

UNEXPECTED TRUTHS
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OUTDOOR WORSHIP
8-30-26

WORSHIP THEME: There are so many wonderful surprises that God reveals in the Word of God. Biblical truth is revealed by God and cannot be discovered by reason alone. While some truth can be obvious to human reason, the truths of the Bible are often unexpected. Today, the unexpected truth revealed is that “Cross Before Crown.”

† GOD CALLS †

CALL TO WORSHIP
Psalm 26

Pastor: Test me, O Lord, and try me
ALL: Examine my heart and mind

Pastor: For Your love is ever before me,
ALL: And I walk continually in your truth.

Pastor: I love the house where you live, O Lord
ALL: The place where your glory dwells.

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
ALL: Amen!

OPENING SONG
“Glory Be to God the Father” (LSB 506, v. 1-3)

Glory be to God the Father, Glory be to God the Son,
Glory be to God the Spirit: Great Jehovah , Three in One!
Glory, glory While eternal ages run

Glory be to him who loved us, Washed us from each spot and stain;
Glory be to him who bought us, Made us kings with him to reign!
Glory, glory To the Lamb that once was slain!

Glory to the King of angels, Glory to the Church’s King,
Glory to the King of nations; Heav’n and earth, your praises bring!
Glory, glory To the King of Glory sing!

† GOD CLEANSSES †

TIME OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus to forgive us.

ALL: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, for sins of habit and sins of choice, for the evil I have done and good I have failed to do, You should cast me from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

Pastor: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In His great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

SONG OF PRAISE

“Crown Him With Many Crowns” (LSB 525 v 1, 3, 4)

1-Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon his throne;
Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns All music but its own.
Awake my soul, and sing Of him who died for thee,
And hail him as thy matchless king Through all eternity.

3-Crown Him the Lord of love. Behold his hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above, In beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bend their wond'ring eyes At mysteries so bright.

4-Crown Him the Lord of life, Who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife For those he came to save.
His glories now we sing, Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring And lives that death may die.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you all!

ALL: And also with you!

† GOD SPEAKS †

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING Jeremiah 15:15-21

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."

SECOND READING Romans 12:9-21

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. ^[a] Do not be conceited.

¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," ^[b] says the Lord. ²⁰ On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him;

if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." ^[c]

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 16:21-26

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 ^[a] 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?

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to You, O Christ!

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE 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.

SONG OF THE DAY
“Yet Not I, But through Christ In Me”

What a gift of grace is Jesus, my Redeemer;
there is no more for heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom,
my steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.

To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus,
for my life is wholly bound to his.
Oh, how strange and divine, I can sing: all is mine!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

The night is dark, but I am not forsaken,
for by my side, the Savior, he will stay.
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing,
for in my need his power is displayed.

To this I hold: my Shepherd will defend me;
through the deepest valley he will lead.
Oh, the night has been won, and I shall overcome!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread; I know I am forgiven;
the future sure, the price, it has been paid.
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon,
and he was raised to overthrow the grave.

To this I hold: my sin has been defeated;
Jesus now and ever is my plea.
Oh, the chains are released, I can sing: I am free!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

With ev'ry breath I long to follow Jesus,
for he has said that he will bring me home.
And day by day I know he will renew me
until I stand with joy before the throne.

To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus;

all the glory evermore to him.
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:
yet not I, but through Christ in me.

MESSAGE

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Apostles' Creed

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

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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

MONDAY

† GOD GIVES †

Here our Lord gives to us His own Body and Blood for the forgiveness of all our sins.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION

“Let us ever walk with Jesus” (LSB 685)

Let us ever walk with Jesus, Follow his example pure,
Through a world that would deceive us And to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in his foot-steps treading, Pilgrims here, our home above,
Full of faith and hope and love, Let us do our Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where you guide.

Let us suffer here with Jesus And with patience bear our cross.
Joy will follow all our sadness; Where he is, there is no loss.
Though today we sow no laughter, We shall reap celestial joy;
All discomforts that annoy Shall give way to mirth hereafter,
Jesus, here I share your woe; Help me there your joy to know.

Let us gladly die with Jesus. Since by death he conquered death,
He will free us from destruction, Give to us immortal breath.

Let us mortify all passion That would lead us into sin;
Then by grace we all may win Untold fruits of his creation.
Jesus, unto you I die, There to live with you on high.

Let us also live with Jesus. He has risen from the dead
That to life we may awaken. Jesus, since you are our head,
We are your own living members; Where you live, there we shall be
In your presence constantly, Living there with you forever.
Jesus, let me faithful be, Life eternal grant to me.

CLOSING SONG

“Lift High The Cross” (LSB 837 v. 1, 4, 6)

**Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name.**

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

**O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
Raise us, and let your cross the magnet be. Refrain:**

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

† GOD BLESSES & SENDS †

BLESSING

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon
you and be gracious to you; The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
ALL Amen!

Pastor: Go in peace, serve the Lord!
ALL: Thanks be to God