# **Totally Committed**

July 20, 2025



## Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

**Welcome, guests!** We're delighted that you could join us. If you have any questions or would like more information about our church, any member of Grace would be more than happy to assist you. This folder includes all the details about our services, with the congregational responses indicated by indented, bold letters. Please take a moment to fill out the guest register at the church's entrance; this will be used solely by the pastor and elder. Restrooms are located to the left as you exit the sanctuary. May the Lord bless this service as Christ comes to you!

THE THEME FOR TODAY'S READINGS: Over the next six weeks, we will explore our role in following Christ. Following Christ requires complete commitment. The life of faith moves in harmony with God's will and does not follow the wandering ways of this world. Elisha's response to the Lord's call contrasts with those who were initially willing but ultimately uncommitted followers of Jesus. Only through faith in Jesus can we endure the tests of the world and gladly follow Him.

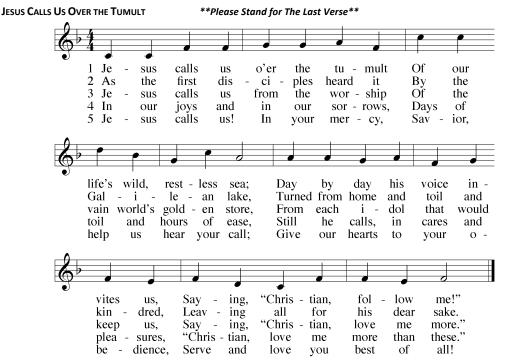
**PRAYER FOR THE DAY:** O God, you have prepared joys beyond understanding for those who love you. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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









Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818-95, alt.

Tune: STUTTGART (87 87) Christian F. Witt, 1660-1716, alt.



In the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

#### **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.





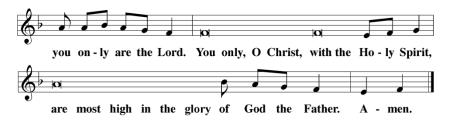
God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.



#### PRAYER AND PRAISE

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





#### PRAYER OF THE DAY



The Lord be with you.

Let us pray.

O God, you have prepared joys beyond understanding for those who love you. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



\*\*Please Be Seated\*\*

#### FIRST LESSON:

1 KINGS 19: 14 - 21

Elisha is called to follow Elijah in proclaiming the Word of the Lord to Israel. He answered the all or nothing call of God with total commitment by burning his oxen and plow. There would be no looking back. He promptly leads his family in a farewell thanksgiving celebration and then left them behind to follow Elijah. Let us put our hand to the plow and look only ahead to the eternal harvest.

He said, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of Armies, but the people of Israel have abandoned your covenant. They have torn down your altars and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking to take my life."

Then the Lord said to him, "Go back the way you came and go to the Wilderness of Damascus. When you get there, you are to anoint Hazael as king over Aram. You will also anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel and Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah as prophet in your place. Whoever escapes the sword of Hazael, Jehu will kill, and whoever escapes the sword of Jehu, Elisha will kill. But I have preserved in Israel seven thousand whose knees have not bent to Baal and whose lips have not kissed him."

So Elijah went from there and found Elisha son of Shaphat. Elisha was doing the plowing with twelve teams of oxen in front of him, and he himself was driving the twelfth team. Elijah crossed over to him and threw his cloak over him. Then Elisha left the oxen and ran after Elijah. He said, "Let me kiss my father and my mother good-bye! Then I will follow you." Then Elijah said, "Go back! For what have I done to you?" So Elisha turned back from

following him. Then he took the team of oxen and slaughtered them. Using the equipment from the oxen as fuel, he cooked the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he got up, followed Elijah, and served him.

PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 62





Refrain

My soul finds rest in <u>God</u> alone;\*
my salvation <u>comes</u> from him.
He alone is my rock and my sal<u>vation</u>;\*
he is my fortress, I will never be <u>shaken</u>.
Find rest, O my soul, in <u>God</u> alone;\*
my hope <u>comes</u> from him.

Refrain

Though your rich<u>es</u> increase,\*
do not set your <u>heart</u> on them.
My salvation and my honor de<u>pend</u> on God;\*
he is my mighty rock, my <u>ref</u>uge.
Trust in him at all times, O <u>peo</u>ple;\*
pour out your hearts to him, for God is our <u>ref</u>uge.

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.

SECOND LESSON

GALATIANS 5: 1, 13 - 25

We were once yoked in slavery to sin and the Law. Now, set free from evil, our new found freedom does not lead to waywardness or being yoked again by sin. We are called to leave behind our life of sin and not look back to it. Rather, we follow Christ completely and with willing hearts we joyfully serve the Lord, walking in step with the Spirit.

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not allow anyone to put the yoke of slavery on you again.

After all, brothers, you were called to freedom. Only do not use your freedom as a starting point for your sinful flesh. Rather, serve one another through love. In fact, the whole law is

summed up in this one statement: "Love your neighbor as yourself." But if you keep on biting and devouring one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

What I am saying is this: Walk by the spirit, and you will not carry out what the sinful flesh desires. For the sinful flesh desires what is contrary to the spirit, and the spirit what is contrary to the sinful flesh. In fact, these two continually oppose one another, so that you do not continue to do these things you want to do. But if you are led by the spirit, you are not under the control of the law.

Now the works of the sinful flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, complete lack of restraint, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, discord, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, orgies, and things similar to these. I warn you, just as I also warned you before, that those who continue to do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the spirit, let us also walk in step with it.

#### VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. Alleluia. (Mark 8:34b)



GOSPEL LUKE 9: 51 – 62

Following Christ leaves no room for vengeance, self-preservation or wrong priorities. So many want to follow Jesus, but only if a life of faith can be lived as much of the world as in the world. Breathless excitement wasn't enough; cultural conventions weren't enough; not even seemingly loving acts were enough to change Jesus' claim: Following Christ is all or nothing—it calls for total commitment.

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



When the days were approaching for him to be taken up, Jesus was determined to go to Jerusalem. He sent messengers ahead of him. They went and entered a Samaritan village to make preparations for him. But the people did not welcome him, because he was determined to go to Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to consume them?" But he turned and rebuked them. "You don't know what kind of spirit is influencing you. For the Son of Man

did not come to destroy people's souls, but to save them." Then they went to another village.

As they went on the way, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." He said to another man, "Follow me!" But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." Jesus told him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Another man also said, "I will follow you, Lord, but first let me say good-bye to those at my home." Jesus told him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."



NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him, all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake, he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day, he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

\*\*Please Be Seated\*\*

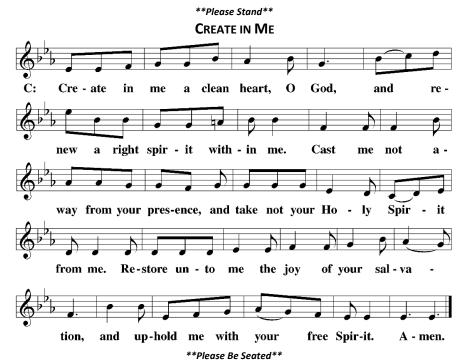
#### HYMN OF THE DAY: #465

#### JESUS, I MY CROSS HAVE TAKEN



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

SERMON TEXT: SERMON THEME: LUKE 9: 51 – 62
FOCUS RESTORED BY FAITH



OFFERING — In 2 Corinthians 9:7, Paul tells us: "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.

\*\*Please Stand\*\*

#### PRAYER FOR THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

Eternal God and Father, we give you thanks for the blessings we share as members of your holy Church, for your gracious Word and sacraments, for opportunities to worship and to grow in faith and knowledge, for occasions to serve and be served, for fellowship with believers in our congregation and in our synod.

#### Help us to rejoice in these blessings, dear Lord, and to use them faithfully.

Jesus Christ, Lord of the Church, you give grace to your people by calling us to be your witnesses in the world. Open our eyes to see the great and noble mission that lies before us. In the hurting eyes of the lonely, in the pained eyes of the sick, and in the searching eyes of the lost, help us to see your face, O Jesus, and to serve others as we would serve you.

### Awaken us to the opportunities you give to proclaim your message of love to our family members and neighbors.

Holy Spirit, giver of life, through Word and sacrament, bestow on us the wisdom and power we need to clearly witness and to act boldly to those who live in Redmond and her

surrounding cities. Help us to speak the truth in love, to give the reason for the hope we have, and to conduct ourselves with gentleness and respect.

#### Set our hearts on fire as we work and witness for Christ.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray for a family member, an acquaintance, a neighbor, or a friend who does not believe in you, or whose faith is weak or troubled.

#### Silent prayer.

Bless the Church with men and women who are willing to proclaim your Word in places where we cannot go. Keep them and their loved ones in your care, and let nothing hinder their work. By the power of the gospel, restore their spirits each day, so that they do not lose heart as they serve us and others.

#### Move us to support them with our sincere prayers and generous offerings.

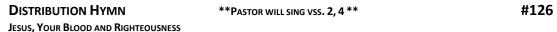
#### **Special Prayers and Intercessions**

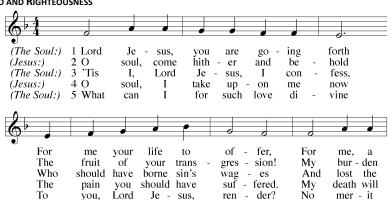
Wherever your Word is proclaimed, O Lord, grant it success. Let your kingdom come to us and others, so that we and many more might join the assembly of saints and angels to sing your praise forever.

Savior of all, hear our prayer and help us in our mission. 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.







Text: Kaspar F. Nachtenhöfer, 1624–85, st. 1-3, 5; Magnus D. Omeis, 1646–1708, st. 4; tr. W. Gustave Polack, 1890–1950 alt

Tune: SO GEHST DU NUN (87 87 447 447 Iambic) Geistreiches Gesang-Buch, Darmstadt, 1698, alt.

### THE SACRAMENT \*\*Please Stand\*\*

The Lord be with you.

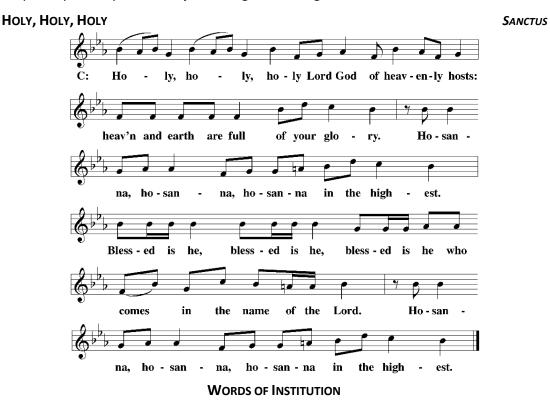
Lift up your hearts.

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 hosts in heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



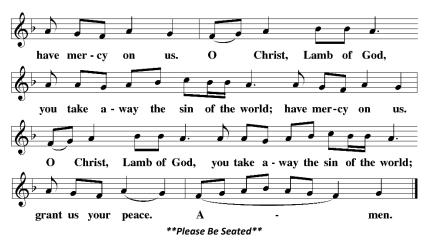
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my (†) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

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.







#### 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.



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.



#### THE BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord, make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

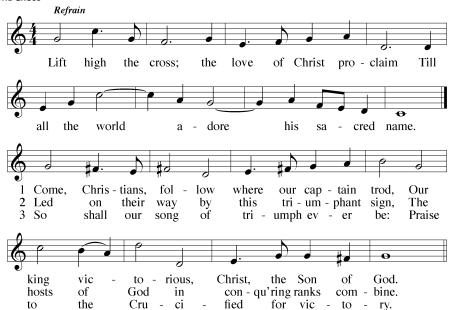
The Lord look on you with favor and (†) give you peace.



\*\*Please Be Seated\*\*

CLOSING HYMN: #579

LIFT HIGH THE CROSS



Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912, abr., altered by Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956, alt. © 1974

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Tune: CRUCIFER (10 10 10 10) Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947. © 1974 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

#### 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, 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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Refrain Tune: Dale Wood. From Seasonal Psalms. © 1978 Augsburg Publishing House.

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#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Circuit Visitor Visit:** Our Circuit Visitor, Rev. Steven Sparly, will be visiting our congregation from July 25 to 27. July 25 is scheduled for you to give feedback about our congregation; members will sign up for half-hour blocks, and you will meet at the Port's home at 1923 NW Nickernut Ct, Redmond. On Saturday, July 26, in the morning, there will be additional times available, but the location will be at the Baldwin's home; then at 1:00 p.m., the council will meet with our Circuit Visitor. On Sunday, July 27, he and his wife Jane will join us for Bible Study and our service. At the end of his visit, he will submit his report to our congregation. Sign-up for time slots is available on the back table.

Save the date – Saturday, August 2: We will be hosting a Grace family picnic at Centennial Park from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. This is a great opportunity for us to get together for games, food, drinks, and quality time. Join us, and feel free to invite your friends, as this will also be a mission weekend.

**Giving Counselor:** Mr. Paul Manning, the Synod Giving Counselor, will meet with us on Oct 10 after the service. If you are considering ways to give in retirement or want information on estate planning, he will be available.

**Sunday Morning Bible Study: How is your prayer life?** Please join us at 9:00 a.m. next Sunday, July 27. We will be exploring 'How do we pray?' You can come and go as needed; reading is always optional, and questions are always welcome.

**Midweek Bible Study:** Join us at 6:30 p.m. at Greg and Penny Port's house, 1923 NW Nickernut Ct, Redmond. You can also participate via Zoom. We are focusing on reaching out to our neighbors using Pastor David Rosenau's One by One Bible study. The Zoom link is provided, or you can email Pastor Emmons to get the link.

Zoom Meeting ID: 850 328 6057 Password: GraceOT

**Visiting Our Neighbors:** Pastor Emmons will be out on the streets Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday mornings from 9 to 11 a.m. throughout July and August. Please consider joining him for some company.

**Home Visits:** Pastor Emmons will be conducting home visits. Please let him know if there are any times when you will not be available so he can schedule your visit accordingly. This is an opportunity to discuss any personal issues you might have or ideas for our congregation.

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