

September 7, 2025 + Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

We are called to let our light shine as instruments of the Holy Spirit so all may know God's love.

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Merciful and loving God, **we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.**

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. We who were lost have been found. In the name of ☩ Jesus, our sins are forgiven! **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Opening Hymn "Rise Up, O Saints of God!"

1. Rise up, O saints of God!
From vain ambitions turn;
Christ rose triumphant that your hearts
with nobler zeal might burn.
2. Speak out, O saints of God!
Despair engulfs earth's frame;
as heirs of God's baptismal grace,
the word of hope proclaim.
3. Rise up, O saints of God!
The kingdom's task embrace;
redress sin's cruel consequence;
give justice larger place.
4. Give heed, O saints of God!
Creation cries in pain;
stretch forth your hand of healing now,
with love the weak sustain.
5. Commit your hearts to seek
the paths which Christ has trod;
and, quickened by the Spirit's pow'r,
rise up, O saints of God!

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, **direct us in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Walk in the way of life and hold fast to God

Response: Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 1 *They are like trees planted by streams of water.*

Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

Their delight is in the law of the Lord, and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.

Luke 14:25-33 *Jesus says: Disciples, give up your possessions and carry the cross*

Before: The holy Gospel . . . **Glory to you, O Lord.**

After: The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Message "Tough Talk: Carry the Cross,
Choose Life"

Pastor Bill Nelsen

Hymn of the Day "Will You Come and Follow Me"

1. "Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be
known, will you let my life be grown in you and you in
me?"

2. "Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life attract or
scare? Will you let me answer pray'r in you and you in
me?"

3. "Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the pris'ners free and never be the same? Will
you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?"

4. “Will you love the you you hide if I but call your name? Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same? Will you use the faith you’ve found to reshape the world around, through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?”

5. Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name. Let me turn and follow you and never be the same. In your company I’ll go where your love and footsteps show. Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Lord, listen to your children praying; Lord, send your Spirit in this place; Lord, listen to your children praying; send us love, send us power, send us grace.

Offering & Giving Prayer

Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Holy Communion

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow’r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory, 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

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

Communion Hymn

“Lamb of God”

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, grant us peace.

Prayer after Communion

O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Blessing

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, ✠ bless us now and forever. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn “Lift High the Cross”

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

1. Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain*

2. All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brows the seal of him who died. *Refrain*

3. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. *Refrain*

4. So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain*

Dismissal

Go in peace. Do not lose heart. **Thanks be to God.**