



Sunday, August 30, 2026
The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Service Theme
THE CROSS COMES BEFORE CROWN

Some churches teach that if a person follows God, He responds with prosperity and peace, as would only be expected. That is nonsense. That Bible explicitly states that members of Christ's Kingdom should expect crosses in life. But Christians bear them willingly and joyfully, grateful for Jesus bearing His cross for our forgiveness. Because God the Father gave Jesus a crown after His cross secured our salvation, we are confident that our crosses will end in glory.



Divine Word
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806 Your Days and Ways to God Surrender

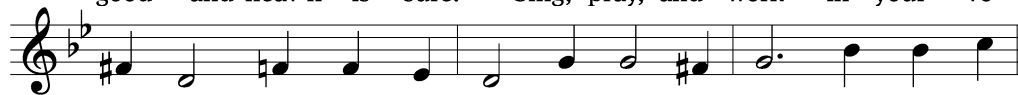
CW 806



1 Your days and ways to God sur - ren - der, and let his
 2 Why do you wal - low in this wor - ry? Why tight - ly
 3 Wait for his hand to write your sto - ry, his gra - cious
 4 Then wake with joy and ex - pec - ta - tion, for God is



wis - dom be your light. He stands be - side you, strong but
 clutch this pain and fear? Do you for - get that on this
 will, your des - ti - ny. What looks like gloom he turns to
 good and heav'n is sure. Sing, pray, and work in your vo -



ten - der, and guides your steps thro' storm and night. Up - on a
 jour - ney you're not a - lone? Your God is near! The man - y
 glo - ry; what's hid - den now he will re - veal. Who holds your
 ca - tion, and sleep in peace, your heart se - cure. Sur - ren - der



rock you build your life when you re - ly on Je - sus Christ.
 mid-night tears you spill just make the dark - ness dark - er still.
 fu - ture and your past knows what you need be - fore you ask.
 all to his good grace; he keeps you safe in his em - brace.

Text: Georg C. Neumark, 1621–1681, abr.; tr. Laurie F. Gauger, b. 1965 Tune: Georg C. Neumark, 1621–1681

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Order of Service – Service of the Word

(Old Hymnal)

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

And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

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.

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.

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.

Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

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 -
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 musical score is written on six staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a common time signature 'C'. The lyrics are: 'C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are'. The second staff continues: 'they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -'. The third staff continues: 'ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -'. The fourth staff continues: 'ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -'. The fifth staff continues: 'ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.'. The sixth staff concludes: 'Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.'.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Amen.

THE WORD

First Lesson

Jeremiah 15:15–21 (EHV)

When Jeremiah complained about carrying his cross, the Lord called on him to repent and promised salvation.

¹⁵ O 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. ¹⁶ Your 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. ¹⁷ I 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.

¹⁸ Why 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?

¹⁹ Therefore 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. ²⁰ I 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. ²¹ I will rescue you from the hand of the wicked, and I will deliver you from the grasp of the ruthless.

The Word of the Lord.

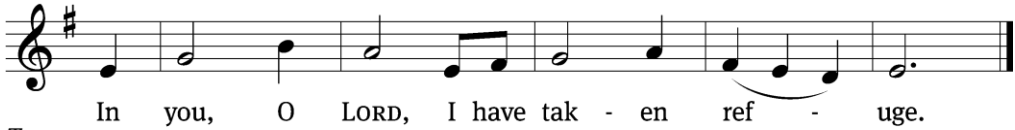
Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 31A

In You, O Lord, I Have Taken Refuge

Refrain



Tone



In you, LORD, I have taken / refuge;
let me never be / put to shame.
Into your hands I commit my / spirit;
deliver me, LORD, my / faithful God.

My life is consumed by / anguish
and my years by / groaning;
my strength fails because of my af- / fliction,
and my / bones grow weak. *Refrain*

My times are / in your hands;
deliver me from the hands of my enemies, from those
who pur- / sue me.
Let your face shine on your / servant;
save me in your un- / failing love.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

Second Lesson

Romans 8:18–25 (EHV)

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Verse of the Day



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



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

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 16:21–26 (EHV)

Jesus calls His Church to walk in His path. First comes the cross, then comes the crown.

²¹From that time, Jesus began to show his disciples that he had to go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and experts in the law, and be killed, and on the third day be raised again.

²²Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “May you receive mercy, Lord! This will never happen to you.”

²³But Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a snare to me because you are not thinking the things of God, but the things of men.”

²⁴Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. ²⁵In fact whoever wants to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶After all, what will it benefit a person if he gains the whole world, but forfeits his soul? Or what can a person give in exchange for his soul?

The Gospel of the Lord.

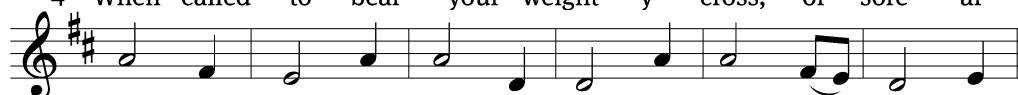


867 Afflicted Saint, to Christ Draw Near CW 867 sts. 1-2,

Ref, 3-4



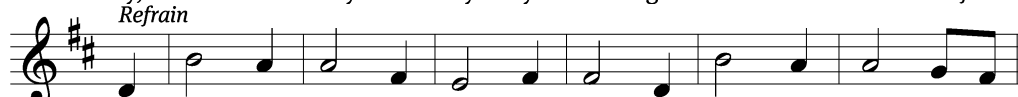
1 Af - flict - ed saint, to Christ draw near, your Sav - ior's
 2 Your faith is weak, your foes are strong, and if the
 3 Should per - se - cu - tion rage and flame, still trust in
 4 When called to bear your weight - y cross, or sore af -



gra - cious prom - ise hear; his faith - ful Word you can be -
 con - flict should be long, the Lord will make the tempt - er
 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
 flee, that as your days your strength shall be. Refrain
 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.

Sermon Text
Romans 8:18–25

Groan in anticipation of God's promised glory, which

- 1) Is won for us by Christ,
- 2) Sustains creation in its suffering,
- 3) Gives purpose to our suffering.
- 4) Empowers us to endure patiently

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.**

694 Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

CW 694



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,
 4 Haste, my soul, from grace to glo - ry, armed by faith and



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
 winged by prayer; all but heav'n is tran - si - to - ry, God's own



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;
 hand shall guide you there. Soon shall end this earth - ly sto - ry,



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
 swift shall pass the pil - grim days, hope soon change to



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.
 heav'n - ly glo - ry, faith to sight and prayer to praise.

Text: Henry Francis Lyte, 1793–1847, abr., alt. Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887 Text and tune: Public domain

Offertory Prayer

Prayer of the Church

Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank
 you for all that you give us day after day.

We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.

You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.

Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.

Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.

Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.

Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. Amen.

The 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.

Final Prayer

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.



Blessing

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.

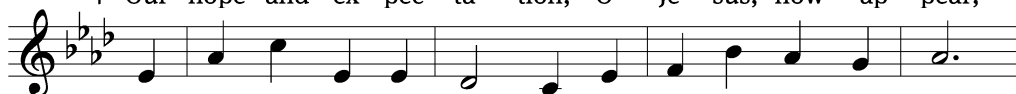


493 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

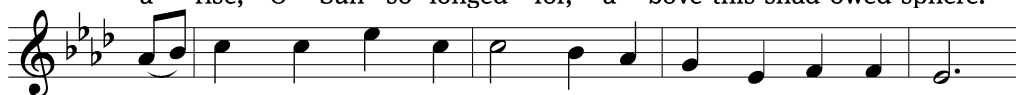
CW 493



- 1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
- 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the Bride - groom near;
- 3 You saints, who here in pa - tience your cross and suf - f'ring bore,
- 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth, as he ap - proach - es, with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, a - bove this shad - owed sphere.



The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb you shall be - hold,
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the Bride - groom is at hand.
in tri - umph lay be - fore him your shin - ing crowns of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free.

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722, abr.; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907, alt. Tune: Swedish
Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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Announcements

Church Cleaners

September 6 – Luke / September 13 - Timothy

Regular Schedule Resumes September 13

On Sunday, September 13, the Sunday after Labour Day, we return to our regular schedule: Bible class and Sunday school at 9:00 a.m., worship at 10:30 a.m.

DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

- Su (30) 9:30 am Worship**
10:45 am Brief Bible Study
- Th (3) 6:00 pm Devotion at Longfield Manor
- Sa (5) 10:00 am Communicating Christ Bible Class
- Su (6) 9:30 am Worship (with Communion)**
10:45 am Brief Bible Study
3:00 pm Worship in Poltimore
4:00 pm Youth Confirmation in Poltimore
- Fr (11) 6:00 pm Friday Night Fellowship
- Sa (12) 10:00 am Communicating Christ Bible Class
- Su (13) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Class**
10:30 am Worship