

**Stewardship 2025
United in Christ**



**Yesterday,
Today and
Tomorrow**

Psalm 46:7 “The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.”

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 7, 2025
9:00 AM Traditional Worship**

Pastor: Paula Geister-Jones **Lay Ministry Administrator:** Jenny Hoffman
Guest Preacher: Sandy Grant
Organist/Pianist: Linda Kunz **Lector:** Kris Adams
Acolytes: Ella Pavolonis & Jackson Kojo
Ushers: Todd Skavlen, Mark Wilberg, Eric Smedal & Roger Nitzsche
Technical Support: Thomas Lehr, Roger Slack

Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by translating Paul’s request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God’s grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to “choose life”—to choose life in God as our own.

CALL TO WORSHIP: “Here I Am to Worship” Handbell Quartet
Kyla Betts, Linda Kunz, Hannah Peterson, Melissa Peterson

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.
C: Amen.

P: Trusting in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful and loving God,

C: **we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.**

P: Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ✠ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

C: **Amen.**

Stand

HYMN: "Will You Come and Follow Me" ELW #798 Vs. 1, 4 & 5

**Vs. 1: "Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"**

**Vs. 4: "Will you love the you, you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"**

**Vs. 5: Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.**

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

LITANY

P: You are a treasured people of the Lord,

C: **a people holy to the Lord our God**

P: Keep the words of the Lord in your heart: teach them to your children

C: **Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you**

lie down and when you rise.

P: One does not live by bread alone.

C: but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

HYMN OF PRAISE: "O, Sing to the Lord" ELW #822 Vs. 1,2,4 & 5

Vs. 1: Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song.

Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song.

Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song.

Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.

Vs. 2: For God is the Lord, and God has done wonders.

For God is the Lord, and God has done wonders.

For God is the Lord, and God has done wonders.

Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.

Vs. 4: Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spirit.

Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spirit.

Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spirit.

Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.

Vs. 5: For Jesus is Lord! Amen! Alleluia!

For Jesus is Lord! Amen! Alleluia!

For Jesus is Lord! Amen! Alleluia!

Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Sit

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

¹⁵ Look at what I've done for you today: I've placed in front of you Life and Good Death and Evil. ¹⁶ And I command you today: Love God, your God. Walk in his ways. Keep his commandments, regulations, and rules so that you will live, really live, live exuberantly, blessed by God, your God, in the land you are about to enter and possess. ¹⁷⁻¹⁸ But I warn you: If you have a change of heart, refuse to listen obediently, and willfully go off to serve and worship other gods, you will most certainly die. You won't last long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹⁻²⁰ I call Heaven and Earth to witness against you today: I place before you Life and Death, Blessing and Curse. Choose life so that you and your children will live. And love God, your God, listening obediently to him, firmly embracing him. Oh yes, he is life itself, a long life settled on the soil that God, your God, promised to give your ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL CANTICLE: "I Love to Tell the Story" ELW #661

I love to tell the story of unseen things above, of Jesus and his glory,
of Jesus and his love. I love to tell the story, because I know it's true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.

I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory to tell the old,
old story of Jesus and his love.

The Gospel is announced...

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 14th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 14:25-35

²⁵⁻²⁷ One day when large groups of people were walking along with him, Jesus turned and told them, "Anyone who comes to me but refuses to let go of father, mother, spouse, children, brothers, sisters—yes, even one's own self!—can't be my disciple. Anyone who won't shoulder his own cross and follow behind me can't be my disciple. ²⁸⁻³⁰ "Is there anyone here who, planning to build a new house, doesn't first sit down and figure the cost so you'll know if you can complete it? If you only get the foundation laid and then run out of money, you're going to look pretty foolish. Everyone passing by will poke fun at you: 'He started something he couldn't finish.' ³¹⁻³² "Or can you imagine a king going into battle

against another king without first deciding whether it is possible with his ten thousand troops to face the twenty thousand troops of the other? And if he decides he can't, won't he send an emissary and work out a truce? ³³ "Simply put, if you're not willing to take what is dearest to you, whether plans or people, and kiss it good-bye, you can't be my disciple. ³⁴⁻³⁵ "Salt is excellent. But if the salt goes flat, it's useless, good for nothing. "Are you listening to this? Really listening?"

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

Stand

HYMN: "Take My Life, That I May Be" ELW #583 Vs. 1,2 & 4

**Refrain: Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**Vs. 1: Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee. *Refrain...***

**Vs. 2: Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose. *Refrain...***

**Vs. 4: Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne. *Refrain...***

APOSTLE'S CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

A Brief Silence

P: We pray for the church to follow in your ways, that it may be a witness to your love for all people. Help us choose all that is life-giving and confront the forces of death. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: We pray for creation, that it may be cherished and nurtured. Sustain farmlands, animals, and waters; restore places affected by calamities; and shield coastlands from rising seas. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: We pray for those in authority. Grant them wisdom to govern justly and compassion to care for the marginalized. Equip them for actions that further the common good. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: We pray for those who are sick, hungry, unhoused, or lonely. May they find healing through your love and the care of those around them. Lead us to be your hands and feet in the world. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: We pray for this congregation, that we may be united in love and faith. Refresh our hearts in Christ, and deepen our support of one another. We pray that our sharing of faith may transform lives. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: We thank you for those who have died and now dwell with the saints.
Surround them with your divine mercy, that they find peace and rest in your
loving embrace. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our
redeemer and friend.

C: receive our prayer.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Sit

OFFERTORY: "Take, Oh Take Me As I Am" Bell/Oines

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray.

**C: Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.
Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who
richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are
suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.**

ANOUNCEMENTS

Stand

BLESSING

P: The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, ☩ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

C: Thanks be to God.

SENDING HYMN: “Oh Jesus, I have Promised” ELW #810 Vs. 1,3 & 4

**Vs. 1: O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
remain forever near me, my master and my friend.**

**I shall not fear the battle if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.**

**Vs. 3: Oh, let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will.**

**Now speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
now speak and make me listen, O Guardian of my soul.**

**Vs. 4: O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you
that where you are in glory your servant shall be too.**

**And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
oh, give me grace to follow, my master and my friend.**

POSTLUDE: “O God Beyond All Praising” Holst/Stevens