

14th Sunday after Pentecost **August 30, 2026**

Opening Hymn #452 ***The Son of God Goes Forth to War***

1. The Son of God goes forth to war
A kingly crown to gain.
His blood-red banner streams afar;
Who follows in His train?
Who best can drink His cup of woe,
Triumphant over pain,
Who patient bears his cross below--
He follows in His train.

2. The martyr first whose eagle eye
Could pierce beyond the grave,
Who saw His Master in the sky
And called on Him to save.
Like Him, with pardon on His tongue,
In midst of mortal pain,
He prayed for them that did the wrong--
Who follows in his train?

3. A glorious band, the chosen few,
On whom the Spirit came,
Twelve valiant saints; their hope they knew
And mocked the cross and flame.
They met the tyrant's brandished steel,
The lion's gory mane;
They bowed their necks the death to feel--
Who follows in their train?

4. A noble army, men and boys,
The matron and the maid,
Around the Savior's throne rejoice,
In robes of light arrayed.
They climbed the steep ascent of heav'n
Thro' peril, toil, and pain.
O God, to us may grace be giv'n
To follow in their train!

Invocation

P: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

Confession and Absolution

P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.

C: Amen

Kyrie & Gloria in Excelsis

♪ Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us. Lord have mercy on us.

1. Glory to God, we give you thanks and praise;
Of heav'nly joy and peace on earth we sing.
We worship You, to You our hearts we raise,
Lord God, almighty Father, heav'nly King

2. Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's only Son,
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.
O Lamb of God, Your glorious vict'ry won,
Receive our prayer, grant us Your peace within

3. Alone, O Christ, You only are the Lord,
At God's right hand in majesty most high:
Who, with the Spirit worshiped and adored,
With all the heav'nly host we glorify.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray...

... through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

The First Lesson – Jeremiah 15:15-21

¹⁵O Lord, you know; remember me and visit me, and take vengeance for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance take me not away; know that for your sake I bear reproach. ¹⁶Your 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. ¹⁷I did not sit in the company of revelers, nor did I rejoice; I sat alone, because your hand was upon me, for you had filled me with indignation. ¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Will you be to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail? ¹⁹Therefore thus says the Lord: "If you return, I will restore you, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall be as my mouth. They shall turn to you, but you shall not turn to them. ²⁰And 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, declares the Lord. ²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.”

Psalm of the Day- Psalm 18:1-6
WS p. 38

Antiphon – Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

¹Vindicate me, O Lord, for I have walked in my in- | tegrity,*
and I have trusted in the Lord without | wavering.

²Prove me, O Lord, and | try me;*
test my heart | and my mind.

³For your steadfast love is be- | fore my eyes,*
and I walk in your | faithfulness.

⁴I do not sit with men of | falsehood,*
nor do I consort with | hypocrites.

⁵I hate the assembly of evil- | doers,*
and I will not sit with the | wicked.

⁶I wash my hands in | innocence*
and go around your altar, | O Lord,

⁷proclaiming thanksgiving | aloud,*
and telling all your | wondrous deeds.

⁸O Lord, I love the habitation | of your house*
and the place where your | glory dwells.

⁹Do not sweep my soul away with | sinners,*
nor my life with blood- | thirsty men,

¹⁰in whose hands are evil de- | vices,*
and whose right hands are | full of bribes.

¹¹But as for me, I shall walk in my in- | tegrity;*
redeem me, and be gra- | cious to me.

¹²My foot stands on | level ground;*
in the great assembly I will | bless the Lord.

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**

Antiphon – Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

The Second Lesson – Romans 12:9-21

⁹Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be conceited. ¹⁷Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Verse of the Day – Matthew 16:25

Alleluia. Whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Alleluia.

The Gospel – Matthew 16:21-28

²¹From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.” ²³But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the

things of God, but on the things of man.” ²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life? ²⁷For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. ²⁸Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

P: Blessed are they that hear the Word of God and keep it.

The Alleluia

♪ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

These words are written that we may believe

That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Confession of Faith

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 of the Day #367

Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus

1. Hail, Thou once despised Jesus!
Hail, Thou Galilean King!
Thou didst suffer to release us;
Thou didst free salvation bring.
Hail, Thou universal Savior,
Who hast borne our sin and shame,
By whose merits we find favor!
Life is given through Thy name.

2. Paschal Lamb, by God appointed,
All our sins on Thee were laid;
By almighty love anointed,
Thou hast full atonement made.
Every sin may be forgiven
Through the virtue of Thy blood;
Open is the gate of heaven,
Peace is made 'twixt man and God.

3. Jesus, hail, enthroned in glory,
There forever to abide!
All the heavenly host adore Thee,
Seated at Thy Father's side.
There for sinners Thou art pleading,
There Thou dost our place prepare,
Ever for us interceding
Till in glory we appear.

4. Worship, honor, power, and blessing
Thou art worthy to receive;
Loudest praises, without ceasing,
Meet it is for us to give.
Help, ye bright angelic spirits,
Bring your sweetest, noblest lays;
Help to sing our Savior's merits,
Help to chant Immanuel's praise.

Sermon Text – Matthew 16:21-28

Sermon

The Glory of God Is the Passion and Cross of Christ Jesus

Offertory

♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Your presence. Take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. Uphold with Your Spirit free.

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Prayer of the Church

P: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P: O Lord, You have made us feast on Your Word to the delight of our hearts. Keep us from the worldly company of revelers who despise Your Word, and inspire the pastors of Your Church to brazenly proclaim what is precious: the Gospel of Your Son, Jesus Christ.

**¹ Son of God, eternal Savior,
Source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us
Hallows all our human race, ...**

P: Preserve our nation, its leaders and those who serve for the good of our people and for their protection. Grant peace in our time, O Lord, for You alone fight for us.

**You our Head, who, throned in glory,
For Your own will ever plead:
Fill us with Your love and pity,
Heal our wrongs, and help our need.**

P: Heavenly Father, open wide the hearts of Christians to one another, especially within the home and between neighbors. Let love be genuine, speech truthful and patience constant. Let us commend ourselves in everything as those known by God's love and, therefore, unashamed to serve one another.

**²As You, Lord, have lived for others,
So may we for others live.
Freely have Your gifts been granted;
Freely may Your servants give. ...**

P: Rise up, O Lord, and avenge those who are persecuted for the name of Your Son, Jesus. In communion with all Your saints, grant us endurance to bear our crosses as Christ bore His for us, securing for us an eternal reward.

**Yours the gold and Yours the silver,
Yours the wealth of land and sea;
We but stewards of Your bounty
Held in solemn trust will be.**

P: Almighty Avenger, teach Your faithful ones to trust so fully in Your fatherly care that they seek not vengeance but mercy. Stoke our zeal to bless those who curse us, and so heap holy coals upon their heads.

**³Come, O Christ, and reign among us,
King of Love and Prince of Peace;
Hush the storm of strife and passion,**

Bid its cruel discords cease. ...

P: Great Physician, heal and restore those who are sick and suffering. [*We especially remember* _____.] Give them Your holy care and strength to bear their crosses, that they may endure to see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.

**By Your patient years of toiling,
By Your silent hours of pain,
Quench our fevered thirst of pleasure,
Stem our selfish greed of gain.**

P: O Lord, lead us to repentance and faith, that we might not think more highly of ourselves than is right, but that we would set our hearts and minds on the things of God.

**⁴ Son of God, eternal Savior,
Source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us
Hallows all our human race: ...**

P: All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**By your praying, by Your willing,
That Your people should be one,
Grant, O grant our hope's fruition;
Here on earth Your will be done.**

(Congregation please stand)

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.

The Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: Amen

Closing Hymn #354

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

1. In the Cross of Christ I glory,
Towering o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.
2. When the woes of life o'ertake me,
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the Cross forsake me;
Lo, it glows with peace and joy.
3. When the sun of bliss is beaming
Light and love upon my way,
From the Cross the radiance streaming
Adds more luster to the day.
4. Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
By the Cross are sanctified;

Peace is there that knows no measure,
Joys that through all time abide.

Silent Prayer

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