

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 7, 2025

10:15 am

Prelude

Announcements

Introduction

Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ.

Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life"—to choose life in God as our own.

Confession and 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.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ✙ Jesus, your sins are forgiven! **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn: ELW #335 "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"

1. Jesus, keep me near the cross, there's a precious fountain; free to all, a healing stream flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

Refrain: **In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever; till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.**

2. Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me; there the bright and morning star sheds its beams around me. Refrain

3. Near the cross! I Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me; help me walk from day to day with its shadow o'er me. Refrain

4. Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hoping, trusting ever, till I reach the golden strand just beyond the river. Refrain

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Prayer of the Day

Direct us, O Lord God, 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.

Readings and Psalm

First Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the LORD; or choose death by following other gods.

¹⁵“See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

Psalm: Psalm 1

¹Happy 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!

²**Their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and they meditate on God’s teaching day and night.**

³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

⁴**It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

⁶**For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

Second Reading: Philemon 1-21

Onesimus, a new Christian and a man enslaved by Philemon, has helped Paul, who is in prison. Paul writes this letter to his friend Philemon to encourage him to receive Onesimus, upon his return, as a sibling in Christ.

¹Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To our beloved coworker Philemon, ²to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house:

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶ I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. ⁷ I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

⁸ For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, ⁹ yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰ I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment.

¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. ¹² I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³ I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵ Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, ¹⁶ no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. ¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹ Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. Let your face shine upon your servant,* and teach me your statutes.

Alleluia. (Ps. 119:135)

The Gospel according to Luke, starting with the 14th Chapter, **Glory to you O Lord.**

Gospel: Luke 14:25-33

Jesus speaks frankly about the costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.

²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: ELW #798 "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.

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Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

Sharing of Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you all. **And also with you.**

Prayers of Intercession

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church to follow in your ways, that it may be a witness to your love for all people. Help us choose all that is life-giving and confront the forces of death. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for creation, that it may be cherished and nurtured. Sustain farmlands, animals, and waters; restore places affected by calamities; and shield coastlands from rising seas. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for those in authority. Grant them wisdom to govern justly and compassion to care for the marginalized. Equip them for actions that further the common good. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for those who are sick, hungry, unhoused, or lonely (*especially*). May they find healing through your love and the care of those around them. Lead us to be your hands and feet in the world. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation, that we may be united in love and faith. Refresh our hearts in Christ, and deepen our support of one another. We pray that our sharing of faith may transform lives. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We thank you for those who have died and now dwell with the saints. Surround them with your divine mercy, that they find peace and rest in your loving embrace. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

Offering and Offertory Hymn: ELW #884

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

**Praise God, from whom all blessing flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

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Offering Prayer

Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

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.

Thanksgiving at the Table

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

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.

Invitation to Communion

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.
Come to this meal of mercy.

Communion Hymn: ELW #685 "Take My Life, That I May Be"

(verses 1, 2, 5, and 6)

- 1. Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee; take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.**
- 2. Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love; take my fee and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.**
- 5. Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be they royal throne.**
- 6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store; take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.**

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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 you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: ELW #660 "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 captian 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 has promised, draw us all to thee. Refrain**
- 4. So shall our song of triumph ever be; praise to the Crucified for victory. Refrain**

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Dismissal

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

Thanks be to God.

Prelude

- ✚ **Worship Time Has Changed:** Starting today, worship time is changed to 10:15 am. Sunday school will start on September 21, 2025 at 9:00 am.
- ✚ **Prayers:** Please continue to keep our members and loved ones in your prayers, including Arlen, Lan-Shiang, Ken, Deb, Ruth, Barry, Monica, Jeff, Jenny, Dennis, Caroline, Nathan, Sue Bogenschutz, the Tryhus Family and Pastor Jenna and her family.
- ✚ **Directory Update:** Please check your contact information in the directory in the Fellowship Hall. If it is correct as is, please place a check mark so we know it has been approved.
- ✚ **Sunday School** is a very important resource for our youth. We are searching for one of more volunteers to provide this resource to our children/grandchildren. If you are interested please speak with Pastor Jenna, Bob or Eric.
- ✚ **Concert & Cream** has been rescheduled for Saturday, September 27, 2025. Meal starts at 5:30 pm, concert at 6:30 pm.

Calvary Lutheran Church
19216 Rapidan Avenue
Mankato, Minnesota 56001

Pastor Jenna Couch
Ministers: All Members

Church Phone: 507-278-3317
E-mail: office@calvaryrapidan.org
Website: calvaryrapidan.org
Facebook: Calvary Lutheran Rapidan

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