

Welcome to Worship at  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Osceola, WI  
Pentecost 15 - September 13, 2020

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer. Amen.

**Hymn #532 - “God Is Here! As We His People”**

**God is here! As we his people  
Meet to offer praise and prayer,  
May we find in fuller measure  
What it is in Christ we share.  
Here, as in the world around us,  
All our varied skills and arts  
Wait the coming of his Spirit  
Into open minds and hearts.**

**Here are symbols to remind us  
Of our lifelong need of grace.  
Here are table, font, and pulpit;  
Here the cross has central place.  
Here, in honesty of preaching,  
Here, in silence as in speech,  
Here, in newness and renewal,  
God the Spirit comes to each.**

**Here our children find a welcome  
In the Shepherd’s flock and fold;  
Here, as bread and wine are taken,  
Christ sustains us as of old.  
Here the servants of the Servant  
Seek in worship to explore  
What it means in daily living  
To believe and to adore.**

**Lord of all, of Church and Kingdom,  
In an age of change and doubt,**

**Keep us faithful to the gospel;  
Help us work your purpose out.  
Here, in this day's dedication,  
All we have to give, receive;  
We who cannot live without you,  
We adore you! We believe!**

**Confession of Sins:**

**P:** Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**C:** **Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace and forgiveness for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. O Lord, have mercy on us!**

**P:** Upon this your confession, I as a called servant of Christ and His Word announce to you the grace of God, and in the place of and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** **Amen.**

**First Lesson: Jeremiah 15:15-21**

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. 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. 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. 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? 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. 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. I will rescue you from the hand of the wicked, and I will deliver you from the grasp of the ruthless. (EHV)

**Psalm 121:**

**Refrain:   Keep me, keep me as the apple of your eye.  
              Hide me, hide me in the shadow of your wings.**

**I lift up my eyes ‘to the hills.  
Where does my help ‘come from?**

**My help comes ‘from the LORD,  
The maker of heav’en and earth.**

**He will not let your ‘foot slip,  
He who watches over you will not ‘slumber;**

**Indeed, he who watches over ‘Israel  
Will neither slum’ber nor sleep.**

**Refrain:   Keep me, keep me as the apple of your eye.  
              Hide me, hide me in the shadow of your wings.**

**The LORD watches ‘over you,  
The LORD is your shade at ‘your right hand.**

**The LORD will keep you ‘from all harm,  
He will watch o’ver your life;**

**The LORD will watch over your coming and ‘going  
Both now and for’evermore.**

**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:   Keep me, keep me as the apple of your eye.  
              Hide me, hide me in the shadow of your wings.**

**Second Lesson: Romans 12:1-8**

Therefore I urge you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice - holy and pleasing to God - which is your appropriate worship. Also, do not continue to conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed

by the renewal of your mind, so that you test and approve what is the will of God - what is good, pleasing, and perfect. So by the grace given to me, I tell everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought, but think in a way that results in sound judgment, as God distributed a measure of faith to each of you. For we have many members in one body, and not all the members have the same function. In the same way, though we are many, we are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. We have different gifts, according to the grace God has given us. If the gift is prophecy, do it in complete agreement with the faith. If it is serving, then serve. If it is teaching, then teach. If it is encouraging, then encourage. If it is contributing, be generous. If it is leadership, be diligent. If it is showing mercy, do it cheerfully. (EHV)

**Verse of the Day:** Alleluia. Your words became a joy to me, and the delight of my heart. Alleluia.

**Gospel: Matthew 16:21-26**

From 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. Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "May you receive mercy, Lord! This will never happen to you." But 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." Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. In fact whoever wants to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. After 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? (EHV)

**The 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.**

**Hymn #464 - “Jesus Christ, My Pride and Glory”**

**Jesus Christ, my pride and glory,  
He, the true and living light,  
Strengthens me with glorious might.  
Christ, revealed in sacred story,  
Whom I now as Lord confess,  
Teaches me true holiness.**

**Let me live to praise you ever,  
Jesus, now my heart’s delight;  
You are leading me aright.  
Let me cling to you forever,  
All the fleshly lusts deny,  
And the devil’s hosts defy.**

**Grant me, Lord, your Holy Spirit  
That in all I follow him  
Lest the light of faith grow dim.  
Let me ever trust your merit;  
Let your blessing me attend;  
From all evil me defend.**

**From all pain and imperfection,  
Gracious Lord, deliver me;  
Heaven’s glory let me see.  
Keep me under your direction  
That the grace you gave to me\  
I may praise eternally.**

**The Sermon:       Matthew 16:21-26  
                          “He Did It His Way”**

From time to time you’ll hear people who have a pretty high **opinion** of themselves say things like **this**: “There are **two ways** to do everything - the **wrong** way, and **my way**.” And lots of people really believe that the old **adage** is true

which says, “If you want something done **right**, you have to do it **yourself**.” However, most of us would admit that there are **many** different ways to accomplish the same task. What works well for **one** person may not work at **all** for someone **else**. People just have too many differences in **temperament**, as well as in **abilities**, to do everything the same way. Besides, that’s **boring!** We like to have a little **variety** in our lives. We like doing things in a way which is a little **different** from everybody else. We are **non-conformists** at heart, even though it’s usually much **easier** to just go along with the **crowd**. Performers like Frank Sinatra and Elvis Presley seem to **agree** with this non-conformist attitude when they sing the popular song, “I Did It **My Way**.” It takes strong determination to stand up against everyone else all on your **own**, but in the **end** it helps build your self-respect, and it is well **worth** the effort.

We can all be very happy that **Jesus** didn’t just go along with the **crowd** - that He was a **non-conformist** in relation to the **world’s** way of thinking. Jesus knew that the **world’s** plan for salvation - a plan based on their own **works** - was **ineffective** and **hopeless**. So, He **rejected** their plan - in spite of **opposition** from His own **disciples** - and He saved mankind with His **own** plan. **He Did It His Way**.

Our text today indicates that some new **developments** were beginning to take shape in the lives of Jesus and His disciples. Let’s investigate those new developments in three **stages**: a new stage of **knowledge** for the disciples, a new stage of **temptation** for Jesus, and a new stage of **action**, again for Jesus’ disciples.

Our text begins, “*From 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.*” This rather lengthy sentence is **filled** with contrasts - things which the disciples would have to **sort out**, and add to their **knowledge** about Jesus. For example, Jesus told them that He had to go to **Jerusalem**. They had probably figured **that** much out on their **own**. After all, Jerusalem was the **capital** city, and any up-and-coming politician and/or **religious** leader would have to **go** there to make his presence **felt** - to exert his **influence**. Since they **knew** that Jesus was the **Messiah**, the disciples would naturally have **assumed** that Jesus would have to go to **Jerusalem**.

But, Jesus had **also** told them that in Jerusalem He would have to **suffer** at the hands of the elders, the chief priests, and the teachers of the law. Now **that** was something **new**. Jesus had already told them to watch out for the **yeast** - namely, the **false teachings** of the Pharisees and Sadducees. But now He told them that **He**,

the **true** Teacher, would have to **suffer** at the hands of these **false** teachers - and not only to **suffer**, but to actually be **killed** by them! Right here for the first time, Jesus told His disciples **clearly** about His sufferings and death.

Up until this time Jesus had mentioned these events only in **veiled** references. For example, once the disciples of John the Baptist had come to Jesus and asked why it was that the Pharisees **fasted**, and **His** disciples did **not**. Jesus answered, "*Can the attendants of the bridegroom **mourn** while the bridegroom is **with** them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be **taken away** from them, and **then** they will fast.*" We might also remember the time that the Pharisees came to Jesus and demanded a miraculous **sign** as **proof** of His Messiahship. Jesus told them that **no sign** would be given to them, **except** the sign of the Prophet **Jonah**. He said, "*For just as Jonah was in the belly of the huge fish for three days and three nights, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.*" The disciples were obviously **dismayed** when Jesus spoke about His **sufferings** and **death**. But note that Jesus in our text **also** told His disciples **clearly** that He would **rise** again from the dead - for His sentence **concluded**, "*... and on the third day be **raised** again.*" However, the disciples obviously hadn't **heard** that part, or at the very least they didn't **understand** Jesus' words, as we will soon see.

As usual, **Peter** is the one who speaks up. He said, "*May you receive **mercy**, Lord! This will **never** happen to You!*" I don't know if Peter said this because he didn't **want** it to happen, or if he was thinking that **he** wouldn't **allow** it to happen. Such foolish **confidence** on Peter's part isn't at all out of the question when we consider how later on, in the Garden of Gethsemane, Peter would try to **defend** his Lord from **danger** by using his **sword**. At any rate, it is obvious that Peter didn't **understand** the **importance** of Jesus' dying. For **Peter**, the concept of Messiahship completely **excluded** things like suffering and death. But instead of asking Jesus for an **explanation**, Peter let his **emotions** get in the way of his **faith**. Peter **meant** well - his statement had come out of **love** for Jesus. Yet, his statement was in reality a severe **temptation** which Jesus would have to overcome. And Jesus didn't waste any time in doing so.

Notice how **sharply** Jesus rebuked Peter. He said, "*Get **behind** me, Satan! You are a **snare** to Me because you are not thinking the things of **God**, but the things of **men**.*" So, with this bold outburst of **enthusiasm**, Peter - Petros - the **Rock** - had quickly become a **snare** - literally a stone on which to **stumble** or **trip**! The Greek word which is used here for **snare** is skandalon. A skandalon is literally the **trigger** - that part of a **trap** to which the **bait** is attached - just like that little piece of metal or plastic on a mousetrap where you fasten the **cheese**. In all cases it

is **deadly** to **play around** with that trigger, so Jesus **doesn't**! Although **Peter** wasn't aware of it, **Jesus** knew that Peter was really asking for his own eternal **damnation** - as well as the damnation of **all** people - by asking Jesus **not** to suffer and die and rise. So, Jesus **rebuked** Peter with an emphatic, "**No!** I **won't** listen to you. I'm **right** when I say I **must** go to Jerusalem. It must be done **My Way**."

No doubt Jesus' **rebuke** was difficult for Peter to accept too. However, it was just the **first** in a **series** of new actions which would be required of the disciples. Jesus told them, "*If anyone wants to follow me, let him **deny** himself, take up his **cross**, and **follow** Me.*" What does it **mean** to be a disciple of Jesus? It means total, unconditional **surrender**. It means denying **ourselves**, and doing things **His Way**. People like wicked King Ahab and Queen Jezebel (whom we heard about in the sermon a couple of weeks ago) were far too **greedy** to deny themselves **anything**. They **should** have been **positive** examples for the people of Israel, but they didn't fit the **description** for disciples of **Jesus**. On the other hand, a man like the Good Samaritan **willingly** denied himself, in order to provide for someone else who was less **fortunate** than he - even though that man was a total **stranger** to him. That's the **mark** of a good disciple. How about **us**? Do we **deny** ourselves so that **others** will gain the **benefit**, and **God** will gain the **glory**? Or are we still trying to selfishly provide **ourselves** with all the latest goodies that the world has to offer?

And what do you suppose Jesus meant when He said that we must take up our **cross**? Many times that phrase is interpreted as meaning that no matter **what** happens, we just have to **put up** with it - to **bear** our cross. But in this particular context, we should think only of the things that we suffer as a **direct result** of being a **follower** of Jesus. Things like: telling the guy who works next to you that you don't appreciate his **language** when it's filled with misuses of God's name, knowing that he's going to accuse you of being a "goody-two-shoes" Christian. Or making the **effort** to **worship** your God and study His **Word**, even when other **friends**, or even members of your own **family**, don't seem to **care**. **These** are the kinds of **crosses** that **non-Christians** don't **have** to endure. Yet, if we want to be Jesus' **disciples**, then there will be times when **we** must **carry** such crosses.

And finally, Jesus says, "*Follow me,*" and He tells us how to **do** it. Jesus makes **no claim** that **His Way** will always be **easy**. **Nor** does He claim that **His Way** will always be **popular**. But Jesus **does** claim that **His Way** is the **only** way which leads to salvation - and that's what's really **important**. Let's listen to Jesus, and **Do It His Way**. Amen.



### **Prayers:**

Heavenly Father, if it were not for Your **mercies**, by which You guard, guide, and strengthen us; we would all have returned to a life of **sin** and **unbelief** long ago. Our enemies are **many**, as well as **powerful**. **Satan** attacks our faith, as he tries to crowd You out of our hearts by sowing seeds of **doubt** and **confusion** in our minds through his wicked lies. With deadly persistence he strives to turn us **away** from the way of righteousness, and lead us down the paths of **sin**. Father, through Your Holy Spirit, daily increase our faith in Jesus, our Savior. Make it a strong **shield** with which we are able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

We know by bitter **experience** that the **world** is no friend either. It continually beckons us with its lustful **pleasures**, its earthly **treasures**, and its many **temptations**. Through the Holy Spirit, strengthen our love for **Jesus**, so that the world will not be able to gain **control** of our hearts, nor fill us with a love for material and sinful things.

But evil temptations also attack us from **within**, for we have our sinful **flesh** in which dwells no good thing, and which continually strives **against** our new man. Give us such a rich measure of the Holy Spirit, that through His grace we will become **wiser**, more **moderate** in our living, and more **thankful** to You in all things, as we strive to fight against **sin** in our lives. Amen.

### **The Lord's Prayer:**

**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.**

### **Hymn #465 - "Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken"**

**Jesus, I my cross have taken,  
All to leave and follow you.**

**Destitute, despised, forsaken,  
You on earth once suffered, too.  
Perish ev'ry fond ambition,  
All I've ever hoped or known;  
Yet how rich is my condition!  
God and heav'n are still my own.**

**Let the world despise and leave me;  
They have left my Savior, too.  
Human hearts and looks deceive me;  
You are not, like them, untrue.  
And since you have smiled upon me,  
God of wisdom, love, and might,  
Foes may hate and friends may shun me -  
Show your face, and all is bright.**

**Go, then, earthly fame and treasure!  
Come, disaster, scorn, and pain!  
In your service pain is pleasure;  
With your favor loss is gain.  
I have called you Abba, Father!  
You my all in all shall be.  
Storms may howl, and clouds may gather;  
All must work for good to me.**

**Haste, my soul, from grace to glory,  
Armed by faith and winged by prayer.  
All but heav'n is transitory;  
God's own hand shall guide you there.  
Soon shall end this earthly story;  
Swift shall pass the pilgrim days,  
Hope soon change to heav'nly glory,  
Faith to sight and prayer to praise.**

**P:** Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your Word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel. 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.

**The Blessing:**

**P:** 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.

**Hymn #422 - “Jesus, Lead Us On”**

**Jesus, lead us on  
Till our rest is won;  
And although the way be cheerless,  
We will follow, calm and fearless.  
Guide us by your hand  
To our fatherland.**

**If the way be drear,  
If the foe be near,  
Let not faithless fears o’ertake us;  
Let not faith and hope forsake us,  
For through many a woe  
To our home we go.**

**When we seek relief  
From a long-felt grief,  
When temptations come alluring,  
Make us patient and enduring;  
Show us that bright shore  
Where we weep no more.**

**Jesus, still lead on  
Till our rest is won.  
Heav’nly Leader, still direct us;  
Still support, console, protect us  
Till we safely stand  
In our fatherland.**