

Count the Cost

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 7, 2025



"Winning souls for Christ. Coaching Christians for life."

4651 Kernan Blvd S, Jacksonville, FL 32224 • (904) 642-8900

A Place to Call Home: Victory Lutheran

In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, welcome home. We especially welcome to our house of worship our guests who have joined us today. We pray you will be strengthened by the good news about God's grace, love, and forgiveness to us through Jesus. We say with the Psalmist, whether here on campus or viewing online, "I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD'" (Psalm 122:1). May the Lord continue to help us grow in His grace and knowledge as we hear, speak, and sing His holy Word.

Please sign the Connection Card inside the worship folder and return it in the basket on the worship table. Members, please update your contact info if there is a change.

Restrooms are located in the hallway to the left as you exit the sanctuary. Changing tables are available in both restrooms.

A **Quiet Room** for children who need a moment to get settled with a parent or guardian is located on the right before entering the sanctuary.

Visit our website: www.victorylutheran.org or find us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube!



Worship Series Focus: **WOUNDS THAT HEAL**

Not all wounds are bad. A skilled surgeon takes a deadly sharp scalpel and cuts through flesh and muscle. The result of that wound: not harm, but healing. In the same way, we often say that words cut us to the heart. Words can wound. Sometimes, however, those painful words provide the very healing we need.

"Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem" (Luke 13:22). Jesus knows that when he gets to Jerusalem, he is going to die. So, with a sense of extreme urgency, Jesus shares truths we need to hear, even though it hurts to hear them. In this series, we might not like everything that Jesus says. Yet, to ignore what Jesus teaches is to court eternal death. Hard as it may be, let us listen and take all that Jesus says to heart. For while Jesus speaks words that wound us, his intent is to heal our very soul.

Today's Worship: Count the Cost

This week Jesus' sharp words expose our desire to pursue comfort and avoid pain at all costs. Jesus explains that following him will be hard. Jesus' disciples will be called to let go of things they love and embrace things we naturally loathe. Jesus promises that discipleship comes with crosses—a unique type of pain. So, Jesus tells us that we must count the cost of following him. He wants us to do that now, ahead of time, rather than waiting until we are in the heat of the moment and emotions are running high. However, our calculations must not only consider what we might give up for Jesus. They also entail calculating what we get through him! When we perceive the infinite blessings we find in Christ, the decisions we just make, while difficult, will be clear. Whatever is lost as we follow Jesus pales in comparison to what we gain.

The Service: Setting Two

Our Path for Worship

Minister: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

Congregation: His love endures forever.



This is the day the LORD has made;

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

We worship in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen. Let us worship him.

Opening Hymn

CW631 | *Speak, O Savior, I Am Listening*

What does God tell us about ourselves in his holy Word?

He says that we are sinners and deserve only his punishment.

When we realize that we have sinned against God and deserve his punishment, what should we do?

We will confess before God all our sins, those which we remember as well as those of which we are unaware. We pray to God for his mercy and forgiveness.

Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

All: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Jesus says to his people: "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven." His death paid for the guilt of your sins and the sins of the whole world. Do you believe this?

Yes, I believe.

God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, hear the word of Christ through his called servant: All your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son Ξ and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

In peace let us pray to the Lord. For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Glory to God in the Highest

Gloria in Excelsis

After a short introduction, the **Congregation** sings:

The musical score is written on ten staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, using mostly quarter and half notes with some ties. The lyrics are printed below the notes, aligned with the syllables. The text is as follows:

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his
peo - ple on earth. Lord God,
heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we
wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your
glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth.
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. You are seat - ed at the



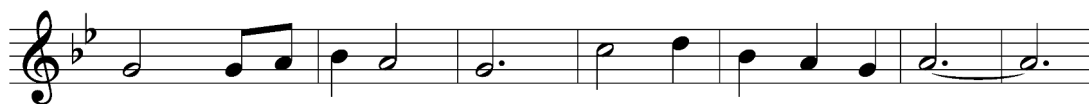
right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his



peo - ple on earth. For you a -



lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,



with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the glo - ry of



God the Fa - ther. A - men. A - men.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his



peo - ple on earth.

Tune: Marty Haugen

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The Word

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. Amen.

First Reading

Deuteronomy 30:15–20

The LORD wants his people to calculate carefully the choice between life and death

¹⁵See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. ¹⁶For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.

¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, ¹⁸I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

¹⁹This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live ²⁰and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsive Sentences

Romans 11

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!

Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?

Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?

For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.

Second Reading

Philemon 1,7–21

Paul encourages Philemon to free Onesimus and embrace him as a brother

¹Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, to Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker—⁷your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord’s people.

⁸Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, ⁹yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love. It is as none other than Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus—¹⁰that I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains. ¹¹Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me.

¹²I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you. ¹³I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the gospel. ¹⁴But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favor you do would not seem forced but would be voluntary. ¹⁵Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever—¹⁶no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord.

¹⁷So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. ¹⁹I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me your very self. ²⁰I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ.

²¹Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

John 6:68

After a short introduction, the **Congregation** sings:



Refrain: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Verse: Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. **Refrain**

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Gospel Reading

Luke 14:25–35

Jesus teaches us that following him closely will come at a cost

²⁵Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: ²⁶“If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. ²⁷And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

²⁸“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? ²⁹For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, ³⁰saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’

³¹“Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won’t he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? ³²If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. ³³In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

³⁴“Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? ³⁵It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out.

“Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

10:30 Service

Children's Church

Children ages 3–5 can be dismissed to the kitchen classroom for Children's Church. Children will return from Children's Church to the sanctuary after the conclusion of the sermon.



Hymn of the Day

CW694 | *Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken*

Focus on the Scriptures

Pastor Jonathan Kolander

“Choose Life”

Deuteronomy 30:15–20

Confession of Faith

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Thank Offering

To show our thanks to God for his generosity toward us, we gather this thank offering to support our Gospel-focused ministry in the Jacksonville area and beyond. See our website for other ways to support Victory's ministry and mission. If you want to give your thank offering online, you may use the camera on your smartphone to scan the QR code.



Please also fill out the Connection Card found inside your worship folder and drop it in the basket on the back (blue) table. You can also scan the QR code on the left to fill out an online Connection Card.

Prayer of the Church

O Lord, our God, you are wise and powerful, good and gracious. Your mercies are new every morning. Each day you open your hand and provide for the needs of your children on earth.

We praise you for every grace and blessing.

Strengthen your Church in all the world. Let your comforting message of salvation in Christ Jesus be proclaimed to troubled souls everywhere.

Use our ministries and offerings to extend your healing and your hope.

We bring you our requests for the various structures of our society. Bless our national, state, and local governments.

Grant us civil servants who are worthy of honor and respect.

Grant prosperity to our businesses and industries. Give employers a sense of fairness toward their workers, and employees a feeling of joy and pride in their workmanship.

Help us find satisfaction in all work well done.

Invigorate the schools of our land. Give success to every effort that helps students read, think, and communicate in ways that will promote an informed and responsible citizenry. Arouse curious minds to discover the wonders of your created order.

Give us teachers and students who pursue excellence.

Strengthen the families of our country. Give fathers and mothers a renewed commitment to be good parents. Give children and young people the wisdom to regard their parents as your representatives.

Lead us to love one another as you have loved us.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer

Gracious Father, we pray boldly as Jesus taught, with the confidence that you will hear and with the faith that you will respond for our welfare.

Amen.

The Sacrament

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus

Congregation

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,
 God of 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!

Tune: Marty Haugen

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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.

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.



Distribution

Guests: *Scripture teaches that when Christians partake of the Lord's Supper together, they are expressing their unity of faith. Through this act they are confessing that they agree on all the teachings of Scripture. We do not wish to put our guests in the position of making such a confession without knowing our teachings. Therefore, we ask that only those who are members of this or another WELS or ELS congregation come to receive communion at this time. If you desire communion fellowship with us, please speak to our pastor. We are eager to help anyone take this step.*

Distribution Hymn

CW831 | *Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me*

Thanksgiving

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may hold firmly to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.
Amen.

Closing Hymn

CW617 | *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*



Serving in Worship

Pastor

Accompanist

Rev. Jonathan Kolander

Mrs. Anne Grotefend

For reflection based on today's Scripture readings...

- 1st: What words make it clear what is being said to the Israelites is not optional? Take a moment to reflect on the 'gods' you have put in front of God—He already knows what they are and He wants you to recognize such too. What words speak to God being a God of life and love? Read 2 Timothy 1 & 2.
- 2nd: What strikes you upon reading through this letter from Paul to Philemon? A theme over the past few weeks continues, that being how we are to view those around us. How does this account help you in that regard? Read Luke 10.
- 3rd: Hate is a strong word, yet it makes the point: Jesus is not to be loved less than others we love. Why not? What is the point of the illustrations Jesus includes in this section? Read Mark 8:34–38.

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Sunday Service Times

8:00am Worship

9:15am Bible Class and Sunday School

10:30am Worship with Livestream

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Victory is a member congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), headquartered in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

