift shall pass the

hoped or known; Yet how rich is my con -
 love, and might, Foes may hate and friends may
 all shall be. Storms may howl, and clouds may
 pil - grim days, Hope soon change to heav'n - ly

di - tion! God and heav'n are still my own.
 shun me— Show your face, and all is bright.
 gath - er; All must work for good to me.
 glo - ry, Faith to sight and prayer to praise.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847, abr., alt.
 Tune: HYFRYDOL (87 87 D) Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–87.

SERMON TEXT

MATTHEW 16: 21 – 26

SERMON:

JESUS NEVER PROMISED FOLLOWING HIM WOULD BE EASY

CREATE IN ME

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

Please Be Seated

OFFERING – Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 9: 7: “Each one should give as he has determined in his heart, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver.” This service is our gift to our guests; should you feel obliged to give, we thank you for your generosity.

RITE OF CONFIRMATION -MICHAEL VARIZ

Brothers and sisters in Christ, our Lord Jesus said to his disciples: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

In obedience to the Lord’s command, you have been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. You have been taught the precious truths of the Christian faith as confessed by the Evangelical Lutheran Church. You know what God has given you by his grace and what he expects of you as his dear child. You now have the privilege of receiving the Lord’s body and blood in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

You are here to make a public profession of your Christian faith. The apostle Paul, writing to the Romans, said: “If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Therefore, lift up your heart to the God of all grace and joyfully answer these questions: Do you this day, in the presence of God and of this congregation, acknowledge that in Baptism, God gave you forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation? **(Michael) I do.**

Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises? **I do.**

Do you believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit? I ask the congregation to please rise and join Mike in his confession of our Lord.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Do you believe all the books of the Bible to be the inspired Word of God? **I do.**

Do you believe that the teaching of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, as you have learned to know it from Luther's Small Catechism, is faithful and true to the Word of God? **I do.**

Do you intend to continue in this teaching and to endure all things, even death, rather than fall away from it? **I do, and I ask God to help me.**

Do you intend faithfully to conform all your life to the teachings of God's Word, to be faithful in the use of the Word and sacrament, and in faith and action remain true to God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—as long as you live? **I do, and I ask God to help me.**

Since it is God alone who enables us both to will and to do his good pleasure, it is right for us, dear friends in Christ, to call on him for Michael our confirmand, that he would graciously complete the good work which he has begun in him. Let us, therefore, bow our heads and pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise you for your great goodness in bringing this son of your to the knowledge of your Son, Jesus Christ, and in giving him both the heart to believe and the mouth to confess his saving name. Enable Michael to bring forth the fruits of faith and to continue steadfast and victorious until the day comes when all who have fought the good fight of faith shall receive the crown of righteousness, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

****Please Be Seated****




*****Please Stand*****

COMMUNION HYMN:

#428

JESUS, I MY CROSS HAVE TAKEN



1 Why should cross and tri - al grieve me?
2 When life's trou - bles rise to meet me,
3 God gives me my days of glad - ness,
4 Since I know God nev - er fails me,

Christ is near With his cheer; Nev - er
Though their weight May be great, They will
And I will Trust him still he
In his voice I'll re - joice When grim

will he leave me. Who can rob me
not de - feat me. God, my lov - ing
sends me sad - ness. God is good; his
death as - sails me. Trust - ing in my

of the heav - en That God's Son For
Sav - ior, sees them; He who knows All
love at - tends me Day by day, Come
Sav - ior's mer - it, Safe at last, Trou -

me won When his life was giv - en?
my woes Knows how best to end them.
what may, Guides me and de - fends me.
bles past, I shall heav'n in - her - it.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76, st. 1-3, abr.; Harlyn J. Kuschel, b. 1945, st. 4; tr. composite, st. 1-3.
St. 4 © 1993 Harlyn J. Kuschel. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Tune: WARUM SOLLT ICH MICH DENN GRÄMEN (8 33 6 D) Johann G. Ebeling, 1637–76.

THE SACRAMENT



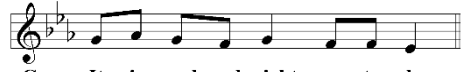
C: And al - so with you.

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up un - to the Lord.



C: It is good and right so to do.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and host in heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my (†) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

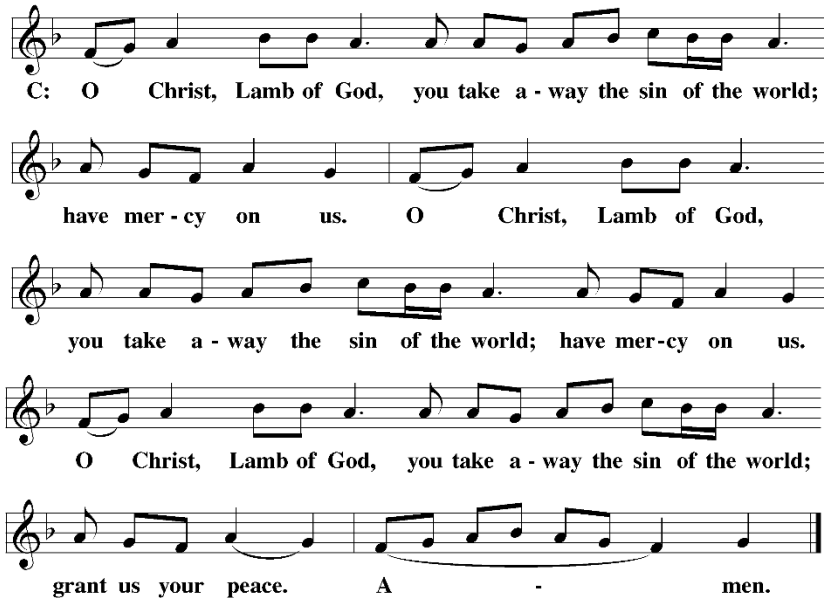
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (†) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."



The peace of the Lord be with you always.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

AGNUS DEI



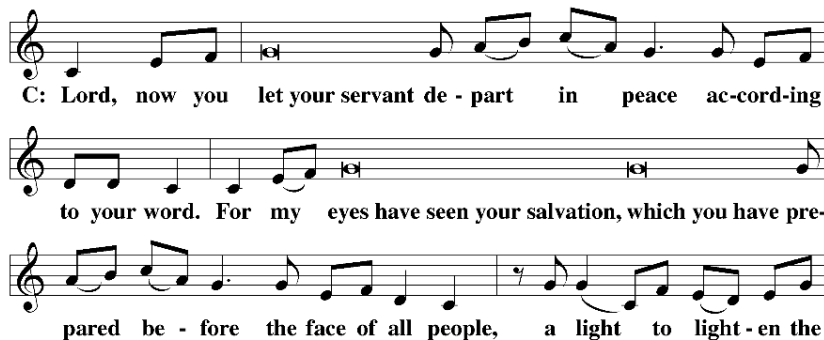
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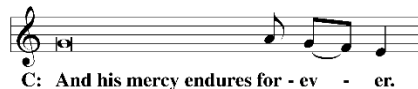
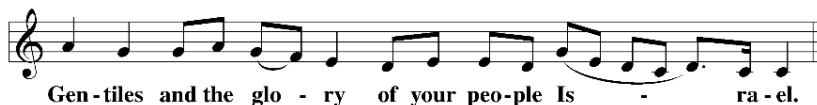
DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION – Please come forward at the direction of our usher. We do practice close communion according to Paul's guidance in 1 Corinthians 11:27: "For if anyone eats and drinks in an unworthy manner because he does not recognize the Lord's body, he eats and drinks judgment upon himself." Therefore, if you are not a member of the ELS or WELS, please talk to Pastor Emmons before communing. Thank you for respecting our practices.

****Please Stand****

SONG OF SIMEON





O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

CLOSING PRAYER

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord, make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (†) give you peace.

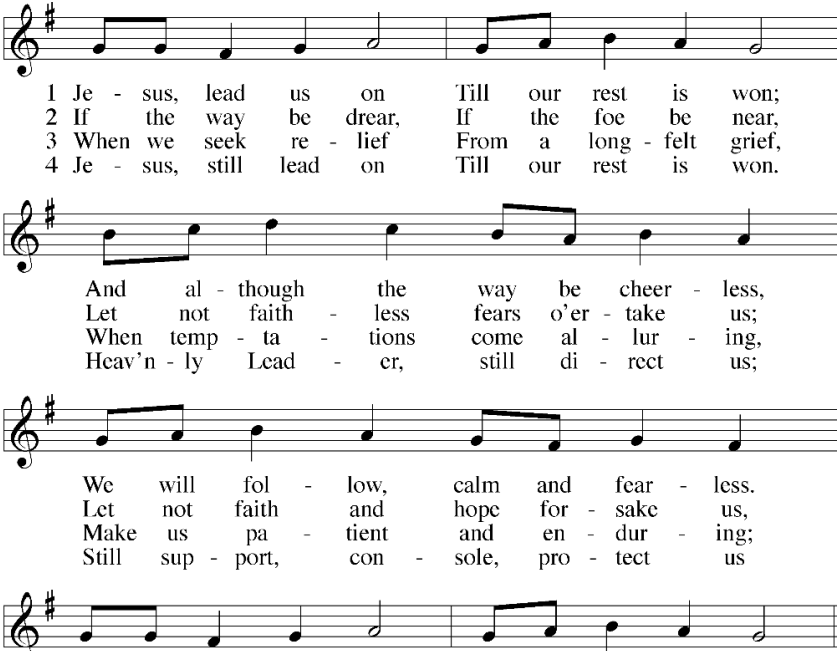


****Please Be Seated****

CLOSING HYMN:

#422

JESUS, LEAD US



1 Je - sus, lead us on Till our rest is won;
2 If the way be drear, If the foe be near,
3 When we seek re - lief From a long - felt grief,
4 Je - sus, still lead on Till our rest is won.

And al - though the way be cheer - less,
Let not faith - less fears o'er - take us;
When temp - ta - tions come al - lur - ing,
Heav'n - ly Lead - er, still di - rect us;

We will fol - low, calm and fear - less.
Let not faith and hope for - sake us,
Make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing;
Still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us

Guide us by your hand To our fa - ther - land.
For through man - y a woe To our home we go.
Show us that bright shore Where we weep no more.
Till we safe - ly stand In our fa - ther - land.

Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700–60, adapt.; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–97, alt.
Tune: SEELENBRÄUTIGAM (55 88 55) Adam Drese, 1620–1701.

What We believe:

- Every word of the Bible is inspired, inerrant, and the only source of absolute truth.
- The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit form the triune God and is the only true God.
- All humans are born dead in sin and deserve eternal condemnation.
- Jesus Christ is the true God; he was conceived in Mary's womb by the Holy Spirit, adding a human nature to His divine nature.
- Only through His perfect work of redemption, which includes His perfect life, and innocent death, are all sins for all people forgiven and given credit for His perfect life.
- Only those whom the Holy Spirit, through Word and Baptism, blesses with faith in Jesus' redemptive work receive the benefit of it.
- The day is drawing near when Jesus will return to take all believers to heaven, condemn all unbelievers to eternal torment and destroy this present world.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday Morning Bible Study – Sunday School is back; please join us; come and go as you like. We are back in our study of the book of Acts. However, we always have time for other questions if you have a question about something else.

Midweek Bible Study – Bible Study Tuesday, at 6 pm at the pastor's home, continuing our study of Romans please read Romans 10 in preparation. You may join us at 4384 SW 36th St, Redmond, OR, or on Zoom.

Zoom Meeting ID: 850 328 6057

Password: GraceOT

Outreach – Tuesday please consider walking along with the pastor and Sue at 10:00 am to go meet our Redmond neighbors. Please meet at the pastor's home for a short devotion and then go to a neighborhood. We will canvas until noon, or you can leave earlier.

Potluck – We will be having our September Potluck after the service on September 17. Please plan accordingly and invite a neighbor or friend. Also during the meal we will be celebrating Aaron and Shay Johnson's wedding, with a Money Tree Shower. We ask God to bless their marriage.

Ladies' Mission Rally – Here is an opportunity for the ladies to get together with the other ladies of the Northwest. There will be a Ladies' Mission Rally being held at Parkland Lutheran Church, Tacoma, WA, September 22 – 23rd. The year's focus is raising up children in the Lord considering the faith formation at home and school the theme is: "Train Up a Child". The link to attend is <https://form.jotform.com/231547647192159>. Please RSVP by September 8. Contact Mavis Vandelicht or Pastor Emmons for more information on hotels.

Save the Date – God continues to bless us with new members, so we get to celebrate. Mark October 1 on your calendar as our New Member Welcome Sunday; we will receive our new members into the congregation during the service and enjoy fellowshiping and some cake after the divine service.

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