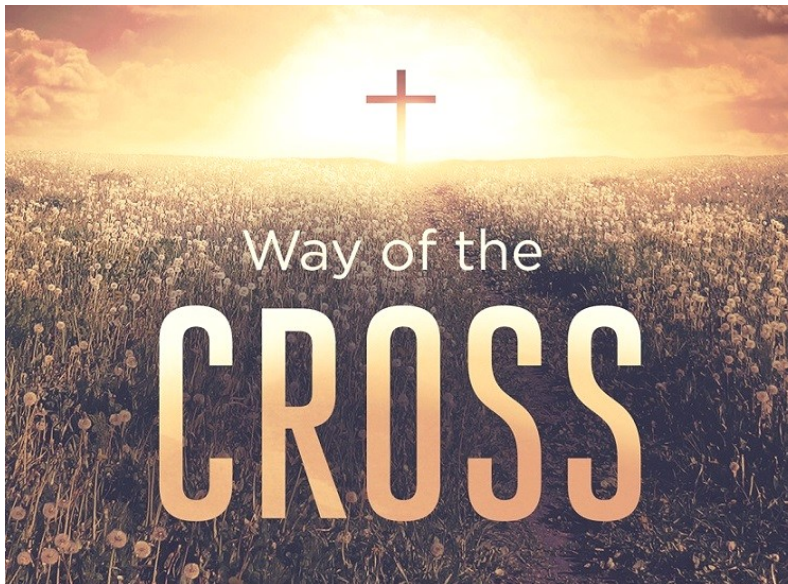


# SERVICE OF THE WORD

THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*The Church Militant: Cross, then Crown*



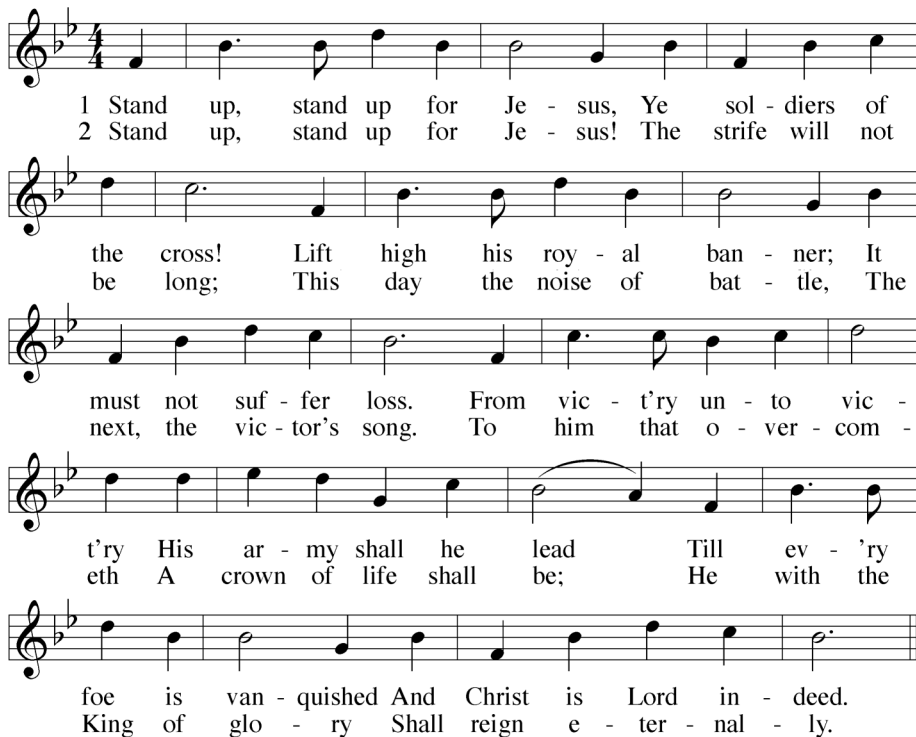
Christ Lutheran Church  
North St. Paul & Hugo, Minnesota  
September 13, 2020

**About the Service...** The Church is militant: first the cross, then the crown. Today Christ tells us that for him and for us, going God's way means death must come before life. He calls on us to deny ourselves and follow him on the way of the cross. Those words offend our sinful flesh and make our Old Adam cry with Peter, "Never!" So today the Church prays for the never-failing mercy of Christ that we might avoid such wicked and harmful thoughts and instead be guided on the cross-laden path to salvation. Then, and only then, do these words of Christ cease offending our flesh and become a joy and delight for our heart (Verse of the Day). *God bless your worship!*

## ORDER OF SERVICE

### OPENING HYMN

*Stand Up, Stand Up, For Jesus*  
CW # 474:1,2



1 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, Ye sol - diers of  
2 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus! The strife will not  
the cross! Lift high his roy - al ban - ner; It  
be long; This day the noise of bat - tle, The  
must not suf - fer loss. From vic - t'ry un - to vic -  
next, the vic - tor's song. To him that o - ver - com -  
t'ry His ar - my shall he lead Till ev - 'ry  
eth A crown of life shall be; He with the  
foe is van - quished And Christ is Lord in - deed.  
King of glo - ry Shall reign e - ter - nal - ly.

## **INVOCATION**

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**

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 OF THE DAY**

M: O Lord Jesus Christ, preserve the congregation of believers with your never-failing mercy. Help us avoid whatever is wicked and harmful, and guide us in the way that leads to our salvation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## The Word

### THE EPISTLE

Romans 12:1-8

*Our bodies are living sacrifice to God and to others.  
God's mercy moves us to offer ourselves in service to God, using the gifts that he has given us.*

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. <sup>3</sup> For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. <sup>4</sup> For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. <sup>6</sup> We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; <sup>7</sup> if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; <sup>8</sup> if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

### THE VERSE OF THE DAY

Jeremiah 15:16

*Alleluia. Your words became a joy to me, and the delight of my heart. Alleluia.*

### GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 16:21-26

*Through Peter Satan tempts Jesus to avoid the cross.  
Jesus uses this incident as a solemn call to deny one's self and to bear one's own cross.*

<sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!" <sup>23</sup> 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." <sup>24</sup> Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. <sup>26</sup> 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?"

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you O Christ!

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken*  
CW #465:1-3

1 Je - sus, I my cross have tak - en,  
2 Let the world de - spise and leave me;  
3 Go, then, earth - ly fame and trea - sure!

All to leave and fol - low you. Des - ti -  
They have left my Sav - ior, too. Hu - man  
Come, dis - as - ter, scorn, and pain! In your

tute, de - spised, for - sak - en, You on  
hearts and looks de - ceive me; You are  
ser - vice pain is plea - sure; With your

earth once suf - fered, too. Per - ish ev - 'ry  
not, like them, un - true. And since you have  
fa - vor loss is gain. I have called you

fond am - bi - tion, All I've ev - er  
smiled up - on me, God of wis - dom,  
Ab - ba, Fa - ther! You my all in

hoped or known; Yet how rich is my con -  
love, and might, Foes may hate and friends may  
all shall be. Storms may howl, and clouds may

di - tion! God and heav'n are still my own.  
shun me— Show your face, and all is bright.  
gath - er; All must work for good to me.

**THE MESSAGE** Romans 12:1-8.

**LIVE WITH A VIEW**

- I. A View of God's Mercy
- II. A View of His Will
- III. A View of the Body of Believers

*After the sermon all sing:*

- 1 Take my life and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to thee.  
Take my moments and my days; Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
  
- 5 Take my will and make it thine; It shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart—it is thine own; It shall be thy royal throne. (CW#469:1,5)

**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** *Gifts will be received as you leave.*

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

M: O Lord our God, we come to you with hearts filled with gratitude and praise.  
For the light of another day,

**C: We give you thanks.**

M: For making us your children through faith in Christ,

**C: We praise your holy name.**

M: For giving us your precious Word as a source of our joy,

**C: Accept our praise and thanks.**

M: We acknowledge, O Lord, that in spite of your loving-kindness toward us, we have often brought discredit to your holy name. We have often failed in our worship by allowing ourselves to be conformed to this world rather than conforming to you. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, we have failed to use these gifts for the best interests of your kingdom. For these and many other neglects,

**C: Forgive us, O Lord.**

M: Send us your Holy Spirit that as members of your body we may fulfill our purpose with greater zeal. Help us find meaning and joy in our lives by making us more willing to lose them in your service. Bless our nation with righteousness and peace, and use us to help alleviate the suffering of humankind.

**C: Help us be living sacrifices in service to you.**

M: We ask these petitions in the name of and for the sake of him who denied himself so that he might save us from our sins.

**C: Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER** *(new version)*

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

## BLESSING

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.

## CLOSING SONG

*Onward, Christian Soldiers*  
CW #537:1,4

On - ward, Chris-tian sol - diers, March - ing as to war,  
On - ward, then, ye faith - ful; Join the hap - py throng,  
With the cross of Je - sus Go - ing on be - fore.  
Blend with ours your voic - es In the tri - umph song:  
Christ, the roy - al mas - ter, Leads a - gainst the foe;  
Glo - ry, laud, and hon - or Un - to Christ the King;  
For - ward in - to bat - tle See his ban - ners go!  
This through count - less a - ges Saints and an - gels sing.

*Refrain*

On - ward, Chris-tian sol - diers, March - ing as to war,  
With the cross of Je - sus Go - ing on be - fore.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of two staves each. The first system contains the first four lines of lyrics, and the second system contains the last four lines of lyrics, including the refrain. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a clear emphasis on the words.

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