

ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆Bethany ◆Immanuel ◆Lunder ◆Silver Lake ◆Winnebago



**“If any want to become
my followers, let them
deny themselves and
take up their cross
and follow me.”**

Matthew 16:24, NRSV



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Ministers

Every member of the Parish

Pastors (#590-2737 – cell; email pastorbill@oneinchristlutheranparish.org)

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web page - <http://www.oneinchristlutheranparish.org>

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 3, 2023

COME, HOLY SPIRIT!

We joyfully welcome all guests who are worshiping with us this morning.

We ask you to please sign our guest register. God's Spirit has empowered us to be an united community of faith and encourages us to be a neighbor to all.

SPIRIT, SET OUR HEARTS ON FIRE!

Hymns are from the Green Hymnal.

(Stand as you are able)*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

✠ **GATHERING** ✠

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the People of God

***CONFESSION**

We gather with thankful hearts

to make God's deeds known among all peoples.

Let our songs of praise

proclaim all God's wonderful works.

Praise God who is the same yesterday,

today and forever!.

Awesome and great God, whose holiness is beyond our capacity even to imagine - we worship you.

God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, we glorify you as our God also.

Your care for your people of old is evident through the stories of your involvement and constant covenant with them.

Your care for us is evident through your grace and mercy which we experience in Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

You love us so lavishly, and empower us so mightily, that we come to see the world as a place charged with blessing - your blessing.

We realize that we stand on holy ground whenever we are in your presence O God, which is always and forever when we praise you as we ought.

We offer our praise and adoration and this time of worship as our response to your extravagant initiative of entering our lives

In the person of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Merciful God, through the apostle Paul, you call us to live out our faith in everyday actions beginning with loving one another with a love that is completely sincere - love with no thought of gain for self but love totally at the service of others.

We are to hate evil and to hold fast to what is good, yet the grasping for financial gain by whatever means has led to a diminished understanding of what is evil and what is good;

We are to care for and honor one another, yet sadly, divisions exist in churches and faith communities, when conflict arises over rights and privileges, prestige and power.

Our faith is to be visible through our joy and our hope - our patience - even in suffering, and through our persevering in prayer and we are to share what we have with those in need, and to extend hospitality not just to those we know and like - but to strangers.

We know we fall short of living out our faith in these ways so we pray that we will be renewed, strengthened and empowered with the Holy Spirit to follow Jesus, living, loving and caring as he did.

This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen

***EXPERIENCING GOD'S GRACE – THE GOOD NEWS**

Hear the good news: God's love for us is truly revealed in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Thanks be to God!

***OPENING SONG**

“When Morning Gilds the Skies”

vss. 1-4 # 546

*When morning gilds the skies,
my heart awaking cries:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
When evening shadows fall,
this rings my curfew call:
may Jesus Christ be praised!*

*When mirth for music longs,
this is my song of songs:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
God's holy house of prayer
has none that can compare
with “Jesus Christ be praised!”*

*To him, my highest and best,
I sing, when love-possessed:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Whate'er my hands begin,
this blessing shall break in:
may Jesus Christ be praised!*

*No lovelier antiphon
in all high heav'n is known
than “Jesus Christ be praised!”
There to the eternal Word
the eternal psalm is heard:
oh, Jesus Christ be praised!*

Text: German hymn, 19th cent.; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844-1930, alt.

***APOSTOLIC GREETING**

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

And also with you.

***SHARING THE PEACE**

***KYRIE**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer-cy.

For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us

pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

A - men.

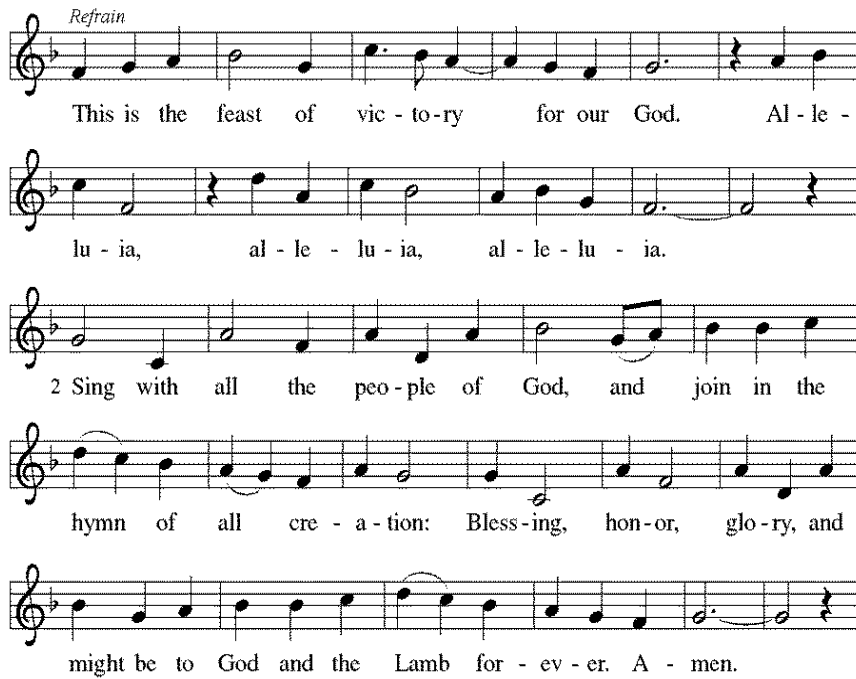
***CANTICLE OF PRAISE** *"This is the feast..."*

Refrain



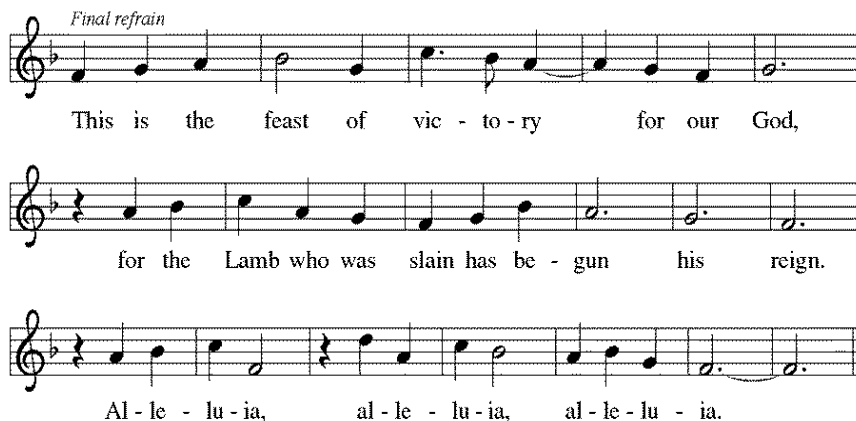
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us
free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the
hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and
might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,
for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

God speaks to us in scripture, reading, preaching, and song

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 15:15-21

Jeremiah's delight in the word of the LORD is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."

¹⁵O LORD, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶Your 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.

¹⁷I did not sit in the company of merry-makers,
nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?

Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.

¹⁹Therefore thus says the LORD:
If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.

If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.

It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.

²⁰And 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,
says the LORD.

²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 12:9-21

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

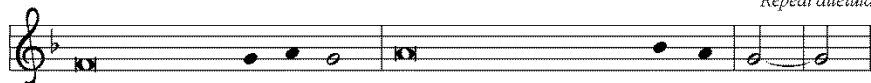
¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Repeat alleluia



*GOSPEL READING

Matthew 16:21-28

After Peter confesses that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a "rock."

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²¹From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you."

²³But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE SERMON

Pastor Bill Peters

SONG OF THE DAY "Will You Come and Follow Me"

vss. 1-4 ELW # 798



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for cruel and
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 free and nev - er be the same?
 side and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 mean in you and you in me?"
 sound in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.

***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 truly 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and
glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic 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.

***PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY**

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

...Merciful God, receive our prayer.

✠ MEAL ✠

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING

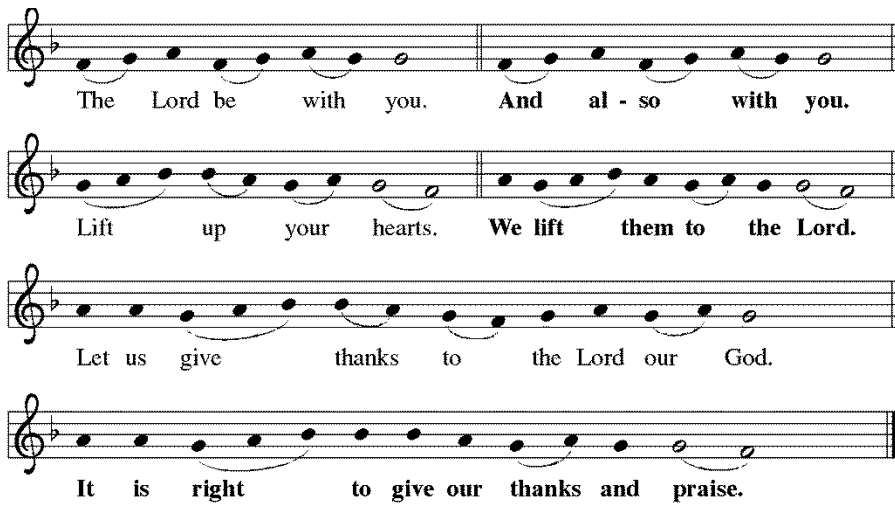
***OFFERTORY SONG**

"Let the Vineyards"

ELW # 184

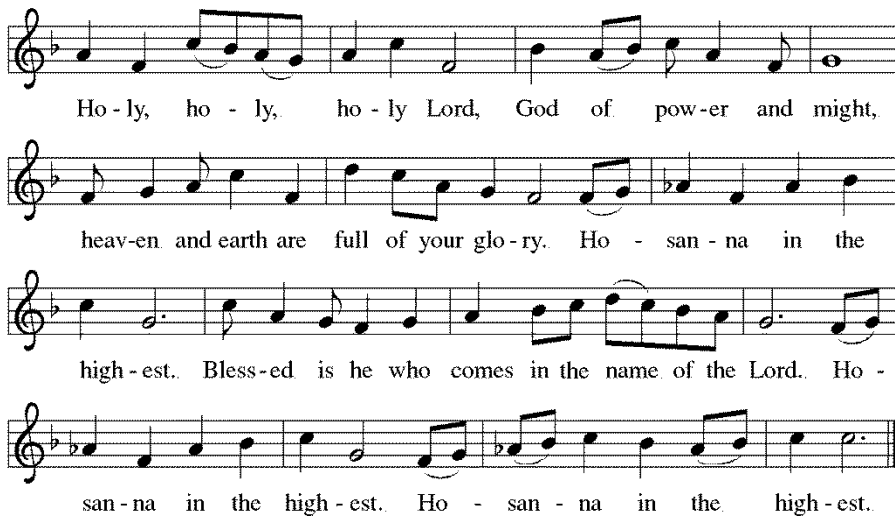
*Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer.
Grace our table with your presence,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.*

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***PREFACE**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

DISTRIBUTION

***COMMUNION BLESSING**

✠ SENDING ✠

God blesses us and sends us in mission in the world

***BLESSING**

***THREE-FOLD AMEN**

***RINGING OF THE BELL**

*Lord, whose love in humble service Bore the weight of human need.
Who upon the cross, forsaken, Worked your mercy’s perfect deed:
We, your servants, bring the worship Not of voice alone, but heart;
Consecrating to your Purpose Ev’ry gift which you impart.*

*Still your children wander homeless; Still the hungry cry for bread;
Still the captives long for freedom; Still in grief we mourn our dead.
As you, Lord, in deep compassion Healed the sick and freed the soul,
By your Spirit send your power To our world to make it whole.*

*As we worship, grant us vision, Till your love’s revealing light
In its height and depth and greatness Dawns upon our quickened sight,
Making known the needs and burdens Your compassion bids us bear,
Stirring us to ardent service, Your abundant life to share.*

Text: Albert F. Bayly, b. 1901, alt. Tune: The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude



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Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 3, 2023

more than a logo

If the church has a universally recognized logo, it is probably the cross. But branding was probably not what Jesus was thinking about when he invited Peter and those who would come after him to take up their cross and follow. The cross that Jesus calls us to carry alongside him is instead the means by which God chooses to reveal grace in the midst of death.

Rather than follow in the way of Jesus, sometimes the church can simply get in the way. We want to be good followers. We want more people to experience what we have. But sometimes in our desire to draw larger crowds, we end up putting ourselves—our music, our ministries, our outreach—at the center and subtly leaving God aside. In the midst of a world that drives us to always want more, Jesus invites us to deny ourselves. The denial to which Jesus calls us is not about putting ourselves down or neglecting our own needs. But it is about centering the cross of Christ in our lives so that our desires and dreams begin to arc ever more in the direction of God’s love and mercy at work in the world.

The cross that Jesus took up didn’t just belong to him. Two bandits were crucified with him, one on either side, and the Romans crucified many more. The cross is more than a logo; it is a symbol that joins us to a suffering world. The cross is not an individual burden to carry; it is the whole church’s work. Crosses adorn our steeples and worship spaces, but worship also empowers us to take up the issues of the day that are matters of life and death for so many, such as war and violence, housing and food security, racism and climate change. When we shoulder these “crosses” together, the church doesn’t make its own way; we follow the way of Jesus.