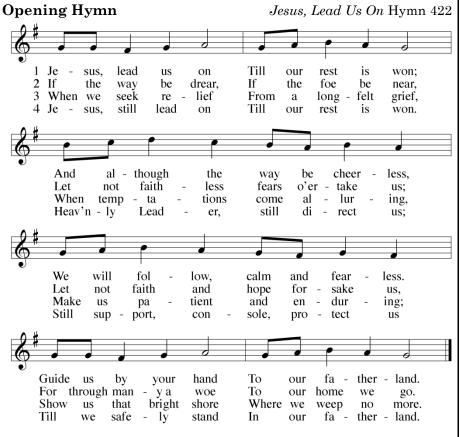
### 17th Sunday after Pentecost

September 16 & 19, 2021

**The Season** The Sundays after Pentecost focus on how Christians live in response to all that God has done for us. This part of the Church Year focuses on *Jesus' Grace Is All In All To Us*.

**The Sunday** Just how deeply should the Word of God penetrate heart and life? Jesus himself is the model in whose footsteps we follow, stumbling though that following be. Jesus' Grace is All in All to Us...It leads us to pick up our cross and follow him.



Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700–60, adapt.; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–97, alt. Tune: SEELENBRÄUTIGAM (55 88 55) Adam Drese, 1620–1701.

#### Stand

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**

## Morrison Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod



Our mission is to

Glorify God as we

Gather

around the **Gospel** to help people

**Grow** in the **Gospel** 

and

Go with the Gospel

**Welcome!** We thank God that you have joined us at worship today.

Restrooms are located in the basement. Hearing loop headphones and Large Print Hymnals are available from an usher.

If your children need to leave worship, please take them to the basement. A TV broadcasts the service in the basement.

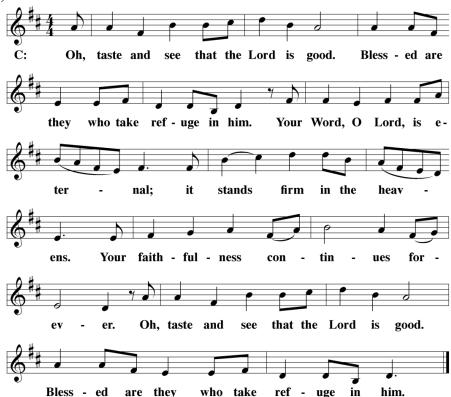
Today we gather together in the presence of God. He is present among us in a special way through his Word and Sacrament. We humbly acknowledge our sin and rejoice in the good news of forgiveness through the life and death of Christ. This is the focus of our worship.

- M: 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.
- C: 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.
- M: 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.
- C: Amen.

#### PRAYER AND PRAISE

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

#### Oh, Taste and See



# Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Lord, we pray that your mercy and grace may always go before and follow after us that, loving you with undivided hearts, we may be ready for every good and useful work; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

#### C: Amen

Be Seated

#### THE WORD

First Lesson Jeremiah 38:1-13

Jeremiah warned the people of the coming judgment of God. How God loved his people! He always sacrifices his best to save the perverse and the rebellious, beginning with his own Son and then with the lives of his apostles and prophets. How disgraceful that for the sake of God's love and faithfulness, the faithful and loving servant receives abuse and persecution! Notice that the most severe persecution and abuse comes from those who should know better, and the only help comes from an outsider, a foreigner. Not much has changed, has it? Warn the nation about the sword of God's justice hanging over a people that defends the murder of children, every form of perversion, and that insists God's truth is relative and not absolute. But do not expect a medal! Expect what God promised: the cross. Or would we rather not? Listen again to the closing words of the gospel.

38 Shephatiah son of Mattan, Gedaliah son of Pashhur, Jehukal son of Shelemiah, and Pashhur son of Malkijah heard what Jeremiah was telling all the people when he said, <sup>2</sup> "This is what the LORD says: 'Whoever stays in this city will die by the sword, famine or plague, but whoever goes over to the Babylonians will live. They will escape with their lives; they will live.' <sup>3</sup> And this is what the LORD says: 'This city will certainly be given into the hands of the army of the king of Babylon, who will capture it."

<sup>4</sup> Then the officials said to the king, "This man should be put to death. He is discouraging the soldiers who are left in this city, as well as all the people, by the things he is saying to them. This man is not seeking the good of these people but their ruin."

<sup>5</sup> "He is in your hands," King Zedekiah answered. "The king can do nothing to oppose you."

<sup>6</sup> So they took Jeremiah and put him into the cistern of Malkijah, the king's son, which was in the courtyard of the guard. They lowered Jeremiah by ropes into the cistern; it had no water in it, only mud, and Jeremiah sank down into the mud.

<sup>7</sup> But Ebed-Melek, a Cushite, [c] an official [d] in the royal palace, heard that they had put Jeremiah into the cistern. While the king was sitting in the Benjamin Gate, <sup>8</sup> Ebed-Melek went out of the palace and said to him, <sup>9</sup> "My lord the king, these men have acted wickedly in all they have done to Jeremiah the prophet. They have thrown him into a cistern, where he will starve to death when there is no longer any bread in the city."

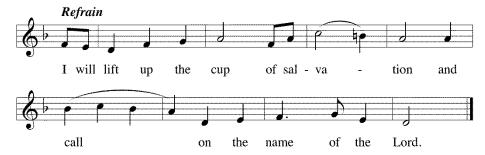
<sup>10</sup> Then the king commanded Ebed-Melek the Cushite, "Take thirty men from here with you and lift Jeremiah the prophet out of the cistern before he dies."

<sup>11</sup> So Ebed-Melek took the men with him and went to a room under the treasury in the palace. He took some old rags and worn-out clothes from there and let them down with ropes to Jeremiah in the cistern. <sup>12</sup> Ebed-Melek the Cushite said to Jeremiah, "Put these old"

rags and worn-out clothes under your arms to pad the ropes." Jeremiah did so, <sup>13</sup> and they pulled him up with the ropes and lifted him out of the cistern. And Jeremiah remained in the courtyard of the guard. (NIV)

# Psalm of the Day We will sing the refrain and read the verses responsively

Psalm 116



I love the LORD, for he <u>heard</u> my voice; he heard my cry for mercy.

Because he turned his <u>ear</u> to me, I will call on him as long <u>as</u> I live.

The LORD is gracious and <u>right</u>eous; when I was in great need, he <u>saved</u> me.

### Refrain

For you, O LORD, have delivered my <u>soul</u> from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from <u>stum</u>bling.

How can I repay the LORD for all his goodness to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.

Glory be to the Father and <u>to</u> the Son and to the Holy <u>Spir</u>it,

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

Second Lesson 1 Peter 4:12-19

The cross by definition is anything that we suffer as a consequence of our relationship with Christ. It is not the suffering that is ours in consequence of our own sins; the bankrupt gambler, the divorced adulterer, and the imprisoned murderer are receiving the due reward of their evil deeds. But the soul that struggles with temptations to be a wastrel or impure or violent, suffers in the struggle. His conscience suffers when he wants the forbidden as well as when he actually falls. Yes, it is indeed hard even for the righteous to be saved! Even in triumph over temptation there is temptation, the temptation to be self righteous. Therefore, in every day and every way we have

but this consolation, that our righteousness can only be the gift of the Crucified, and that God will not despise us in our struggle to follow under his cross.

<sup>12</sup> Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup> If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. <sup>15</sup> If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. <sup>16</sup> However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. <sup>17</sup> For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? <sup>18</sup> And,

"If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?" [Proverbs 11:31]

<sup>19</sup> So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good. (NIV)

## Verse of the Day

M: Alleluia. Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. Alleluia. (Romans 15:4)

Stand

Gospel Mark 8:27-35

Those who confess that Jesus is the Christ and not just another great prophet or teacher or role model for good living must let even this truth penetrate: Christ came to suffer, Christ came to die; he did it in perfect obedience to his Father; he did it in perfect love for us and for our salvation. His obedience and love were not cheap. Ours should not be either. We are not saved to sin all the more. We are rescued for life and for life eternal but only in the procession of cross bearers following in his footsteps. Notice that our cross bearing is a necessary consequence of believing, but it is not a cause of salvation. Notice, too, the emphasis on the singular in vss. 34-35: *Anyone, whoever.* No one cross-less can hide in the procession of cross bearers; no cross, no Christian. As Peter well understood, the cross is always painful. The cross is anything that we suffer in consequence of our faith in Christ, e.g., outward persecution or ridicule, but even more often, internal struggle with temptations to pet sins and to sins of moral indifference and laziness, and to sins of either self-righteousness or of despair.

 $^{27} \, \text{Jesus}$  and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?"

<sup>28</sup> They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets."

<sup>29</sup> "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

Peter answered, "You are the Messiah."

<sup>30</sup> Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

<sup>31</sup> He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

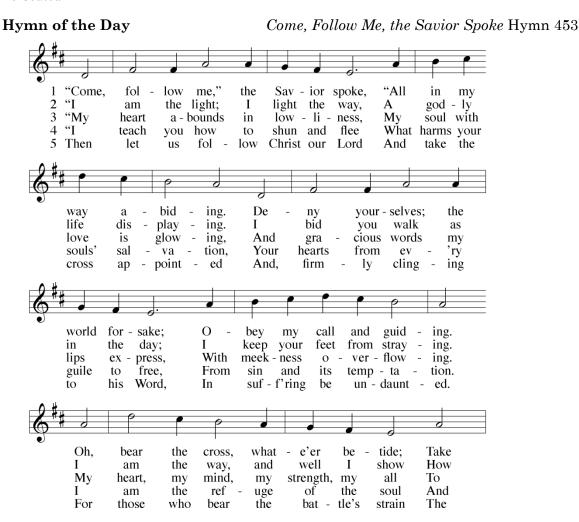
<sup>33</sup> But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

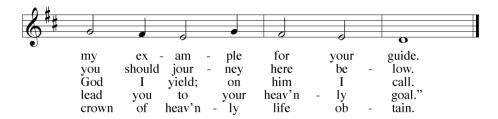
<sup>34</sup> Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. (NIV)

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be Seated





Text: Johann Scheffler, 1624-77, abr., st. 1-3, 5; Geistliche Lieder und Lobgesänge, 1695, st. 4; tr. Charles W. Schaeffer,

1813–96, alt.

Tune: MACHS MIT MIR, GOTT (87 87 88) Bartholomäus Gesius, c. 1555–1613, adapt.

# Sermon Mark 8:27-35

# Grace Leads Us To Pick Up Our Cross and Follow Jesus

Stand

## **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.

# 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.

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

#### C: Amen

#### Benediction

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

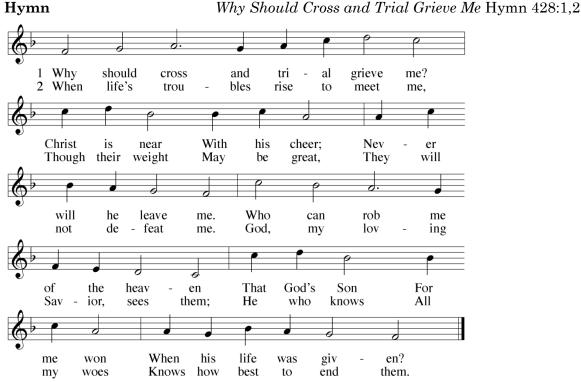
The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

Be Seated



Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76, st. 1-3, abr.; Harlyn J. Kuschel, b. 1945, st. 4; tr. composite, st. 1-3. St. 4 © 1993 Harlyn J. Kuschel. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Tune: WARUM SOLLT ICH MICH DENN GRÄMEN (8 33 6 D) Johann G. Ebeling, 1637–76.