

## The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 3, 2023

There are times when the Apostle Peter sets an excellent example for Christians of all times and places. His declaration that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God is a case in point. In our Gospel lesson today we see the opposite. He is an example of what we ought never to do. St. Peter opposes the will of God and His plan for salvation through Jesus' death and resurrection. Our human nature finds it impossible to recognize that God's ways are always the best. May the Holy Spirit ever direct us to pray sincerely, "Thy will be done."

### Come, Thou Almighty King

Lutheran Service Book 905, Lutheran Worship 169, The Lutheran Hymnal 239



1 Come, Thou al - might - y King, Help us Thy  
2 Come, Thou in - car - nate Word, Gird on Thy  
3 Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, Thy sa - cred  
4 To Thee, great One in Three, E - ter - nal



name to sing; Help us to praise; Fa - ther all -  
might - y sword; Our prayer at - tend. Come and Thy  
wit - ness bear In this glad hour! Thou, who al -  
prais - es be Hence ev - er - more! Thy sov - 'reign



glo - ri - ous, O'er all vic - to - ri - ous,  
peo - ple bless, And give Thy Word suc - cess,  
might - y art, Now rule in ev - 'ry heart,  
maj - es - ty May we in glo - ry see,



Come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.  
And let Thy righ - teous - ness On us de - scend.  
And ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of pow'r.  
And to e - ter - ni - ty Love and a - dore.

**L** In the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**L** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth. (*Psalm 124:8*)

**L** Who can discern his errors? Forgive my hidden faults.

**C** Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. (*Psalm 19:12, 13*)

**L** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord who could stand?

**C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared. (*Psalm 130:3–4*)

**L** Let us, confess before God that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and as His people let us take refuge in His infinite mercy seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, saying:

**C** God, be merciful to me, a sinner, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen. (*Luke 18:13*)

**L** Almighty God, merciful Father, in Your holy Church, You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

### Introit Psalm 37:5–7; antiphon: Psalm 37:4

**L** Delight yourself in the Lord,  
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

**C** Commit your way to the Lord;  
trust in him, and he will act.

**L** He will bring forth your righteousness as the light,  
and your justice as the noonday.

**C** Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him;  
fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!

**C** 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.

**L** Delight yourself in the Lord,  
And he will give you the desires of your heart.

### Kyrie

**L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

**L** O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.

**L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

### Gloria in Excelsis ~ Glory to God in the Highest

**L** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

**C** Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father: We worship You, we give You thanks, and we praise You for Your glory.

**L** Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, You are Lord and God, You are the Lamb of God:

**C** Lord Jesus Christ, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

**L** Lord Jesus Christ, You are seated at the right hand of the Father; and we ask you to graciously receive our prayer.

**C** For You alone are the Holy One,  
You alone are the Lord,

**You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

### **Collect of the Day**

**L** 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 the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G** Amen.

### **Jeremiah 15:15–21**

<sup>15</sup>O LORD, you know;  
remember me and visit me,  
and take vengeance for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance take me not away;  
know that for your sake I bear reproach.

<sup>16</sup>Your words were found, and I ate them,  
and your words became to me a joy  
and the delight of my heart,  
for I am called by your name,  
O LORD, God of hosts.

<sup>17</sup>I did not sit in the company of revelers,  
nor did I rejoice;  
I sat alone, because your hand was upon me,  
for you had filled me with indignation.

<sup>18</sup>Why is my pain unceasing,  
my wound incurable,  
refusing to be healed?  
Will you be to me like a deceitful brook,  
like waters that fail?

<sup>19</sup>Therefore thus says the LORD:  
“If you return, I will restore you,  
and you shall stand before me.  
If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,  
you shall be as my mouth.  
They shall turn to you,  
but you shall not turn to them.

<sup>20</sup>And I will make you to this people  
a fortified wall of bronze;  
they will fight against you,  
but they shall not prevail over you,  
for I am with you  
to save you and deliver you,  
declares the LORD.

<sup>21</sup>I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,  
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.”

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.

**L** Fear the Lord, you his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing!

**C** Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.

## Psalm 26

**L** <sup>1</sup>Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have walked in my integrity,  
and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.

**C** <sup>2</sup>Prove me, O LORD, and try me; test my heart and my mind.

**L** <sup>3</sup>For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in your faithfulness.

**C** <sup>4</sup>I do not sit with men of falsehood, nor do I consort with hypocrites.

**L** <sup>5</sup>I hate the assembly of evildoers, and I will not sit with the wicked.

**C** <sup>6</sup>I wash my hands in innocence and go around your altar, O LORD,

**L** <sup>7</sup>proclaiming thanksgiving aloud, and telling all your wondrous deeds.

**C** <sup>8</sup>O LORD, I love the habitation of your house and the place where your glory dwells.

**L** <sup>9</sup>Do not sweep my soul away with sinners, nor my life with bloodthirsty men,

**C** <sup>10</sup>in whose hands are evil devices, and whose right hands are full of bribes.

**L** <sup>11</sup>But as for me, I shall walk in my integrity; redeem me, and be gracious to me.

**C** <sup>12</sup>My foot stands on level ground; in the great assembly I will bless the LORD.

## Romans 12:9–21

<sup>9</sup>Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. <sup>10</sup>Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup>Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

<sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be conceited. <sup>17</sup>Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup>If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup>Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” <sup>20</sup>To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Verse of the Day Matthew 16:25

**L** Alleluia, Alleluia. Whoever would save his life will lose it, Alleluia.

**C** Alleluia, Alleluia. but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Alleluia.

## Matthew 16: 21–28

**L** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>21</sup>From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup>And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.” <sup>23</sup>But he turned and

said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

<sup>24</sup>Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

<sup>26</sup>For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life? <sup>27</sup>For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. <sup>28</sup>Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

**L** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father  
Almighty.

From thence 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

### Christ, the Life of All the Living

Lutheran Service Book 420, Lutheran Worship 94, The Lutheran Hymnal 151



1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of  
2 Thou, ah! Thou, hast tak - en on Thee Bonds and stripes, a  
3 Thou hast borne the smit - ing on - ly That my wounds might  
4 Heart - less scof - fers did sur - round Thee, Treat - ing Thee with



death, our foe, Who, Thy - self for me once giv - ing  
cru - el rod; Pain and scorn were heaped up - on Thee,  
all be whole; Thou hast suf - fered, sad and lone - ly,  
shame - ful scorn And with pierc - ing thorns they crowned Thee.



To the dark - est depths of woe: Through Thy suf - f'rings,  
O Thou sin - less Son of God! Thus didst Thou my  
Rest to give my wea - ry soul; Yea, the curse of  
All dis - grace Thou, Lord, hast borne, That as Thine Thou



death, and mer - it I e - ter - nal life in - her - it.  
soul de - liv - er From the bonds of sin for - ev - er.  
God en - dur - ing, Bless - ing un - to me se - cur - ing.  
might - est own me And with heav'n - ly glo - ry crown me.



Thou-sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.  
Thou-sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.  
Thou-sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.  
Thou-sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.

5 Thou hast suffered men to bruise Thee,  
That from pain I might be free;  
Falsely did Thy foes accuse Thee:  
Thence I gain security;  
Comfortless Thy soul did languish  
Me to comfort in my anguish.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

6 Thou hast suffered great affliction  
And hast borne it patiently,  
Even death by crucifixion,  
Fully to atone for me;  
Thou didst choose to be tormented  
That my doom should be prevented.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

7 Then, for all that wrought my pardon,  
For Thy sorrows deep and sore,  
For Thine anguish in the Garden,  
I will thank Thee evermore,  
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing,  
For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,  
For that last triumphant cry,  
And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

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## Devotional thoughts:

There are two ways to read the Bible. One is reading large portions without pausing. The other is to read, process, and ponder small parts bit by bit. Each has its advantages. When you read without pausing you can see the big picture and the grand sweep of Scripture but overlook some of the important details. When you read scripture, examining each word and phrase, you can appreciate the depth of meaning revealed to us in every detail but not grasp the big picture. You may fail to see the forest for the trees.

In this portion of Scripture, it is especially important that we both take in the panorama of the events of Jesus' life and pause to reflect on each element of this account.

In the Gospel lesson for last week, we learned of Jesus' travels to Caesarea Philippi in the far northern reaches of Israel. From there He turned His eyes to Jerusalem and His uncompromising journey to the cross for the salvation of humanity.

Who is Jesus? He is the Christ, the Son of the living God! Peter was absolutely right in his declaration. Jesus knew that as the Christ, He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

The idea of a suffering Christ was beyond Peter's comprehension. How could suffering and death fulfill all of his grand dreams for Jesus? Certainly, Jesus couldn't be serious! He certainly must be mistaken. "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." In Peter's eyes, God's glorious plan for saving the world was totally wrong.

Last week, I was happy to confess with Peter that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. This week I must also confess that like Peter, I often imagine that God makes mistakes, especially in His plans for my life.

Our human wisdom and insight are so limited. We are almost always destined to be mired in the here and now and seldom pause to look at the grand vista of God's plan for our lives.

However, it may have happened to you as it has to most of us, that something you thought was a terrible setback or disappointment in your life turned into a great blessing. This is often God's way. It is the way of the cross. The impossible becomes possible with God. Death turns to life! Good Friday leads to Easter Sunday.

Our Gospel lesson for today is a warning to not judge God's plans with our human reason and understanding. His ways are not our ways as we learn in Isaiah 55:8-9.

- <sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.  
<sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Satan wants us to doubt the wisdom and power of God. He even sought to have the great Apostle Peter stand in Jesus' way to the cross. But Jesus would have none of that. As much as He loved Peter, He would not let Peter be a hindrance to Him and God's plan of salvation. Peter was not setting his mind on the things of God but on the things of man.

God loved the world so that He gave His only-begotten Son. The giving of His Son meant He must suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. He did that all for us!

We continually must pray for help to set our minds not on the things of man but on the things of God! Our human wisdom looks to avoid the crosses in our lives. Our human wisdom seeks an easy and pleasurable journey. Yet Jesus tells us the real journey to eternal life is one of following Him. This following will involve crosses and self-denial but its ultimate outcome is finding life eternal with Jesus! That is the big picture! Eternity with the Savior in paradise! Let us keep our focus on God's plan and let all earthly plans pass away.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).

God's richest blessings to you in Christ.

## Prayers

**L** Almighty God, teach us to trust so fully in Your fatherly care that we would not seek vengeance but mercy. Move us to bless those who curse us.

**C Amen.**

**L** O Lord, You have made Your Word the delight of our hearts. Keep us from the worldly company of those who despise Your Word.

**C Amen.**

**L** Heavenly Father, open the hearts of Christians to one another, especially within the home and between neighbors. Let our love be genuine, speech truthful and patience constant.

**C** Amen.

**L** O Lord, grant that we would never oppose Your divine purpose and plans. Give us faith to trust that Your ways are better than our ways..

**C** Amen.

**L** Lord God, grant that all nations and leaders might act for peace; promote godliness; and protect all who live under violence, oppression, injustice and fear, that all people might extol You.

**C** Amen.

**L** Heavenly Father, Your Son came to heal the sick and forgive sinners. Hear our prayers for those who suffer in any way. Restore them according to Your gracious will, and strengthen their trust in Your faithfulness and love. Let Your blessings rest upon all medical personnel and first responders who come to our aid in time of need.

**C** Amen.

**C** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

**C** 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.

**L** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**L** The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

**C** Amen.

### Crown Him with Many Crowns

Lutheran Service Book 525, Lutheran Worship 278, The Lutheran Hymnal 341



1 Crown Him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on His throne;  
2 Crown Him the vir - gin's Son, The God in - car - nate born,  
3 Crown Him the Lord of love. Be - hold His hands and side,  
4 Crown Him the Lord of life, Who tri - umphed o'er the grave



Hark how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns All mu - sic but its own.  
Whose arm those crim-son tro-phies won Which now His brow a-dorn:  
Rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, In beau - ty glo - ri - fied.  
And rose vic - to - rious in the strife For those He came to save.





A - wake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee, And  
Fruit of the mys - tic rose, Yet of that rose the stem, The  
No an - gels in the sky Can ful - ly bear that sight, But  
His glo - ries now we sing, Who died and rose on high, Who



hail Him as thy match-less king Through all e - ter - ni - ty.  
root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, The babe of Beth - le - hem.  
down - ward bend their won-d'ring eyes At mys - ter - ies so bright.  
died e - ter - nal life to bring And lives that death may die.

5 Crown Him the Lord of heav'n,  
Enthroned in worlds above,  
Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n  
The wondrous name of Love.  
Crown Him with many crowns  
As thrones before Him fall;  
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns,  
For He is king of all.

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### Service Notes:

One person may serve as Leader or this may be shared with a number of individuals.

Read one or more of the lessons. Hymns may be sung or read. Use as much or little of this service as you would like.

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# Enhancing Your Worship

## Meditating on God's Word and Works

I will meditate on your wondrous works. Psalm 119:27  
My eyes are awake through the night watches,  
That I may meditate on Your word. Psalm 119:148 NKJV

### The Week of

## The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

### September 4 – 9, 2023

#### Introduction

Most modern forms of mediation turn a person inward. Biblical meditation turns a person outward toward what God has said and done especially what He has said and done through Jesus for our salvation.

Each Sunday has its own special theme directing us to meditate on God's word and actions. This theme is found in the Propers of the Day (the parts of the service that change week to week). From Advent through the Easter season these themes focus our attention on the life of Jesus from His birth to His death and resurrection. There is always much more in the propers than can be covered in any Sunday service. God willing, I will use the propers for Sunday to provide you with a devotion each day to help you meditate on what God has done for you.

#### Monday

- L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**G** Amen.

#### Verse of the Day Matthew 16:25

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia. Whoever would save his life will lose it, Alleluia.  
**G** Alleluia, Alleluia. but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Alleluia.

#### Introit Psalm 37:5–7; antiphon: Psalm 37:4

- L** Delight yourself in the Lord,  
and he will give you the desires of your heart.  
**G** Commit your way to the Lord;  
trust in him, and he will act.  
**L** He will bring forth your righteousness as the light,  
and your justice as the noonday.  
**G** Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him;  
fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!  
**G** 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.  
**L** Delight yourself in the Lord,  
And he will give you the desires of your heart.

## Kyrie

**L** O Lord,           **C** Have Mercy on us.  
**L** O Christ,       **C** Have Mercy on us.  
**L** O Lord,           **C** Have Mercy on us.

Are you frustrated with politics, the economy, and the decline in public morality? I am. Many people are. Part of the problem comes from my desire to delight in the things of this world. A better attitude is to “Delight yourself in the Lord.” Then the desires of your heart become more focused on important things.

This week we clearly see the contrast between delighting in the things of man and delighting in the things of God. Jesus was compelled by His love for us to go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

We are compelled by our love for Jesus to take up our cross and follow Him. Because of His great love for us, we delight in the Lord!

**L** Let us pray. O Lord, our God, in times of distress and turmoil here on earth, remind us again to delight in You and Your plan of salvation. Grant us faith to trust in your steadfast love and faithfulness through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God world without end.

**C** Amen.

## Tuesday

**L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

## Verse of the Day Matthew 16:25

**L** Alleluia, Alleluia. Whoever would save his life will lose it, Alleluia.  
**C** Alleluia, Alleluia. but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Alleluia.

## Kyrie

**L** O Lord,           **C** Have Mercy on us.  
**L** O Christ,       **C** Have Mercy on us.  
**L** O Lord,           **C** Have Mercy on us.

**L** 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 the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

The Christian cross is a difficult concept. Standing at the foot of the cross John, Jesus’ mother, and the other women could see no blessings in Jesus agony and suffering. The people who walked by saw the shame of the cross and hurled insults at Jesus.

Yet today, many Christians wear crosses. Our churches and homes are adorned with crosses. We proudly display this symbol of agony and shame because we know the cross is the place of our redemption. On the cross sin, death, and the devil were defeated. On the cross, the ultimate sacrifice of the Lamb of God brought us life and salvation. For this reason we often sing, “In the Cross of Christ I glory.”

Prayer: 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 the same Jesus Christ,

our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## Wednesday

- L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

## Verse of the Day Matthew 16:25

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia. Whoever would save his life will lose it, Alleluia.  
**C** Alleluia, Alleluia. but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Alleluia.

## Kyrie

- L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.  
**L** O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.  
**L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

## Psalms 26

- L** <sup>1</sup>Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have walked in my integrity,  
and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.  
**C** <sup>2</sup>Prove me, O LORD, and try me; test my heart and my mind.  
**L** <sup>3</sup>For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in your faithfulness.  
**C** <sup>4</sup>I do not sit with men of falsehood, nor do I consort with hypocrites.  
**L** <sup>5</sup>I hate the assembly of evildoers, and I will not sit with the wicked.  
**C** <sup>6</sup>I wash my hands in innocence and go around your altar, O LORD,  
**L** <sup>7</sup>proclaiming thanksgiving aloud, and telling all your wondrous deeds.  
**C** <sup>8</sup>O LORD, I love the habitation of your house and the place where your glory dwells.  
**L** <sup>9</sup>Do not sweep my soul away with sinners, nor my life with bloodthirsty men,  
**C** <sup>10</sup>in whose hands are evil devices, and whose right hands are full of bribes.  
**L** <sup>11</sup>But as for me, I shall walk in my integrity; redeem me, and be gracious to me.  
**C** <sup>12</sup>My foot stands on level ground; in the great assembly I will bless the LORD.

Lord, I love the habitation of your house! How sad it is when people are unable or unwilling to attend God's house and worship with our fellow saints. These words of Psalm 26 ring true for each of us.

We love to go to God's house and hear His holy word. We love to go to God's house and receive the blessing of strength for our souls through word and sacrament. We love to go to God's house to be reminded "Jesus loves me, this I know."

In God's house, His glory dwells! What is God's primary glory? It is that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am foremost.

Lord, I love the habitation of your house!

Prayer: O Lord, grant us the opportunity and ability to sing Your praises in Your house or wherever we find ourselves. Let us never forget that Your plan for us is to spend eternity with You in Your house in heaven through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Thursday

- L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

## Verse of the Day Matthew 16:25

**L** Alleluia, Alleluia. Whoever would save his life will lose it, Alleluia.

**C** Alleluia, Alleluia. but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Alleluia.

## Kyrie

**L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

**L** O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.

**L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

## Jeremiah 15:15–21

<sup>15</sup>O LORD, you know;  
remember me and visit me,  
and take vengeance for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance take me not away;  
know that for your sake I bear reproach.

<sup>16</sup>Your words were found, and I ate them,  
and your words became to me a joy  
and the delight of my heart,  
for I am called by your name,  
O LORD, God of hosts.

<sup>17</sup>I did not sit in the company of revelers,  
nor did I rejoice;  
I sat alone, because your hand was upon me,  
for you had filled me with indignation.

<sup>18</sup>Why is my pain unceasing,  
my wound incurable,  
refusing to be healed?  
Will you be to me like a deceitful brook,  
like waters that fail?

<sup>19</sup>Therefore thus says the LORD:  
“If you return, I will restore you,  
and you shall stand before me.  
If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,  
you shall be as my mouth.  
They shall turn to you,  
but you shall not turn to them.

<sup>20</sup>And I will make you to this people  
a fortified wall of bronze;  
they will fight against you,  
but they shall not prevail over you,  
for I am with you  
to save you and deliver you,  
declares the LORD.

<sup>21</sup>I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,  
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.”

Jeremiah writes, “Your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart.” With all the distractions of modern life, it is easy to neglect God’s word. Unfortunately, when we do, we lose the real source of joy and delight.

I know that there are people who love politics. I am not one. I rejoice when elections are over. I mourn when talk begins about the next election. When I let current events dominate my life, I lose joy.

Let the sources of discouragement and disappointment in your life be a motivation for turning again to God’s word for joy and delight. There you learn of Jesus, the Good Shepherd who holds you in His hands for time and eternity.

Prayer: O Lord God, grant us joy and delight in your holy word through our Savior Jesus who gives us eternal life. Amen.

## Friday

**L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Verse of the Day Matthew 16:25

**L** Alleluia, Alleluia. Whoever would save his life will lose it, Alleluia.

**C** Alleluia, Alleluia. but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Alleluia.

## Kyrie

**L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

**L** O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.

**L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

## Romans 12:9–21

<sup>9</sup>Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. <sup>10</sup>Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup>Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

<sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be conceited. <sup>17</sup>Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup>If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup>Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” <sup>20</sup>To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Let love be genuine! Abhor what is evil! Hold fast to what is good! These are wonderful ideals from St. Paul.

There is nothing more disappointing than learning someone we loved and trusted was genuine not in love but in deception. Yet we confess that many times, our love has been fake, evil has been attractive, and goodness slips from our grasp.

In these times, we turn again to Jesus in humble repentance and plead, “Lord, be merciful to me a sinner.” Thanks be to God. He restores us to His family, forgives our sins, and welcomes us into His eternal kingdom.

Prayer: O God, thank You for revealing to us Your divine plan of salvation through faith in Christ. Grant us the forgiveness that Jesus won for us on the cross. Amen.

## Saturday

**L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

### Verse of the Day Matthew 16:25

**L** Alleluia, Alleluia. Whoever would save his life will lose it, Alleluia.

**C** Alleluia, Alleluia. but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Alleluia.

### Gradual Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.

**L** Fear the Lord, you his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing!

**C** Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.

### Kyrie

**L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

**L** O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.

**L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

Every young person must consider what they will do with their lives. Every old person reflects on the value of their lives.

Jesus rightly reminds us that lives lived selfishly are lost and lives lived sacrificially are found.

Let us ever walk with Jesus and find our lives in Him!

Prayer:

### Christ, the Life of All the Living

Lutheran Service Book 420, Lutheran Worship 94, The Lutheran Hymnal 151



1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of  
2 Thou, ah! Thou, hast tak - en on Thee Bonds and stripes, a  
3 Thou hast borne the smit - ing on - ly That my wounds might  
4 Heart - less scof - fers did sur - round Thee, Treat - ing Thee with



death, our foe, Who, Thy - self for me once giv - ing  
cru - el rod; Pain and scorn were heaped up - on Thee,  
all be whole; Thou hast suf - fered, sad and lone - ly,  
shame - ful scorn And with pierc - ing thorns they crowned Thee.



To the dark - est depths of woe: Through Thy suf - f'rings,  
O Thou sin - less Son of God! Thus didst Thou my  
Rest to give my wea - ry soul; Yea, the curse of  
All dis - grace Thou, Lord, hast borne, That as Thine Thou



death, and mer - it I e - ter - nal life in - her - it.  
soul de - liv - er From the bonds of sin for - ev - er.  
God en - dur - ing, Bless - ing un - to me se - cur - ing.  
might - est own me And with heav'n - ly glo - ry crown me.



Thou-sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.  
Thou-sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.  
Thou-sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.  
Thou-sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.

5 Thou hast suffered men to bruise Thee,  
That from pain I might be free;  
Falsely did Thy foes accuse Thee:  
Thence I gain security;  
Comfortless Thy soul did languish  
Me to comfort in my anguish.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

6 Thou hast suffered great affliction  
And hast borne it patiently,  
Even death by crucifixion,  
Fully to atone for me;  
Thou didst choose to be tormented  
That my doom should be prevented.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

7 Then, for all that wrought my pardon,  
For Thy sorrows deep and sore,  
For Thine anguish in the Garden,  
I will thank Thee evermore,  
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing,  
For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,  
For that last triumphant cry,  
And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

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