

# Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost- September 7, 2025 PAX

## Education Sunday

### As We Gather

Jesus is blunt about the cost of discipleship. He does not sugarcoat the life He calls us to in the baptismal waters but neither does He diminish His promises, gifts, and blessings that accompany this life of faith. Today He calls us to count the cost, knowing that the way of the Christian is constantly tested and tried by our affection for the things of this life, our vulnerability to the enemies of the faith, and the weakness of our own sinful flesh. Part of that cost is not just in what you desire but also in what you are willing to surrender for the sake of Christ and His kingdom.

### ***“Who You Say I Am”***

*Verse: Who am I that the highest King would welcome me.  
I was lost, but He brought me in. Oh, His love for me.  
Oh, His love for me.*

*Chorus: Who the Son sets free, oh, is free indeed.  
I'm a child of God, yes I am.*

*Verse: Free at last, He has ransomed me. His grace runs deep.  
While I was a slave to sin, Jesus died for me.  
Yes, He died for me.*

*Chorus: Who the Son sets free, oh, is free indeed.  
I'm a child of God, yes I am.  
In my Father's house is a place for me.  
I'm a child of God, yes I am.*

*Bridge: I am chosen, not forsaken. I am who You say I am.  
You are for me, not against me. I am who You say I am.*  
  
*I am chosen, not forsaken. I am who You say I am.  
You are for me, not against me. I am who You say I am.  
I am who You say I am.*

*Chorus: Who the Son sets free, oh, is free indeed.  
I'm a child of God, yes I am.  
In my Father's house is a place for me.  
I'm a child of God, yes I am.*  
  
*In my Father's house is a place for me.*

*I'm a child of God, yes I am.*

## Invocation

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Confession and Absolution

**P** Most holy and merciful Father,

**C** **we confess to You, and to one another, and to the whole company of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

**P** We have not loved You with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

**C** **Have mercy and forgive us, Lord.**

**P** We have taken for granted Your grace and mercy and lived as though You did not matter and we mattered most of all.

**C** **Have mercy and forgive us, Lord.**

**P** We confess to You, O Lord, that we have done the evil Your Word prohibits and have not done the good You command.

**C** **Have mercy and forgive us, Lord.**

**P** We confess that we have hidden our sin from You and from one another and have not confessed honestly before You or to those whom we have hurt.

**C** **We are truly sorry for the sins we have committed in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done that is wrong and by our failure to do what is right. Have mercy and forgive us, Lord.**

**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 Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the X Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** He who began this good work within you will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

**P** Let us pray.

O merciful Lord, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all. Grant us courage and strength to take up the cross and follow Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Old Testament Reading

*Deuteronomy 30:15–20*

<sup>15</sup>“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. <sup>16</sup>If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. <sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup>I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup>I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, <sup>20</sup>loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

## Epistle

*Philemon 1–21*

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,  
To Philemon our beloved fellow worker <sup>2</sup>and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house:

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, <sup>5</sup>because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and all the saints, <sup>6</sup>and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. <sup>7</sup>For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

<sup>8</sup>Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, <sup>9</sup>yet for love’s sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus— <sup>10</sup>I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. <sup>11</sup>(Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) <sup>12</sup>I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. <sup>13</sup>I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, <sup>14</sup>but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own free will. <sup>15</sup>For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, <sup>16</sup>no longer as a slave but more than a slave, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

<sup>17</sup>So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. <sup>18</sup>If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. <sup>19</sup>I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing me even your own self. <sup>20</sup>Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ.

<sup>21</sup>Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

## Holy Gospel

*Luke 14:25–35*

<sup>25</sup>Now great crowds accompanied [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup>“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup>Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup>For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup>Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, <sup>30</sup>saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ <sup>31</sup>Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup>And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. <sup>33</sup>So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple. <sup>34</sup>“Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? <sup>35</sup>It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

## Apostles’ Creed

**☩ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence 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.**

*By Forrest Frank*

## **Children's Message**

### ***“The Lord's Prayer (It's Yours)”***

*Verse*

*Father let Your kingdom come, Father let Your will be done  
On Earth as in Heaven, right here in my heart  
Father let Your kingdom come, Father let Your will be done  
On Earth as in Heaven, right here in my heart*

*Chorus*

*Give us this day, our daily bread forgive us, forgive us  
As we forgive the ones who sinned against us, forgive them  
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us  
From the evil one, let Your kingdom come*

*Verse, Chorus*

*Bridge(X2)*

*It's Yours, it's Yours, all Yours, all Yours  
The kingdom, the power, the glory are Yours  
It's Yours, it's Yours, all Yours, all Yours  
Forever and ever, the kingdom is Yours*

*Verse*

*Father let Your kingdom come, Father let Your will be done  
On Earth as in Heaven, right here in my heart  
Father let Your kingdom come, Father let Your will be done  
On Earth as in Heaven, right here in my heart*

*Tag*

*On Earth as in Heaven, right here in my heart*

## **Sermon**

*Pastor Leon Rosenthal*

## **Offering**

### ***“More Like Jesus”***

*Verse 1*

*You came to the world You created*

*Trading Your crown for a cross  
You willingly died  
Your innocent life paid the cost*

*Verse 2*

*Counting Your status as nothing  
The King of all kings came to serve  
Washing my feet  
Covering me with Your love*

*Chorus*

*If more of You means less of me  
Take ev'rything  
Yes all of You is all I need  
Take ev'rything*

*Verse 3*

*You are my life and my treasure  
The One that I can't live without  
Here at Your feet  
My desires and dreams I lay down  
Here at Your feet  
My desires and dreams I lay down (Chorus X2)*

*Bridge(X2)*

*Oh Lord change me like only You can  
Here with my heart in Your hands  
Father I pray make me more like Jesus  
This world is dying to know who You are  
You've shown us the way to Your heart  
Father I pray make me more like Jesus*

*More like Jesus, More like Jesus  
Oh..... Oh Lord, Oh Lord  
Father I pray, Father I pray  
Make me more like Jesus (Chorus X2)*

## **Prayers of the Church**

**P** Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** hear our prayer.

## **Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

### **Benediction**

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.  
**C** Amen.

### ***“I Will Follow”***

*Where You go, I'll go. Where You stay, I'll stay.  
When You move, I'll move. I will follow.*

*Verse: All Your ways are good. All Your ways are sure.  
I will trust in You alone.  
Higher than my sight, high above my life.  
I will trust in You alone.*

*Chorus: Where You go, I'll go. Where You stay, I'll stay.  
When You move, I'll move. I will follow You.  
Who You love, I'll love. How You serve, I'll serve.  
If this life I lose, I will follow You. Yeah. I will follow You. Yeah.*

*Verse: Light unto the world, Light unto my life,  
I will live for You alone.  
You're the one I seek. Knowing I will find  
All I need in You alone, in You alone... CHORUS*

*Bridge: In You, there's life everlasting. In You, there's freedom for my soul.  
In You, there's joy, unending joy and I will follow.*

*Chorus: Where You go, I'll go. Where You stay, I'll stay.*

*When You move, I'll move. I will follow You.  
Who You love, I'll love. How You serve, I'll serve.  
If this life I lose, I will follow*

*Chorus: Where You go, I'll go. Where You stay, I'll stay.  
When You move, I'll move. I will follow You.  
Who You love, I'll love. How You serve, I'll serve.  
If this life I lose, I will follow You.  
Yeah. I will follow You. Yeah.*

*I will follow You. Yeah. I will follow You. Yeah.*

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 3.

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