

Sunday, September 3, 2023
The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Service Theme
A CHURCH THAT TAKES UP ITS CROSSES

Some churches teach that if one follows God, he responds by granting earthly prosperity and peace. But God makes no such promise. Jesus tells us that as his disciples (as members of his Church) we will have crosses to bear. Believers will suffer in this world, oftentimes for no other reason than they are believers. It is painful to struggle against the temptations and priorities of this world. It can be agonizing to face the same scorn and ridicule Jesus faced. Why bother? We carry our crosses in gratitude for Jesus carrying his cross, one too heavy for us to bear because it was weighted down with our sins. 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 crosses, because this is the Christian path, the one Jesus himself walked: first the cross, then the crown.

All People that on Earth Do Dwell



1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, Sing to the
 2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed; With - out our
 3 Oh, en - ter then his gates with praise; Ap - proach with
 4 For why? The Lord, our God, is good; His mer - cy
 5 To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, The God whom



Lord with cheer - ful voice. Him serve with fear; his praise
 aid he did us make. We are his folk; he doth
 joy his courts un - to. Praise, laud, and bless his name
 is for - ev - er sure. His truth at all times firm -
 heav'n and earth a - dore, From us and from the an -



forth - tell; Come ye be - fore him and re - joice.
 us feed, And for his sheep he doth us take.
 al - ways, For it is seem - ly so to do.
 ly stood And shall from age to age en - dure.
 gel host Be praise and glo - ry ev - er - more.

DIVINE SERVICE II

Christian Worship Supplement, page 28

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION

M: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: **Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.**

For faithless worrying and selfish pride,

For sins of habit and sins of choice,

For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,

You should cast me away from your presence forever.

O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

ABSOLUTION

M: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant:

I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

LORD, HAVE MERCY

M: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: **Christ, have mercy.**

M: For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

C: **Amen.**

GLORY BE TO GOD

1 All glory be to God on high!
Your name, O Lord, we glorify;
We praise you for your peace and
grace,
Your favor toward our fallen race.

2 Our grateful thanks to you we bring,
For your great glory, heav'nly King,
For all, O Father, you have done
Through Jesus Christ, your only Son.

3 O Lamb of God, to you we pray.
You take all human sin away.
Have mercy, Lord; receive our prayer;
From God's right hand, your mercy
share.

4 You, Christ, are holy—Lord alone;
The Father's glory you made known.
We by your Spirit sing again:
"All glory be to God!" Amen.

SALUTATION

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

FIRST LESSON – Jeremiah 15:15-21 (EHV)

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

¹⁵O LORD, you understand.
Remember me and care for me.
Take vengeance for me on those who
persecute me.
You are slow to anger.
Do not take me away.
Keep in mind that for your sake I bear
disgrace.
¹⁶Your words came to me, and I
devoured them.
Your words became my joy,
the delight of my heart,
because I bear your name,
O LORD God of Armies.
¹⁷I did not sit with the band of
partygoers,
nor did I celebrate with them.
I sat alone, because your hand was
upon me.
You filled me with indignation.
¹⁸Why is my pain unending?
Why is my wound incurable, refusing to
heal?

Will you be as deceptive as an
intermittent stream to me,
like a source of water that a person
can't depend on?
¹⁹Therefore this is what the LORD says.
If you repent, I will take you back,
so that you may stand before me.
If what you say is worthwhile and not
worthless,
you will be my spokesman.
They must turn to you,
but you must not turn to them.
²⁰I will make you like a bronze wall to
this people.
They will fight against you,
but they will not overcome you,
because I am with you to save you
and to rescue you, declares the LORD.
²¹I will rescue you from the hand of the
wicked,
and I will deliver you from the grasp of
the ruthless.

PSALM – 31 (CW, p. 77)

Refrain



Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and
not be a - fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my
sure de-fense, and he will be my Sav - ior.

Psalm tone *



In you, O LORD, I have taken refuge;*
deliver me in your righteousness.

Be my rock of refuge*,
a strong fortress to save me.

Into your hands I commit my spirit*,
redeem me, O LORD, the God of
truth.

Refrain

My times are in your hands*;
save me in your unfailing love.

How great is your goodness*,
which you have stored up for those
who fear you.

You heard my cry for mercy*
when I called to you for help.

**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.**

Refrain

SECOND READING – Romans 8:18-25 (EHV)

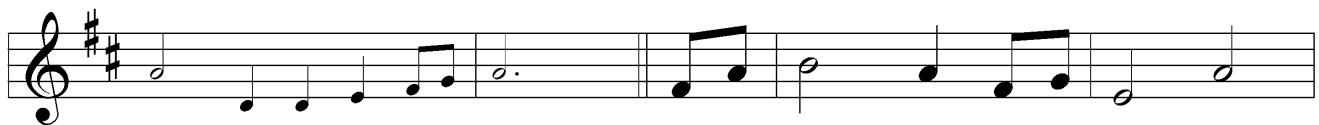
St. Paul teaches God's Church that no cross can compare with the crown of glory that is waiting.

¹⁸For I conclude that our sufferings at the present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us. ¹⁹In fact, creation is waiting with eager longing for the sons of God to be revealed. ²⁰For creation was subjected to futility, not by its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in the hope ²¹that even creation itself will be set free from slavery to corruption, in order to share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.

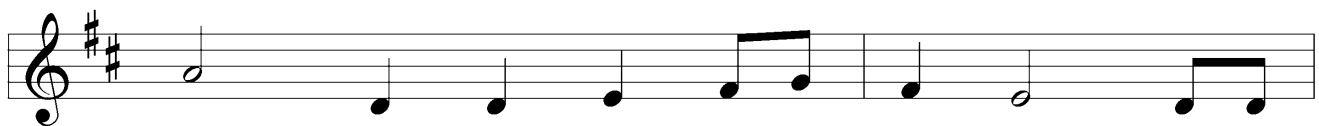
²²For we know that all of creation is groaning with birth pains right up to the present time. ²³And not only creation, but also we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we eagerly await our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. ²⁴Indeed, it was for this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is not hope, because who hopes for what he already sees? ²⁵But if we hope for something we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with patient endurance.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Alleluia. Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. Alleluia. (Mark 8:34)



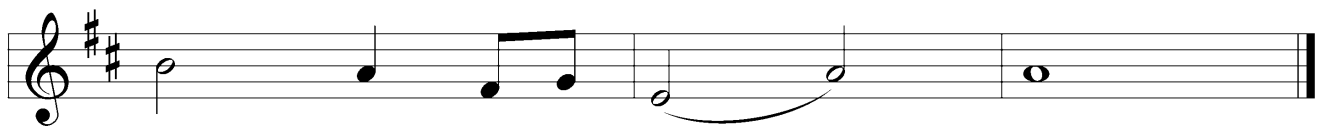
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Faith comes from hear - ing the mes - sage, and the



mes - sage is heard through the Word of Christ. Al - le -



lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL – Mark 8:31-38 (EHV)

M: The Gospel according to Mark 8:31-38

C: **Glory be to you, O Lord.**

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

³¹Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things; be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the experts in the law; be killed; and after three days rise again. ³²He was speaking plainly to them. Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But after turning around and looking at his disciples, Jesus rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! You do not have your mind set on the things of God, but the things of men.”

³⁴He called the crowd and his disciples together and said to them, “If anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. ³⁵For whoever wants to save his life will lose it. But whoever loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶After all, what good is it for a man to gain the whole world and yet forfeit his soul? ³⁷Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? ³⁸In fact, whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken



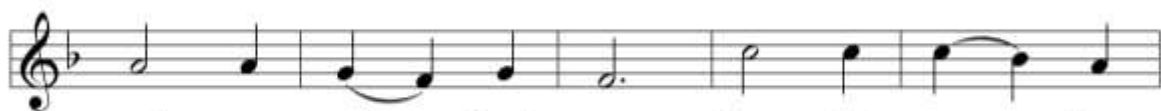
1 Je - sus, I my cross have tak - en,
 2 Let the world de - spise and leave me;
 3 Go, then, earth - ly fame and trea - sure!
 4 Haste, my soul, from grace to glo - ry,



All to leave and fol - low you. Des - ti -
 They have left my Sav - ior, too. Hu - man
 Come, dis - as - ter, scorn, and pain! In your
 Armed by faith and winged by prayer. All but



tute, de - spised, for - sak - en, You on
 hearts and looks de - ceive me; You are
 ser - vice pain is plea - sure; With your
 heav'n is tran - si - to - ry; God's own



earth once suf - fered, too. Per - ish ev - 'ry
 not, like them, un - true. And since you have
 fa - vor loss is gain. I have called you
 hand shall guide you there. Soon shall end this



fond am - bi - tion, All I've ev - er
 smiled up - on me, God of wis - dom,
 Ab - ba, Fa - ther! You my all in
 earth - ly sto - ry; Swift shall pass the



hoped or known; Yet how rich is my con -
 love, and might, Foes may hate and friends may
 all shall be. Storms may howl, and clouds may
 pil - grim days, Hope soon change to heav'n - ly



di - tion! God and heav'n are still my own.
 shun me— Show your face, and all is bright.
 gath - er; All must work for good to me.
 glo - ry, Faith to sight and prayer to praise.

SERMON TEXT & THEME

Mark 8:31-38 ... What do you have in mind?

- 1) The Things of Men.
- 2) The Things 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.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

O Lord God, we thank you for the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, your Son, and for the promised graces we have received through him. We thank you that through his perfect life and his obedience to death on the cross we have been granted cleansing and pardon for all our sins. We thank you that in his resurrection we have the promise of life everlasting and that in his ascension to the right hand of your majesty, we have the assurance that he continually intercedes for us.

Help us believe and trust in him, love and serve him, that in all our thoughts, words, and actions we may manifest his spirit. Rebuke our selfishness and subdue our self-indulgence. Deepen our sympathies, strengthen our hope, and confirm us in our faith.

Dwell in our homes, O Lord, and let the trust of our families be centered in you alone, so that no difficulty, trial, or adversity rob us of the conviction that you are our helper in every time of need. Relieve the afflictions of the weary and the sick, and dry the tears of the troubled and sorrowful. Lead them to look to you as the unfailing spring of healing and hope.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

All these things we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

M: 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 has called us to be his own so that we may live under him in his kingdom and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness.* Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

**1 O holy, holy, holy
Lord God of pow'r and might,
Your glory, earth and heaven
In countless ways recite.
Hosanna! Come and save us,
Lord God of hosts on high,
And in your grace and mercy
Receive our fervent cry.**

**2 Hosanna in the highest!
How truly blest is he
Who in God's name is coming
To set his people free!
He comes to bring salvation
And with his blood outpoured,
Deliver us from bondage—
Hosanna, mighty Lord!**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M: Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.
By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.
By his innocent death, he overcame hell.
By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

C: Amen.

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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: 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.

C: Amen.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
 you take a - way the sin of the world;
 grant us your peace. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION

SONG OF SIMEON

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 O Lord, now let your servant
 Depart in peace, assured:
 For I have seen your promised
 incarnate, saving Word—
 A Light that will enlighten
 All gloom where Gentiles dwell;
 The brilliant, crowning glory
 Of those in Israel!</p> | <p>2 All glory to the Father,
 All glory to the Son,
 All glory to the Spirit,
 Forever three in one;
 For as in the beginning,
 Is now, shall ever be,
 God's triune name resounding
 Through all eternity.</p> |
|---|---|

THANKSGIVING

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

BLESSING

M: 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.**

428 Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me



1 Why should cross and tri - al grieve me?
 2 When life's trou - bles rise to meet me,
 3 God gives me my days of glad - ness,
 4 Since I know God nev - er fails me,



Christ is near With his cheer; Nev - er
 Though their weight May be great, They will
 And I will Trust him still When he
 In his voice I'll re - joice When grim



will he leave me. Who can rob me
 not de - feat me. God, my lov - ing
 sends me sad - ness. God is good; his
 death as - sails me. Trust - ing in my



of the heav - en That God's Son For
 Sav - ior, sees them; He who knows All
 love at - tends me Day by day, Come
 Sav - ior's mer - it, Safe at last, Trou -



me won When his life was giv - en?
 my woes Knows how best to end them.
 what may, Guides me and de - fends me.
 bles past, I shall heav'n in - her - it.

Announcements

Church Cleaners:

September 3 – Andrew // September 10 – Peter

Return to Regular Worship Schedule:

Please note that our regular schedule begins next Sunday. Bible Study and Sunday School will begin at 9:00 and Worship at 10:30. We will also resume First Fellowship on that Sunday

Divine Sisters Meeting

The next meeting is on Sunday, September 17. All women of Divine Word are encouraged to attend.

DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

Su (3)	9:30 am 10:45 am 11:00 am 3:00 pm	Worship with Communion Coffee Hour Bible Class Worship in Poltimore
Th (7)	10:30 am 6:00 pm	Longfield Devotion Illuminé (at St. Paul;'s)
Fr (8)	6:00 pm	Friday Fellowship and Bible Class
Su (10)	9:00 am 10:30 am 11:30 am	Sunday School and Bible Class Worship First Fellowship
Th (14)	6:30 am 6:00 pm	Youth Confirmation (tentative) Illuminé (at St. Paul;'s)
Su (17)	9:00 am 10:30 am 11:30 am 12:00 am 3:00 pm	Sunday School and Bible Class Worship & Communion Coffee Hour Divine Sisters Meeting Worship and Communion in Poltimore



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