

Christ Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
Hillsboro, Texas

**“If any want to become
my followers, let them
deny themselves and
take up their
cross and
follow me.”**



Mark 8:34, NRSV

14th Sunday after Pentecost

PEOPLE OF THE CROSS

August 30, 2026

TODAY'S MESSAGE: PEOPLE OF THE CROSS

In last Sunday's reading from Matthew, chapter 16, Peter confessed that Jesus is "the Christ (the Messiah), the Son of the living God." Jesus gave to Peter, and to the entire church, the keys to heaven, namely, the power to forgive the sins of those who repent and to withhold forgiveness from those who do not. Today, in the same chapter of Matthew, Jesus tells His disciples what the Messiah must do, where He must go, how He must suffer and die, and that He will rise from the dead. Peter rebukes Jesus because he does not want Jesus to suffer and die. But Jesus teaches Peter, and us, that this is His way and this is the way of those who would follow Him. This is the way of the cross, and the cross is the only way to heaven. So that others might also know the way, we are called to "Lift High the Cross!"



In the Lord's Supper, Jesus gives us His body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. The Lord's Supper is also a very sacred and intimate proclamation of fellowship among those who confess the same faith (doctrine, teachings) concerning God's Word and the Gospel of His Son Jesus Christ. Therefore, we practice close communion and ask that those who are not confirmed members of an LC-MS congregation receive instruction prior to receiving the Lord's Supper.

Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.

1 Corinthians 11:27-29

Before receiving the Lord's Supper, we need to examine ourselves in the following way:

(1) Am I truly repentant (sorry) for all of my sins and do I truthfully desire to change my sinful life? (2) Do I believe that Jesus is my Lord and Savior and that in the Lord's Supper I receive His body and His blood for the forgiveness of all my sins? And (3) Have I been instructed in the Scriptures and have I publicly confessed my belief that the teachings of this church and the LC-MS are faithful to God's Word and the Gospel of His Son Jesus Christ?

If you have questions about what God's Word says concerning the Lord's Supper, please speak with the pastor and/or pick up our brochure titled "Fellowship in the Lord's Supper".

Those not confirmed are welcome to come to the altar, keep your hands down and folded and receive a blessing. For those who will be communing: **Non-alcoholic** wine is located in the center of each tray for those who have concerns with alcohol. We offer the **chalice** as well as individual cups. If you desire the chalice, do not take an individual cup from the tray and the pastor will serve you from the chalice. Christ is present in both to grant you forgiveness.

✠ ORDER OF SERVICE WITH COMMUNION ✠

[“Divine Service: Setting One” from LSB p.151]

Please silence – or turn off – your phones and refrain from using them during the service.

Welcome

Opening Hymn

“Drawn to the Cross”

LSB 560

**Drawn to the cross, which Thou hast blessed, with healing gifts for souls distressed
To find in Thee my life, my rest, Christ crucified, I come.**

**Thou knowest all my griefs and fears, Thy grace abused, my misspent years.
Yet now to Thee with contrite tears, Christ crucified, I come.**

**Wash me and take away each stain. Let nothing of my sin remain.
For cleansing, though it be through pain, Christ crucified, I come.**

**And then for work to do for Thee, which shall so sweet a service be,
That angels well might envy me, Christ crucified, I come.**

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b

P: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: *(sung)* **A - - - men.**

Confession of Sins

1 John 1:8-9

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

ALL: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We
have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and
by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we
have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and
eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.
Forgive us, renew us and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk
in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

- P: Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for you and for his sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *John 20:19-23*
- C: *(sung)* **A - - - men.**

Entrance Psalm [ESV]

Psalm 26

- P: Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have walked in my integrity, and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.
- C: **Prove me, O LORD, and try me; test my heart and my mind. For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in your faithfulness.**
- P: I do not sit with men of falsehood, nor do I consort with hypocrites.
- C: **I hate the assembly of evildoers, and I will not sit with the wicked.**
- P: I wash my hands in innocence and go around your altar, O LORD, proclaiming thanksgiving aloud, and telling all your wondrous deeds.
- C: **O LORD, I love the habitation of your house and the place where your glory dwells.**
- P: Do not sweep my soul away with sinners, nor my life with bloodthirsty men, in whose hands are evil devices, and whose right hands are full of bribes.
- C: **But as for me, I shall walk in my integrity; redeem me, and be gracious to me.**
- ALL: My foot stands on level ground; in the great assembly I will bless the LORD.**
- P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
- ALL: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Hymn of Praise

"This is the Feast"

Rev. 5:12-13; 19:5-9

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
Whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing and glory are his.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Opening Prayer

ALL: Almighty and merciful God, your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross to save us from our sins and give us eternal life. Grant us courage to take up our cross and follow him wherever he leads; even as he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading [ESV]

Jeremiah 15:15-21

O 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. 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. I 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. Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Will you be to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail?

Therefore 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. 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, declares the LORD. I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless."

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: When your words came (O Lord), I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight.

Epistle Reading [ESV]

Romans 12:9-21

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." To 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." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **When your words came (O Lord), I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight.**

Gospel Reading [ESV]

Matthew 16:21-28

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 16th chapter.

C: *(sung)* **Glory to You, O Lord.**

From 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. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." But 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."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? For 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. Truly, 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: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: *(sung)* **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Children's Message

**Jesus, I my cross have taken, all to leave and follow Thee.
Destitute, despised, forsaken, Thou from hence my All shalt be.
Perish ev'ry fond ambition, all I've sought or hoped or known.
Yet how rich is my condition! God and heav'n are still mine own.**

**Let the world despise and leave me, they have left my Savior, too.
Human hearts and looks deceive me. Thou art not, like them, untrue.
And while Thou shalt smile upon me, God of wisdom, love and might,
Foes may hate and friends may shun me. Show Thy face, and all is bright.**

**Go, then, earthly fame and treasure! Come, disaster, scorn and pain!
In Thy service, pain is pleasure. With Thy favor, loss is gain.
I have called Thee Abba, Father! I have stayed my heart on Thee.
Storms may howl and clouds may gather. All must work for good to me.**

**Haste, then, on from grace to glory, armed by faith and winged by prayer.
Heaven's eternal days before thee, God's own hand shall guide thee there.
Soon shall close the earthly mission. Swift shall pass thy pilgrim days.
Hope soon change to glad fruition. Faith to sight and prayer to praise.**

Sermon

PEOPLE OF THE CROSS

Confession of Faith

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Offertory *(sung)*

Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19

What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?

I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,

In the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Offering *(Greet those seated near you. You may say, "The peace of the Lord be with you.")*

[If you are a guest, please feel under no obligation to give anything, but receive this worship service as our gift to you. For the members and friends of this congregation, our mission and ministry is dependent upon your generous giving, a significant act of our worship.]

Offering Prayer

[LSB 781 (v.1-2)]

P: We give Thee but Thine own, whatever the gift may be. All that we have is Thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from Thee.

C: May we Thy bounties thus, as stewards true receive. And gladly, as Thou blessest us, to Thee our first-fruits give! Amen.

Prayers

✝ THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION ✝

VISITORS and MEMBERS

Please read the message inside the first page of this bulletin re: participation in the Lord's Supper.

P: The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C: *(sung)* And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

Colossians 3:1

C: *(sung)* We lift them to the Lord.

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

Psalm 136

C: *(sung)* It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and saying:

Sanctus (*sung*)

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of pow'r and might. Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

ALL: 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.

Words of Our Lord

Mt. 26:26-28; Mk. 14:22-24; Lk. 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-25

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed . . .

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

John 20:19

C: (*sung*) **A - men.**

Agnus Dei (*sung*)

John 1:29

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. Grant us peace.**

Distribution Hymns “Come Follow Me,’ the Savior Spake”

LSB 688

**“Come, follow Me,” the Savior spake, “All in My way abiding.
Deny yourselves, the world forsake. Obey My call and guiding.
O bear the cross, whate’er betide. Take My example for your guide.”**

**“I am the light, I light the way, a godly life displaying.
I bid you walk as in the day. I keep your feet from straying.
I am the way, and well I show, how you must sojourn here below.”**

**"My heart abounds in lowliness, My soul with love is glowing.
And gracious words My lips express, with meekness overflowing.
My heart, My mind, My strength, My all, to God I yield, on Him I call."**

**"I teach you how to shun and flee, what harms your soul's salvation.
Your heart from ev'ry guile to free, from sin and its temptation.
I am the refuge of the soul, and lead you to your heav'nly goal."**

**Then let us follow Christ, our Lord, and take the cross appointed.
And, firmly clinging to His Word, in suff'ring be undaunted.
For those who bear the battle's strain, the crown of heav'nly life obtain.**

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

LSB 425

**When I survey the wondrous cross, on which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God.
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.**

**See, from His head, His hands, His feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a tribute far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all!**

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

LSB 427

**In the cross of Christ I glory, tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story, gathers round its head sublime.**

**When the woes of life o'er take me, hopes deceive and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me. Lo, it glows with peace and joy.**

**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.**

**Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified.
Peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide.**

**Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow His example pure,
Through a world that would deceive us, and to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in His footsteps treading, pilgrims here, our home above,
Full of faith and hope and love, let us do the Father's bidding,
Faithful Lord, with me abide. I shall follow where You guide.**

**Let us suffer here with Jesus, and with patience bear our cross.
Joy will follow all our sadness. Where He is, there is no loss.
Though today we sow no laughter, we shall reap celestial joy,
All discomforts that annoy, shall give way to mirth hereafter.
Jesus, here I share Your woe. Help me there Your joy to know.**

**Let us gladly die with Jesus, since by death He conquered death.
He will free us from destruction, give to us immortal breath.
Let us mortify all passion, that would lead us into sin.
And the grave that shuts us in, shall but prove the gate to heaven.
Jesus, here with You I die, there to live with You on high.**

**Let us also live with Jesus. He has risen from the dead,
That to life we may awaken. Jesus, You are now our head.
We are Your own living members. Where You live, there we shall be.
In Your presence constantly, living there with You forever.
Jesus, let me faithful be. Life eternal grant to me.**

Song of Thanksgiving

"Thank the Lord"

Psalm 100

**Thank the Lord and sing His praise. Tell everyone what He has done. Let all
who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name. He recalls His promises
and leads His people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**ALL: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, you have given us a foretaste of the feast to
come in this holy supper of your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true
faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of his coming, we may,
together with all your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in his
kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C: *(sung)* A - men, A - men, A - - men.

Closing Hymn

“Lift High the Cross”

LSB 837

**REFRAIN Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim!
Till all the world adore His sacred name.**

**Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God.**

REFRAIN

**Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conqu’ring ranks combine.**

REFRAIN

**All newborn soldiers of the Crucified,
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died.**

REFRAIN

**O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee.**

REFRAIN

**Let ev’ry race and ev’ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell.**

REFRAIN

**So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory!**

REFRAIN

CLC MISSION STATEMENT: “We are a FAMILY LIVING and GROWING in God’s Word, sharing God’s love by TELLING others about Christ and SERVING them in His name.”