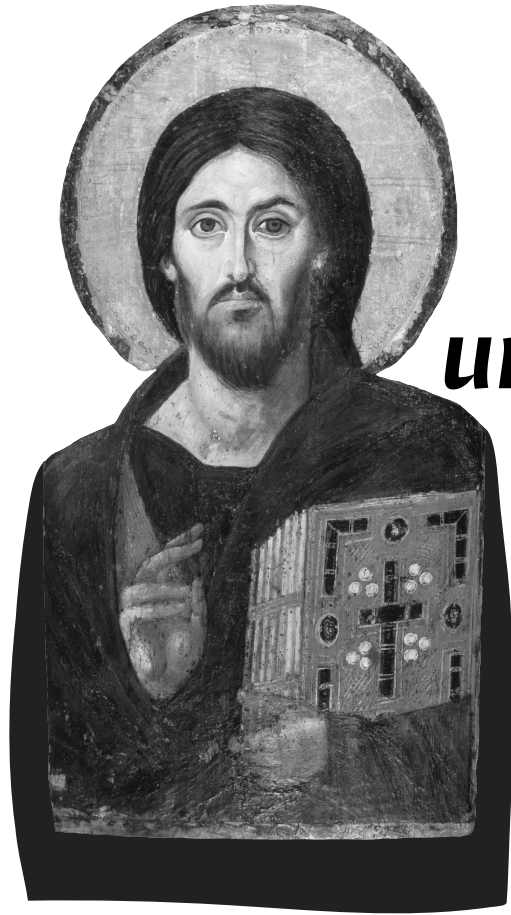




unexpected
TRUTHS

THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:
THE CROSS BEFORE THE CROWN

AUGUST 23, 2026 ✠ 8:00 AM & 10:15 AM

50 PRINCE OF PEACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

WEBSITE

popslc.org



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WELCOME

We're glad you're here and want you to feel comfortable!

WHAT TO EXPECT

The service is printed here except for hymns which are found in the blue hymnal in the pew. Join in as you're comfortable.

FOR FAMILIES

Children are welcome here! We know and Jesus knows that little kids have a hard time sitting quietly sometimes. They are still welcome here. Jesus said: Let the little children come to me! If needed, the entryway has audio so you can still participate.

NEED HELP?

Ask anyone—we're glad to help.

Pastors Boettcher and Peil would love to meet you - please introduce yourself!

HOLY COMMUNION

If you're a visitor today, please see our note to you about Holy Communion on page 9.

Thanks for being with us. God bless you through His Word.

WORSHIP SERIES: UNEXPECTED TRUTHS

Some of 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 to human judgment, the truths of the Bible are often unexpected.

TODAY: The cross comes before the crown

THE DIVINE SERVICE

 *The congregation speaks and sings the words in **BOLD** type.* 

HYMN 867 Afflicted Saint, To Christ Draw Near

INVOCATION

Please stand at the minister's direction if you are able

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

Matthew 28:19

Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

1 John 1:8

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

1 John 1:9

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

silence for reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST



Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther. We



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your



glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his



peo - ple on earth.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly



Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on



us; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the



Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer, re - ceive our prayer.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo - ple on



PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

And also with you.

Let us pray.

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.

Be seated.

THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 15:15-21

When Jeremiah complained about carrying his cross, the Lord called on him to repent and promised salvation.

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

PSALM 31

The Church hears Psalm 31 in services that feature bearing the cross, whether Jesus in his passion or Christians taking up their crosses and following him.

In you, LORD, I have taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame.
Into your hands I commit my spirit;
deliver me, LORD, my faithful God.
My life is consumed by anguish
and my years by groaning;
my strength fails because of my affliction,
and my bones grow weak.
My times are in your hands;
deliver me from the hands of my enemies, from those who pursue me.
Let your face shine on your servant;
save me in your unfailing love.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:18-25

No cross can compare with the crown of glory that is waiting.

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

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth

Please stand

right up to the present time. Not 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. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But 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

Mark 8:34

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

Alleluia!

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 16:21-26

Jesus calls his Church to walk in his path. First comes the cross, then comes the crown.

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.

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

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."

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to You, O Christ!

Be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY | 694 Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

SERMON

Please stand

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation,
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.**

*Romans 10:10; Dt 6:4
Matthew 6:9; Ex 6:3
Genesis 1:1; John 1:1
Colossians 1:16*

*Romans 10:9
Matthew 16:16
John 3:16
John 1:1,8,12,17:22
Colossians 2:9
John 1:2
John 10:30
Hebrews 1:2; John 1:3
1 Tim 2:4; Rom 3:23
John 6:41; Luke 15:20
Luke 1:34-35
John 1:14
Mk 15:25; Jn 19:16-18
Jn 19:1-3; Lk 23:53
1 Cor 15:4; Lk 24:6*

**He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Acts 1:9
Acts 7:55
Matthew 26:64
Acts 10:42; Mt 3:12
2 Peter 1:11

Jn 14:26; Acts 2:38
Genesis 1:2; John 3:6
John 15:26
Mt 3:16-17
Ez 11:5; 2 Pt 1:20-21
1 Peter 2:5; Eph 2:19-22
Ephesians 4:5; Acts 2:38
1 Co 15:35-49; 1 Thes 4
Psalm 106:48*

Be seated

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray to the Lord for all that we need and on behalf of all people, that He may bestow upon us the riches of His grace and that we may receive His gifts with faith and thanksgiving in our hearts.

For those outside the kingdom; for missionaries near and far; for the ministries of our Church whereby the Gospel is spoken to those who have not heard; and for those who hear, that they may be brought to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For all families, for husbands and wives to live in faithfulness to each other, for all mothers with child, for all children, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the healing of the sick, the relief of the suffering, the comfort of the grieving and

the peace of the dying, and for those who care for them in their afflictions, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

We pray for... Mike and Joeleen Jones, Betty Moser, John Farrel (all with health struggles), Judy (Nancy Brandt's sister diagnosed with cancer), Brent's son and baby Gentry (both in need of transplant), Kylie Baird (complications with pregnancy)

Lord God, giver of all that is good, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your grace to endure the changes and challenges You have put before us, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

OFFERING



Moved by God's love in Christ, we return to God our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to Him.

There is an offering plate in the entry way for those who wish to give in that way.

One time or recurring GIFTS can be given through an account on our app: Church Center (QR Code on the left.)

*Or, for a one time gift, text **Give + dollar amount (example: Give\$5) to 1 (844) 791-0302.** You'll receive a link to follow in response.*

A NOTE TO OUR GUESTS *Children and those who are not communicant members of our church may come forward for a blessing. Those who do are asked to cross their arms on their chest to indicate this.*

Prince of Peace practices closed communion, because the Bible teaches it and because we love you. That means we ask that only members of Prince of Peace or other congregations in our fellowship take the Lord's Supper this morning. This is not a judgment of anyone's faith, it is simply our desire to uphold what God says in 1 Corinthians 10 and 11 about who should receive Holy Communion and how. Because we believe from these words that Jesus' body and blood is really present in and with the bread and wine, we want to be sure that it is received in the manner He has commanded us.

Please speak to Pastor Boettcher or Pastor Peil about communing with us in the future if you're not part of our congregation. **Thank you for your understanding!**

THE SACRAMENT

Stand

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

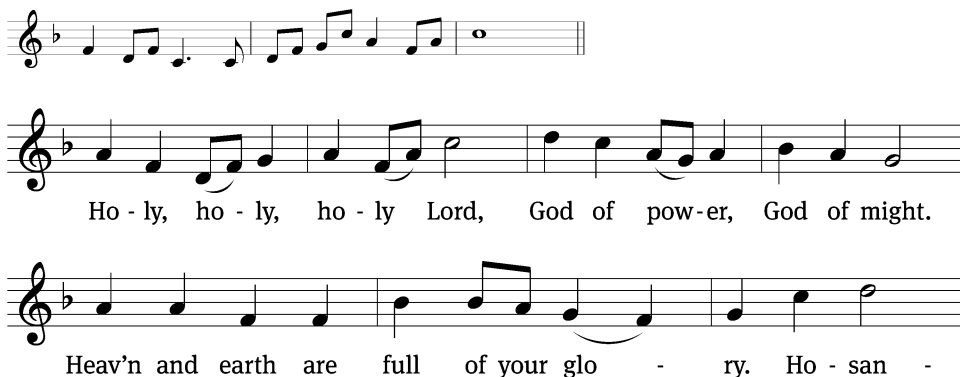
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

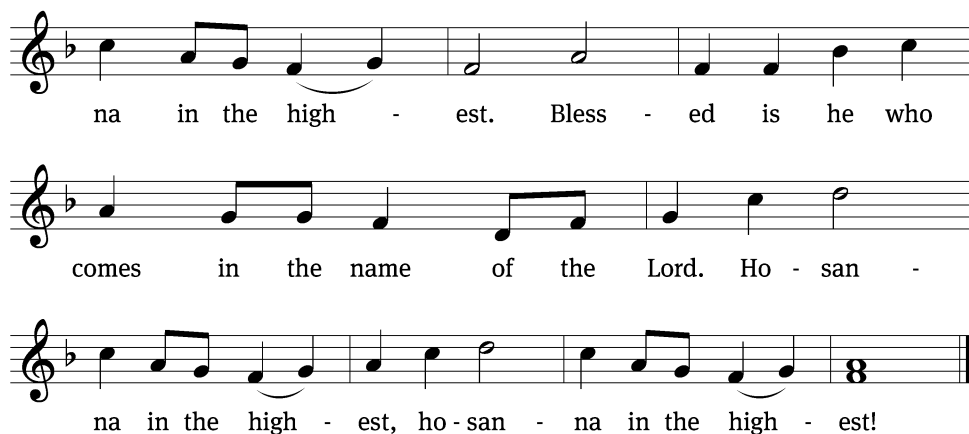
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY





PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.
By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.
By his innocent death, he overcame hell.
By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until

we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD JESUS

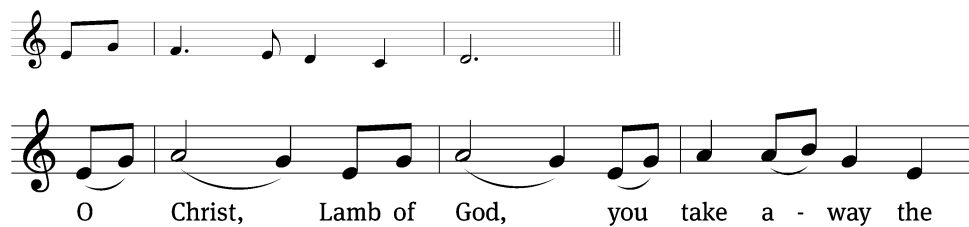
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my ☩ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my ☩ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD





Be seated

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

HYMN 704 Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus

HYMN 710 Beneath the Cross

After the distribution, the minister speaks this blessing:

The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting. Go in peace. Your ✠ sins are forgiven.

Amen.

PRAYER

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;

His mercy endures forever.

Psalms 118:1

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

1 Corinthians 11:26

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BLESSING

Numbers 6:24-26

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.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN 405 On My Heart Imprint Thine Image



We thank our Lord for Amy Sehloff and her gifts, used to adorn our worship with music this morning!