

August 30, 2026
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost



8470 Landen Drive Maineville, Ohio

*At Abiding Word
We gather around the Word (worship)
We grow in the Word (education)
And we share the Word with the world (outreach).*



Abiding Word Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wisconsin Synod
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Welcome!

To all who have gathered here this morning we welcome you in the name of Christ our Lord. Through him we have access to God in boldness and confidence. (Ephesians 3:12) Join us after the service for coffee. Join us for Adult Bible Class at 11:00 am. Sunday School classes begin September 20.

UNEXPECTED TRUTHS

The opening lines of the United States Declaration of Independence boldly assert that certain truths are “self-evident”—truths accessible to human reason and widely recognized by observation of the world.. The founders appealed to principles they believed reasonable people could recognize simply by reflecting on human nature and justice. These truths were meant to be obvious, clear to the mind, and persuasive in the public square.

Lutherans, however, note that the most important truths revealed in the Bible are not self-evident at all. In fact, they frequently appear surprising or even contrary to human expectations. Scripture teaches that humanity is not naturally good but deeply sinful. It declares that salvation cannot be achieved through human effort but comes entirely by God’s grace. Most unexpected of all is the message that God brings forgiveness and eternal life through the suffering and death of Jesus Christ.

Biblical truth is revealed by God rather than discovered by reason alone. While some truths may seem obvious, the truths of the Bible are often unexpected.

CROSS COMES BEFORE CROWN

Some churches teach that if a person follows God, God responds by granting prosperity and peace, as would only be expected. Today we see how that is nonsense. The Bible explains that if we are part of the Church of God, we will have to bear crosses. Believers suffer in this world, sometimes just because they are believers.

Why bother? We carry our crosses in gratitude for Jesus carrying his cross, one too heavy for us because it was weighted down with our sin. We carry our crosses because we know that in those moments of struggle, we are forced to turn to Christ and rely on his strength. This is the unexpected path, the one Jesus himself walked: the cross comes before the crown.

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment.

Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

Silence for meditation and reflection

God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

Amen.

1008 Gloria (Amer) - NETTLETON

Tune: NETTLETON



1 Glo - ry be to God in heav - en, peace to those he loves so
2 On - ly Son of God the Fa - ther, Lamb who takes our sin a -



well. On the earth let all his peo - ple speak his
way, now with him in tri - umph seat - ed— for your



grace, his won - ders tell: Lord, we praise you for your
mer - cy, Lord, we pray: Je - sus Christ, most high and



glo - ry, might - y Fa - ther, heav - en's King; hear our
ho - ly, Sav - ior, you are God a - lone in the



joy - ful ad - o - ra - tion and ac - cept the thanks we bring.
glo - ry of the Fa - ther with the Spir - it, Three in One!

Text: Michael A. Perry

Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, Harrisburg, 1813

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Tune: Public domain

THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow him wherever he leads; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING

JEREMIAH 15:15–21

¹⁵Lord, 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. ¹⁶When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, Lord God Almighty. ¹⁷I 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. ¹⁸Why is my pain unending and my wound grievous and incurable? You are to me like a deceptive brook, like a spring that fails.

¹⁹Therefore 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. ²⁰I 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.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

ROMANS 8:18–25

¹⁸I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 16:21–26

²¹From 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.

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

²³Jesus 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.”

²⁴Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. ²⁶What 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?

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

SERMON on MATTHEW 16:21–26

APOSTLES' CREED

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

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there 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.**

Offering *(At this time our usher will bring our thank offering to the Lord.)*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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.**

Be seated

<i>HYMN: COME, FOLLOW ME, THE SAVIOR SPAKE</i>

<i>702</i>

Stand

Almighty God, we thankyou for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do.
Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be
strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, 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 T give you peace.
Amen.

Be seated

<i>HYMN: CLING TIGHTLY TO THE WORD OF GOD</i>
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<i>707</i>
