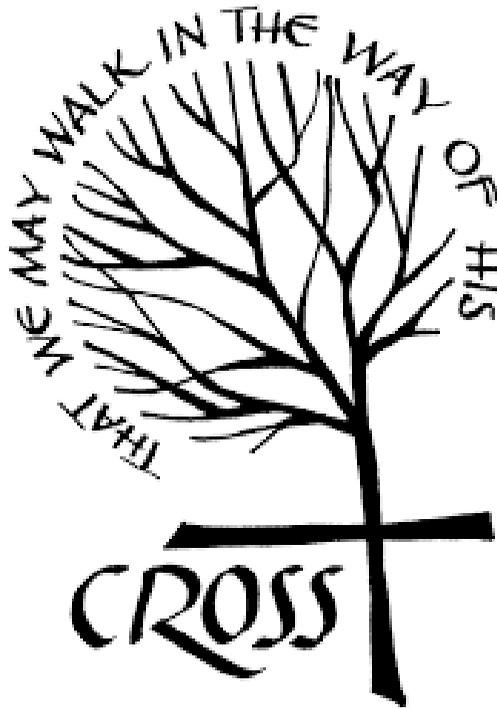


St. John-St. James

Ev. Lutheran Church & School



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 10 & 13

PRAYER UPON ENTERING GOD'S HOUSE

Heavenly Father, prepare my heart to worship you. Through your Word, make me sincerely repentant for the many sins which I have committed and reassure me of your loving kindness in my Savior, Christ Jesus. Through your Holy Spirit, keep my thoughts focused on the eternal truths which will be spoken and sung today. Guide and bless those leading in worship today. Make this service a celebration of your goodness and grace. In Jesus' name. Amen.

WELCOME

It is Not Easy to Follow Jesus

Opening Hymn:

Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spoke

Christian Worship, Hymn # 453



Verse 1

**“Come, follow me,” the Savior spoke,
“All in my way abiding.**

Deny yourselves; the world forsake;

Obey my call and guiding.

Oh, bear the cross, whate'er betide;

Take my example for your guide.



Verse 4

**♫ “I teach you how to shun and flee
What harms your souls' salvation,
Your hearts 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.”**

PLEASE STAND

INVOCATION

M The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C **And also with you.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C **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.**

M God our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

LORD, HAVE MERCY

M For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

M For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C **Christ, have mercy.**

M For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

M Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

C **Amen.**

GLORY TO GOD

M The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

C Verse 1

♪ **I am trusting you, Lord Jesus, Trusting only you,
Trusting you for full salvation, Free and true.**

C Verse 3

♪ **I am trusting you for cleansing In the crimson flood,
Trusting you who made me holy By your blood.**

(Hymn response continues on the next page.)

C Verse 6

♪ **I am trusting you, Lord Jesus; Never let me fall.
I am trusting you forever And for all.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M O Lord Jesus Christ, preserve the congregation of believers with your never-failing mercy. Help us avoid whatever is wicked and harmful, and guide us in the way that leads to our salvation; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

BE SEATED

Old Testament Lesson

Jeremiah 15:15-21

¹⁵ LORD, you understand; remember me and care for me. Avenge me on my persecutors. You are long-suffering—do not take me away; think of how I suffer reproach for your sake. ¹⁶ When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, LORD God Almighty. ¹⁷ I never sat in the company of revelers, never made merry with them; I sat alone because your hand was on me and you had filled me with indignation. ¹⁸ Why is my pain unending and my wound grievous and incurable? You are to me like a deceptive brook, like a spring that fails. ¹⁹ Therefore this is what the LORD says: "If you repent, I will restore you that you may serve me; if you utter worthy, not worthless, words, you will be my spokesman. Let this people turn to you, but you must not turn to them. ²⁰ I will make you a wall to this people, a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you to rescue and save you," declares the LORD. ²¹ "I will save you from the hands of the wicked and deliver you from the grasp of the cruel."

☐ 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 fully 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.

²¹ From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

²² Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!”

²³ Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. ²⁶ What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?”

C Praise be to you, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day:

Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

Christian Worship, Hymn # 465

C Verse 1 **♩** **Jesus, I my cross have taken,
All to leave and follow you.
Destitute, despised, forsaken,
You on earth once suffered, too.
Perish ev’ry fond ambition,
All I’ve ever hoped for known;
Yet how rich is my condition!
God and heav’n are still my own.**

(Hymn of the Day continues on the next page.)



Verse 4

♪ **Haste, my soul, from grace to glory,
Armed by faith and winged by prayer.
All but heav'n is transitory;
God's own hand shall guide you there.
Soon shall end this earthly story;
Swift shall pass the pilgrim days,
Hope soon change to heav'nly glory,
Faith to sight and prayer to praise.**

MESSAGE

Pastor Darin Aden

Romans 12:1-8 **“Offer Yourself as Living Sacrifices”**

12 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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.

THE SACRAMENT

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M 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.

C Amen.

A PRAYER BEFORE COMMUNION

Lord, I am not worthy to be a guest at your holy table. But you are a friend of the sinners, and you will not cast me out. This bread is your body, which bore my sins upon the tree. This wine is your blood, which purifies me from all guilt. At your invitation, I come rejoicing. Receive me, my Savior. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

(After all those communing have received Lord's Supper, we conclude our celebration:)

M Now may this true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in the true faith unto life everlasting.

C Amen.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

M Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell everyone what he has done.

C **Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.**

M He renews his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving.

C **Alleluia! Alleluia!**

M Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BLESSING

M Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
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.

C **Amen.**

Closing Hymn:

We All Are One in Mission

Christian Worship, Hymn # 566

C Verse 2

♪ **We all are called to service, To witness in God's name
Our ministries are diff'rent: Our purpose is the same:
To touch the lives of others With God's surprising grace,
So ev'ry folk and nation May feel God's warm embrace.**

C Verse 3

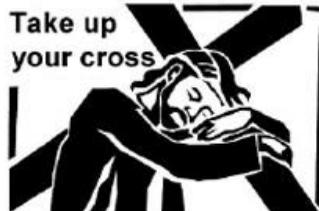
♪ **Now let us be united, And let our song be heard;
Now let us be a vessel For God's redeeming Word.
We all are one in mission; We all are one in call,
Our varied gifts united By Christ, the Lord of all.**

BE SEATED

Take Up Your Cross

What good is it for a man to gain the whole world,
yet forfeit his soul? Mark 8:36

Based on Mark 8:34-37



AND FOLLOW ME

V M H E O S O D F W C N E X A
K Z H W S L H V E O H R J W Y
U Z T C O W I B Q N R O O T H
A C L I O R V F D G Y F L W N
V S D L L P L E E S X Y E E D
B K L E N R A D I E G M G I D
D O L Z V Y R S O U L Y A C T
F L W Z W D Q I X Z I R I R G
H Y Z J R U D C M V X G N O O
V I R D I S C I P L E S B S S
Z I M F L Y D E X J R E S S P
E W H S V K V P G F S C T P E
O I L P E A J M K O O G U X L
E I X P S L A J L S O W N C X
F R Z I E Q F Z A E O D T C W

FORFEIT
WORLD
SAVE
CROSS

WHOLE
LOSE
GOOD
DISCIPLES

GAIN
FOLLOW
HIMSELF
LIFE

DENY
GOSPEL
SOUL
CROWD