



A place where heaven and earth meet,  
where people encounter God's generosity  
and healing presence.

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Pastor Jim Coyl  
Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.

**Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost**

**September 7, 2025**

## **WELCOME**

## **OPENING PRAYER**

Gracious God,

We come before You with open hearts, remembering the words of Jesus that to follow Him we must carry our cross and place You above all else. Give us courage to let go of what holds us back, wisdom to count the cost, and strength to walk faithfully in Your way. May our lives reflect true discipleship, offered in love and obedience to Christ our Lord.

Amen.

## **HYMN**

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

**Luke 14:25-33**

14:25 Now large crowds were traveling with him, and he turned and said to them, 14:26 "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. 14:27 Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. 14:28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? 14:29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, 14:30 saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' 14:31 Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? 14:32 If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. 14:33 So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

## **HYMN**

**SERMON**     "First Things First"

Pastor Jim Coyl

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

**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 debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thou art the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

## **HYMN**

## **BENEDICTION**

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**The Cost and Joy of Discipleship**  
**(Luke 14:1, 7-14)**

In Luke 14:25–33, Jesus confronts the crowd with the uncompromising demand of discipleship. To follow Him is not an addition to life, but the surrender of life itself. The call to “hate” father, mother, and even one’s own life is not a summons to contempt for others, but a radical reordering of love: Christ before all. For Pastor and Theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, this is the sharp edge of costly grace. Grace does not leave us as we are; it seizes us, tears us from our securities, and binds us wholly to the Lord who goes to the cross.

Jesus warns against beginning what one cannot finish, as if discipleship were a matter of calculation. Yet the true reckoning is this: to cling to possessions, relationships, and self-will is to forfeit Him; to renounce all is to gain Him. As Bonhoeffer writes, “When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die.”

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship* (1937)

Thus, the hard word of Luke 14 is in truth the word of freedom. To lose everything for Christ is to discover that He is sufficient. The disciple’s life is not his own project, but Christ’s work in him. The cross stands before us—not as an option, but as the only way.

## **Daily Lectionary Readings**

### **Monday, September 08, 2025:**

Semi-continuous: Psalm 2; Jeremiah 18:12-23; 1 Timothy 3:14-4:5;

### **Tuesday, September 09, 2025:**

Semi-continuous: Psalm 2; Jeremiah 19:1-15; 1 Timothy 4:6-16;

### **Wednesday, September 10, 2025:**

Semi-continuous: Psalm 2; Jeremiah 20:1-18; Luke 18:18-30;

### **Thursday, September 11, 2025:**

Semi-continuous: Psalm 14; Jeremiah 13:20-27; 1 Timothy 1:1-11;

**Friday, September 12, 2025:**

Semi-continuous: Psalm 14; Jeremiah 4:1-10; 2 Peter 2:1-10a;

**Saturday, September 13, 2025:**

Semi-continuous: Psalm 14; Jeremiah 4:13-21, 29-31; John 10:11-21;