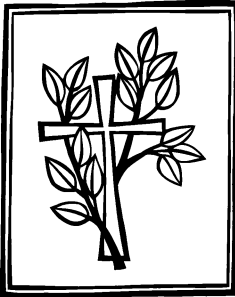


St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

August 30, 2026 – 9:30 a.m.



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.

We thank Pastor Paul Townsend for giving today's sermon!

Pastor Christian McMullan
Daniel S. Bower, Music Director
Craig Miller, Director of Youth and Family Ministries

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WELCOME

Please stand

GREETING

P: The boundless grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

OPENING HYMN

Blest Be the Tie That Binds ELW 656



1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris-tian love;
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;



the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity,† one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,
C: we confess to you all our sins.
Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.
In your mercy, call us back to you.
Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.
Restore us to dwell in your peace.
In Christ's name we pray,
Amen.

P: Jesus says, "Come to me,
all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."

In the name of God the Almighty,
✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Rest in God's love.
C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C: O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST READING

Psalm 26:1-8

A: A reading from Psalm 26.

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

**C: ²Test me, O Lord, and try me;
examine my heart and my mind.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SECOND READING

Romans 12:9-21

A: A reading from the Book of Romans, the twelfth chapter.

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.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah ELW 172



GOSPEL

Matthew 16:21-28

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixteenth chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON: Pushback is Good and Bad

Pastor Paul Townsend

HYMN

For the Beauty of the Earth ELW 879



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:

Refrain



Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

THE PRAYERS

P: With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

P: ...Merciful God,

C: hear our prayer.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Please be seated

THE OFFERING

Please stand

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

In gratitude to God we give out of the abundance that God has given us.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Loving God,
we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.
Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.
C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P: Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:

beyond the stars; beneath the sea;

within each cell; with every breath.

C: We praise you, O God.

P: Generations bless your faithfulness:

through the water; by night and day;

across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

C: We bless you, O God.

P: We give you thanks for your dear Son:

at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer;

beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

C: We thank you, O God.

P: In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: We pray for the gift of your Spirit:
in our gathering; within this meal;
among your people; throughout the world.

C: Come, Holy Spirit!

P: Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, One God, through Christ Jesus,
by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

C: Amen.

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C: 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.

Please be seated

COMMUNION

This is God's table so all are welcome to join the feast.

Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available.

P: Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Compassionate God, our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love
through these gifts of bread and wine, your body and blood.

Strengthen us that we may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.

We ask this in the name of Jesus,

through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

C: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand

BLESSING

P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
✠ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.
C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

I Lift My Hands

Be still there is a healer
His love is deeper than the sea
His mercy is unfailing
His arms a fortress for the weak
Let faith arise
Let faith arise

I lift my hands to believe again
You are my refuge
You are my strength
As I pour out my heart
These things I remember
You are faithful God (You're faithful God)
Forever

Be still there is a river
That flows from Calvary's tree
A fountain for the thirsty
Your grace that washes over me
Let faith arise
Let faith arise

I lift my hands to believe again
You are my refuge
You are my strength
As I pour out my heart
These things I remember
You are faithful God (You're faithful God)
Forever

DISMISSAL

P: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

C: Thanks be to God.

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