

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

August 30, 2026

WELCOME!

We love that you are here today! Our service can be found in the blue hymnal beneath the chair in front of you. Projections are also provided on the front wall.

Restrooms are located in the hallway to the right as you exit the worship space, as well as across the hall as you enter into the school.

Quiet room Parents may use the library in the back of this worship space which still enables you to hear/see the service.

A **Connection Card** and pen are found in the pocket of the chair in front of you. Time will be provided to fill it out during the service. You may drop it in the wicker basket along the wall after the service.

THEME: PENTECOST 14 CROSS COMES BEFORE THE CROWN

Some churches teach that if a person follows God, God responds by granting prosperity and peace, as would only be expected. Today we see how that is nonsense. The Bible explains that if we are part of the Church of God, we will bear crosses. That is believers suffer in this world, sometimes just because they are believers. Why bother? We carry our crosses in gratitude for Jesus carrying his cross, one too heavy for us because it was weighted down with our sin. 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. This is the unexpected path, the one Jesus himself walked: the cross comes before the crown. And there will be a crown of glory—won and given by Jesus.

PLEASE RESPECT OUR PRACTICE OF “CLOSE COMMUNION”

Christ says the Sacrament is an expression of unity (1 Co 10:16-17). We WANT to be unified with you on the basis of Christ and His doctrine! Honesty compels us to ask you to WAIT before communing with us: 1) until you’ve had a chance to find out what we teach; 2) until you make your unity with us evident by membership at Peace. Regular classes are conducted for this purpose (837-5346). WELS & ELS guests please sign a Connection Card and give it to an usher before communing. Thank you.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

The Service – Setting Three pg. 188 in the blue hymnal

Hymns

Opening Hymn	529	<i>In the Cross of Christ I Glory</i>
Psalm of the Day	Psalm 31	page 31 in the blue hymnal
Hymn of the Day	694	<i>Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken</i>
Distribution Hymns	867	<i>Afflicted Saint, to Christ Draw Near</i>
	704	<i>Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus</i>
Closing Hymn	405	<i>On My Heart Imprint Your Image</i>

Scripture Lessons

First Lesson	Jeremiah 15:15–21
Second Lesson	Romans 8:18–25
Gospel Lesson	Matthew 16:21–26

Sermon

Romans 8:18-25

Groaning for Good

THE CHRISTIAN’S CROSS

Jesus defines the Christian’s cross as denying self. Cross bearing is not all suffering in general. However, any kind of suffering *may* become the Christian cross when it requires denial of our old sinful self. A disease does not automatically equal the cross, but it becomes the cross when our sinful nature tempts us to say, “This must mean God doesn’t love me.” It is a cross because we deny that sinful lie and instead cling to God’s promise that He works all for our good out of His undeserved love, including suffering!

We could put it this way: bearing the cross means saying “Your will, Lord” and not “what I want.” That means turning away from the desires of our sinful heart that want what goes against God’s Word or wants the world’s way of thinking or feeling over God’s Word. This is painful and difficult, you know—like a *cross*! Thank God for Jesus’ cross and His perfect cross bearing that alone saves us from all the ways we stumble as we bear our crosses. Thank God for His promise of the crown that *will follow* the cross in eternal joys! Encouraged by Jesus and His promises, let us take up our crosses and follow Him.

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 15:15–21

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING**Romans 8:18–25**

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.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. “If anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself,
take up his cross, and follow me.” Alleluia.

GOSPEL**Matthew 16:21–26**

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.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken | CW 694

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to free us from sin and death by his obedient death on the cross. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus in the treasure of your gospel.

Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or the cost.

Guard and guide those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution for the sake of the kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for what is right in the face of pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for their faith and values as Christians.

By your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.

Keep in your care those who carry heavy burdens in life: the sick and the chronically ill, the depressed and the lonely, those torn by conflict in personal relationships, and those victimized by war and injustice. Comfort all who face the terrors of life with a heavy heart.

Grant them peace, O Lord, and in your mercy, be their guardian and friend, their comfort and hope.

Watch over those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses; social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.
Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.

Special Intercessions

Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presider..... Rev. Shaun Arndt
KeyboardMrs. Lynn Proeber
Vocalists..... Rev. Luke Werre, Ily Williamson
Projection Slides Amy Johnson

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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