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## Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*The Church God Wants—  
A Church That Takes Up Its Crosses*

**W**elcome! Thank you for joining us for worship today. In our services we gather before our almighty God to receive his gifts and to offer him our worship and praise. Through God's powerful Word and sacraments he renews our faith and strengthens us to serve in joy.

**PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:** Loving Shepherd, thank you for your care and guidance in the last week. Help me find peace and rest in your word and fill my praise with joy and gladness at the good news of your forgiveness. Amen.

**THEME OF THE DAY:** Some churches teach that God blesses the faithful with worldly prosperity and peace. Jesus tells us today that as his disciples, we will have to bear crosses. These crosses can be spiritual weights on our souls or any number of physical problems. As members of Christ's church, our lives will be full of trouble and suffering. Why bother?

We carry our crosses in gratitude for Jesus carrying his cross - the one weighted down with our sin. We carry our crosses because we know that in those moments of struggle, we are forced to turn to Christ and rely on his strength. The church takes up its cross because we walk with Christ. First the cross, then the crown.

**OUR WORSHIP SERIES:** "I want a church that..." Every individual would complete that sentence with their own interests, priorities, and preferences. What do you want in a church? In this worship series, we see the problem inherent in that question. Jesus bought the Church with his blood - it belongs to Him. So the right question then is "what does God want in a church?" In these five weeks we see that what God wants in a healthy church might be a little different than many manmade lists. It's not about the outside or the activities - it's about the heart and about the Word. The rest is just details.

### ***SERVING GOD, SERVING US:***

Worship Leader: Pastor Ryan Wolfe

Piano/Organ: Robyn Stoller

Vocalists: Abigail Ibisch, Lydia Mattson, Carolyn Forster

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# Order of Worship



## HYMN: All Praise to Him

CW 600



1 All praise to him, the God of light who formed the  
2 All praise to him whose love is seen in Christ the  
3 All praise to him whose pow'r im - parts the love of



moun - tains by his might. All praise to him who names the  
Son, the ser - vant King, who left be - hind his glo - rious  
God with - in our hearts, the Spir - it of all truth and



stars that sing his fame in skies a - far.  
throne to pay the ran - som for his own.  
peace, the fount of joy and ho - li - ness.



All praise to him who reigns in love, who guides the  
All praise to him who hum - bly came to bear our  
To Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it now our souls we



gal - ax - ies a - bove, yet bends to hear our ev - 'ry  
sor - row, sin, and shame, who lived to die, who died to  
lift, our wills we bow; to you, the tri - une God, we



prayer with sov - reign pow'r and ten - der care.  
rise, the all - suf - fi - cient sac - ri - fice.  
raise with lov - ing hearts our song of praise.

Please stand.

Minister: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

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

### Oh, Taste and See

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are  
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -  
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The first staff covers the first line of lyrics, the second staff covers the second line, and the third staff covers the third line.

ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -  
 ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.  
 Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

**THE WORD OF GOD**

**M:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**Prayer of the Day**

**M:** Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow him wherever he leads; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** **Amen.**

*Be seated.*

**First Reading**

**Jeremiah 15:15-21**

*When the prophet Jeremiah grew tired of carrying his cross and complained, the LORD called on him to repent and promised salvation to his faithful servant.*

- <sup>15</sup>LORD, you understand;  
 remember me and care for me.  
 Avenge me on my persecutors.  
 You are long-suffering—do not take me away;  
 think of how I suffer reproach for your sake.
- <sup>16</sup>When your words came, I ate them;  
 they were my joy and my heart's delight,

for I bear your name,

LORD God Almighty.

<sup>17</sup>I never sat in the company of revelers,  
never made merry with them;

I sat alone because your hand was on me  
and you had filled me with indignation.

<sup>18</sup>Why is my pain unending  
and my wound grievous and incurable?

You are to me like a deceptive brook,  
like a spring that fails.

<sup>19</sup>Therefore this is what the LORD says:

“If you repent, I will restore you  
that you may serve me;  
if you utter worthy, not worthless, words,  
you will be my spokesman.

Let this people turn to you,  
but you must not turn to them.

<sup>20</sup>I will make you a wall to this people,  
a fortified wall of bronze;

they will fight against you  
but will not overcome you,

for I am with you  
to rescue and save you,”

declares the LORD.

<sup>21</sup>“I will save you from the hands of the wicked  
and deliver you from the grasp of the cruel.”

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

Romans 8:18-25

*St. Paul teaches God's Church that no cross can compare with the crown of glory that is waiting.*

<sup>18</sup>I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. <sup>19</sup>For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. <sup>20</sup>For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

<sup>21</sup>We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. <sup>23</sup>Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

M: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## **Gospel**

Matthew 16:21-26

*Jesus calls his Church to walk in his path: first comes the cross, then comes the crown.*

<sup>21</sup>From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

<sup>22</sup>Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!”

<sup>23</sup>Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

<sup>24</sup>Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.

<sup>26</sup>What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated.*

## **Children’s Devotion**



1 Je - sus, I my cross have tak - en, all to leave and  
 2 Let the world de - spise and leave me; they have left my  
 3 Go, then, earth - ly fame and trea - sure! Come, dis - as - ter,



fol - low you; des - ti - tute, de - spised, for - sak - en, you on  
 Sav - ior, too. Hu - man hearts and looks de - ceive me; you are  
 scorn, and pain! In your ser - vice pain is plea - sure, with your



earth once suf - fered, too. Per - ish ev - 'ry fond am - bi - tion,  
 not, like them, un - true. And, since you have smiled up - on me,  
 fa - vor loss is gain. I have called you Ab - ba, Fa - ther;



all I've ev - er hoped or known; yet how rich is  
 God of wis - dom, love, and might, foes may hate and  
 you my all in all shall be. Storms may howl, and



my con - di - tion, God and heav'n are still my own!  
 friends may shun me; show your face, and all is bright.  
 clouds may gath - er, all must work for good to me.

**Sermon**

Based on Matthew 16:21-26

*"You choose: the Christian Cross or the Unchristian Couch?"*

Please stand after the sermon.



# THANKSGIVING

## Apostles' Creed

**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.**

*Be seated.*

## Offering



Connect Card

*Our members give offerings to support God's work in our church. Offerings can be put in the basket or made online by scanning the code. Visitors may give, but aren't expected to.*

*We ask members and visitors alike to fill out the connection card and place it in the basket now or as you leave. Please share your prayer requests that we can pray for you.*



Give Online

*Please stand.*

## Prayer of the Church

### Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

# Hymn: Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me

CW 831 sts. 1-4



1 Why should cross and tri - al grieve me? Christ is near  
2 When life's trou - bles rise to meet me, though their weight  
3 God gives me my days of glad - ness, and I will  
4 From God's joy can noth - ing sev - er, for I am



with his cheer; nev - er will he leave me.  
may be great, they will not de - feat me.  
trust him still when he sends me sad - ness.  
his dear lamb, he, my Shep - herd ev - er.



Who can rob me of the heav - en that God's Son  
God, my lov - ing Sav - ior, sees them; he who knows  
God is good; his love at - tends me day by day,  
I am his be - cause he gave me his own blood



for me won when his life was giv - en?  
all my woes knows how best to end them.  
come what may, guides me and de - fends me.  
for my good, by his death to save me.

**M:** O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

## Blessing

**M:** Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.

**C:** Amen.

# Hymn: Afflicted Saint, to Christ Draw Near CW 867 sts. 1, Ref, 3-4



1 Af - flict - ed saint, to Christ draw near, your Sav - ior's  
3 Should per - se - cu - tion rage and flame, still trust in  
4 When called to bear your weight - y cross, or sore af -



gra - cious prom - ise hear; his faith - ful Word you can be -  
your Re - deem - er's name. In fi - ery tri - als you shall  
flic - tion, pain, or loss, or deep dis - tress, or pov - er -



lieve, that as your days your strength shall be. v. 2  
see that as your days your strength shall be. Refrain  
ty, still as your days your strength shall be. Refrain



So, sing with joy, af - flict - ed one; the bat - tle's fierce, but the



vic - t'ry's won! God shall sup - ply all that you need;



yes, as your days your strength shall be.

## Silent Prayer and Announcements

### Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship  
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# *Welcome to worship!*

## FOR OUR GUESTS

We are glad that you joined us to worship our Savior today. If you have questions about our church or service simply ask an usher or someone near you. We're happy to help. Please take note of a few helpful things:

- † **Restrooms** are located straight down the hall opposite the sanctuary entrance. Both men's and women's restrooms are equipped with **diaper changing tables** for your convenience.
- † Our sanctuary is equipped with an amplified "loop" system for **hearing assistance**. Please set hearing aids to the "T" position.
- † You will find a **connection card** in your pew. We ask members and guests to share their names and contact info, and invite you to share requests for contact or prayers.
- † Salem members give an **offering** to support the work we do for the Lord. Guests are not expected to give anything, but if you wish to make a donation you can place it in a basket as it's passed during the service or give online.

## FOR THOSE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

We love to see families worship together and we welcome children to sing and pray and grow with us in our services. Please note these special worship aids and helps for families:

- † Children's bulletins & "*quiet bags*" for your child's use in worship are available in the entry, just to the left of the office hallway. Ask an usher if you need help finding them.
- † If your child needs to be nursed or quieted for a few moments you can use our "*cry room*" down the hallway across from the restrooms. The service is shown live on a TV in the room.
- † Sunday mornings, before the hymn of the day and sermon, children of all ages are invited to come to the front of church for a short devotion on God's Word. Parents may accompany their children as they wish.

Salem Lutheran Church exists to glorify God  
by teaching his timeless Truth, that all may  
grow in grace and faith to share tomorrow's eternity.

