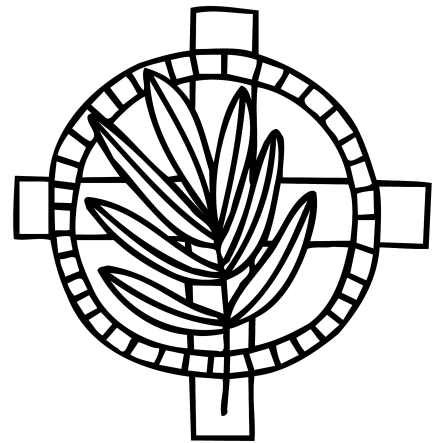


Faith Lutheran Church

14th Sunday after Pentecost

August 30th, 2026

***Welcome Matt Swanson and Family
Sharing!***



Introduction

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

Gathering

Gathering Hymn

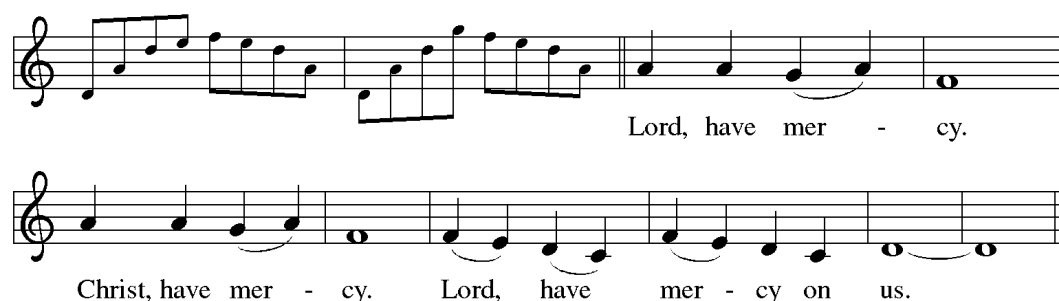
ELW 879 "For the Beauty of the Earth"

Confession and Forgiveness

Responses on the screens

Kyrie

ELW 158



Greeting

Prayer of the Day

Children's Sermon

Word

First Reading Jeremiah 15:15-21

Jeremiah's delight in the word of the LORD is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."

¹⁵ O LORD, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart,
for I am called by your name,
O LORD, God of hosts.

¹⁷ I did not sit in the company of merrymakers,
nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸ Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?
Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.

¹⁹ Therefore thus says the LORD:
If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.
It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.

²⁰ And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,
says the LORD.

²¹ I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 26:1-8

¹ Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity;
I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.

² **Test me, O LORD, and try me;
examine my heart and my mind.**

³ For your steadfast love is before my eyes;
I have walked faithfully with you.

⁴ **I have not sat with the worthless,
nor do I consort with the deceitful.**

⁵ I have hated the company of evildoers;
I will not sit down with the wicked.

⁶ **I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD,
that I may go in procession round your altar,**

⁷ singing aloud a song of thanksgiving
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

⁸ **LORD, I love the house in which you dwell
and the place where your glory abides.**

Second Reading Romans 12:9-21

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

*The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 16th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.***

Gospel Matthew 16:21-28

After Peter confesses that Jesus is “the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a “rock.”

²¹ From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷ “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

*The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.***

Sermon & Silent Reflection

Hymn of the Day

ELW 798 “Will You Come and Follow Me?”

Prayers of Intercession

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Meal

Peace

Offering

"For Jesus, the quality of the gift is not how large it is, but the proportion you give and the heart with which you give it." There are many options for giving including plate giving, text to give (833-686-4752) or through our website.



Impact Story

Matt Swanson- Family Sharing

Offertory Hymn

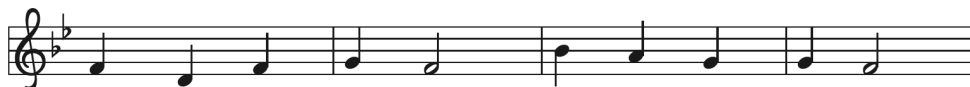
ACS 1059 "Come Now, You Blessed"



- 1 "Come now, you bless - ed, eat at my ta - ble,"
- 2 When did we see you hun - gry or thirst - y?
- 3 "When you gave bread to earth's hun - gry chil - dren,
- 4 Christ, when we meet you out on life's road - ways,



said Je - sus Christ to the righ - teous a - bove.
When were you home - less, a strang - er a - lone?
when you gave wel - come to war's ref - u - gees,
look - ing to us in the fac - es of need,



"When I was hun - gry, thirst - y, and home-less,
When did we see you sick or in pris - on?
when you re - mem - bered those most for - got - ten,
then may we know you, wel - come and show you



sick and in pris - on, you showed me your love."
What have we done that you call us your own?
you cared for me in the small - est of these."
love that is faith - ful in word and in deed.

Offering Prayer

Holy Communion

Holy, Holy, Holy

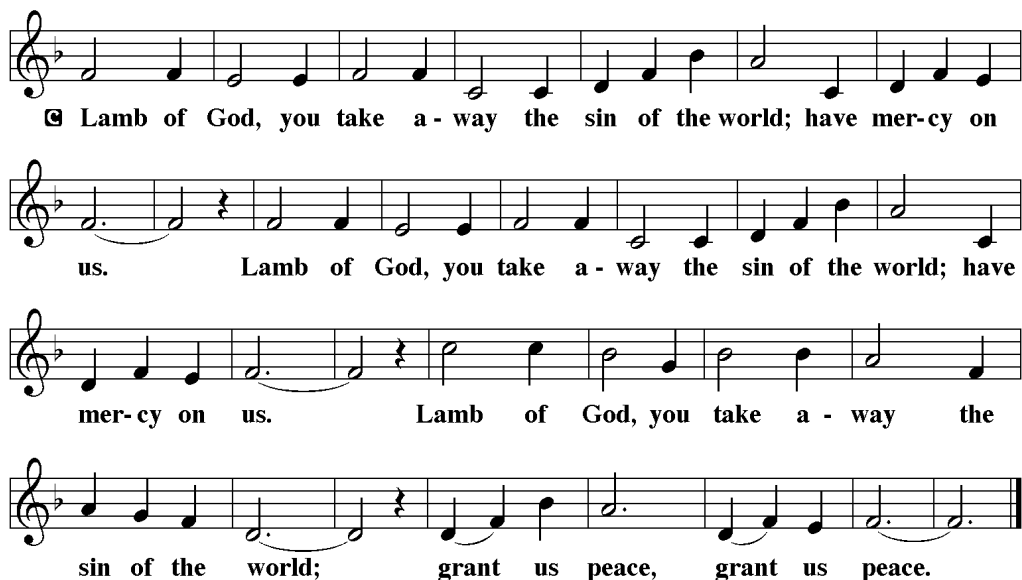
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a melody with various note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, as well as rests. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

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.

Lamb of God



☞ 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 peace, grant us peace.

Distribution Hymn

WOV 748 "Bind Us Together"

Prayer after Communion

Sending

Blessing

Dismissal

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Faith Lutheran Church is a community living in God's love which embraces and welcomes every person as part of God's Beloved Community. We celebrate each person created in God's image as we strive for justice, peace, and racial equity in our community and the wider world. We openly welcome and affirm all persons of every race, age, socioeconomic class, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, physical and mental ability, marital and family status, background, and experience. We seek to live as a community of God's people that values each person's voice, gifts, and full participation in all areas of the congregation's life and worship. We embrace the work of the Holy Spirit moving in and through us as we care for the earth and all of God's people.

FAITH ACTIVE IN LOVE

Gathered as a community living in God's love we serve all people, care for the earth and embrace the work of the Holy Spirit.

Faith Lutheran Church will be recognized as a community of spiritual growth, a place of acceptance and inclusion, a gateway for environmental stewardship, a creator of partnerships and an advocate for social justice and peace.

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP this Sunday includes:

Presiding	<i>Rev. John C. Norquist</i>
Organist/ Pianist	<i>Stephen V. Hibbard</i>
Reader	<i>Joyce Caldwell</i>
Communion Assistant	<i>Joyce Caldwell</i>
Cup Deacons	
Greeter	
Ushers	
Communion Set-up	<i>Esther Rusch, Carol Bury & Sandy Stelter</i>
Live Stream	<i>The Schoofs Family</i>

August Mission of the Month: Family Sharing

Sunrise Circle begins a new year!

It is almost September and the Sunrise Circle ladies are ready to get back to their regular schedule. The main project of this group is to make quilts to be donated to people in need. We have a wide variety of fabric ready to be made in to beautiful quilts. We meet at the church the first three Wednesdays of each month, September thru May. Our first meeting will be **Wednesday , September 2nd at 9:00 a.m.** Come join us to see and hear if this is something you would be interest in. We have many projects for anyone interested in helping out. Dessert and beverage are always served! If you have questions or would like more information, you may contact Ruth Gollnick at 414-305-4261 or any of our members. Perfect attendance is not required!

Lutheran World Relief School Kits

Thank you to all who donated school supplies this year. We no longer need any school supplies to fill 100 backpacks this year. We will be making 100 children happy with their filled backpacks. We will be packing the backpacks after the worship service on September 13.

Any additional items collected will be kept as a start for next year.

As always, Faith congregation has been generous in their support.

Thank you.
Laverne Gresch

2026 Appeal & 70th Anniversary Dinner

If you haven't heard about this years' anniversary appeal special incentives, take a look at the narthex thermometer! Here is what happens at certain giving levels. See the narthex thermometer change for updates!

The 70th celebration this year includes a spaghetti dinner on September 19th at 12:00pm. A link is provided in the weekly email, please use that to get a ticket to the feast! The dinner will be: spaghetti marinara, meatballs, chicken Dijon, salad, garlic bread, and dessert! Follow the QR code to sign up or talk to Cindy Dellegrazio, Bev Yurske, Alisa Norquist, and Cory or Tom Schoofs to sign up in person.



Mums

Along with a dinner, we will have a mum sale. Our mums this year are from Groth's Garden. They are 12" and potted with colors of: tricolor, red, purple, orange, yellow or white and cost \$22 each. There are limited quantities available so order soon to snag the color you want! Order envelopes are in the narthex. Orders are due September 14th!

Financial Update

Thank you for Growing in Faith as we carry out our congregation's mission together. You are making a difference in our community and world! Here is a summary of progress toward our financial goals for this year. If you have questions about our finances, please contact our Treasurer Tim Gergens or any of our Church Council members. Your gifts make this ministry possible- thank you.

	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Actual</i>
	6/30/2026	6/30/2026	6/30/2025
Income	\$88,821	\$126,900	\$100,701
Expenses	\$122,018	\$125,122	\$121,006
Net Loss	(\$33,197)	(\$4,222)	(\$20,305)

Take Up Your Cross

Jesus issues a difficult invitation to his disciples: “Take up [your] cross and follow me” (Matthew 16:24). While the disciples may have hoped for a Messiah who would set the world right through satisfying displays of force and strength, Jesus offers them a different vision. His new kingdom or reign will not be built on traditional concepts of power and glory. It is instead a kingdom centered on the cross.

Today we, too, may long for a mighty Messiah to put the world back in order, throw down corrupt rulers from their thrones, and take away suffering once and for all. And like Peter, we may find ourselves crying out in disbelief, “God forbid it, Lord!” (v. 22) when Jesus redirects our gaze to the cross.

The cross reminds us that following Jesus requires nothing less than our whole lives. To follow Jesus is to love our neighbors with a self-sacrificing love, to sit in the discomfort of another’s struggle, and to be willing to lay down our own power and privilege to see the world from our neighbor’s point of view. Following Jesus requires practicing courage as we show up for one another in the least glamorous moments of life: in the hospital room, at the gravesite, in the living rooms of the brokenhearted, in the streets marching for justice. To follow Jesus is to open our hearts to the world’s pain and to practice loving others with God’s generous love, trusting that there is always more than enough.

Putting love of God and neighbor above power, prestige, and comfort is countercultural. It might even get us into trouble. But through Jesus’ own life, death, and resurrection, we are freed to enter into the world’s suffering, trusting that God’s love always gets the last word and that we will indeed be brought to new life through God’s resurrection power.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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