

## WHAT LUTHERANS BELIEVE

**THE BIBLE** – We believe that EVERY word in the Bible is inspired by God, and therefore the whole Bible is the true, unalterable Word of God, clearly teaching the way of salvation. (2Ti. 3:15-17).

**GOD** – We believe that God is ONE (Dt. 6:4) and that He has revealed Himself in three distinct Persons (Mt. 3:13-17), the Father, our Creator and Preserver; the Son, Jesus, Who is both God and Man, and our only Saviour; the Holy Spirit, Who creates faith in our hearts and enables us to live a God-pleasing life.

**MAN** – We believe that God created man with body and soul, in His image, but man of his own free will lost this image through sin. (Gn. 1:27; 2:7; 3.)

**SIN** – “Sin is the transgression of the Law.” (1Jn 3:4). There are two kinds of sin: original (inherited) sin (Ps. 51:5) and actual sin (sin in thought, word and deed) (Mt. 15:19). Man is subject to death and eternal damnation by reason of the guilt that attaches to sin.

**REDEMPTION** – We believe that God out of pure love and mercy redeemed mankind from sin through the all-sufficient sacrifice of His only Son, Jesus, and His resurrection shows that God was satisfied with the work of Christ. (Jn 3:16; 1Jn 2:2; Ro. 4:25).

**FAITH** – We believe that the sinner must personally receive the merits of Jesus for salvation and trust that, “Jesus died for me.” (Jn 17:3; Ja 1:21; Ps. 31:14).

**THE CHURCH** – We believe that the church, established by Christ is the whole number of believers in Christ, for only believers are members of the church. Jesus Christ is its one and only foundation (Ep. 2:19-22). The church is found wherever the Gospel of Jesus Christ is preached and the Sacraments are administered according to Christ’s institution.

**SACRAMENTS** – We believe that Christ instituted two sacraments, and when Baptism is administered to infants and adults, according to the command of Christ, God offers His grace and forgiveness of sins (Acts 22:16). In the Lord’s Supper communicants receive in, with and under the bread and wine also Christ’s body and blood. Communicants believing this word of promise receive this for the forgiveness of sins (1Co. 11:24-25).

**SECOND COMING OF CHRIST** – We believe that Christ will return visibly to earth (Acts 1:11) on the Last Day (Mk. 13:32) to judge the world (Acts 10:42). The believers will go to heaven, to be with God forever (1Th. 4:13-18). The unbelievers will go to hell, eternally separated from God (Mt. 25:32, 46).

**RESURRECTION** – We believe that on the Last Day believers in Christ will rise from the dead, their souls reunited with their earthly bodies and glorified by Christ (Jn 14:19; 17:24).

# Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 17 A)

## September 3, 2023

### **INTROIT**

*Psalm 37:5-7; Antiphon: Psalm 37:4*

*Delight yourself in the LORD,  
and he will give you the desires of your heart.*

*Commit your way to the LORD;  
trust in him, and he will act.*

*He will bring forth your righteousness as the light,  
and your justice as the noonday.*

*Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him;  
fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way,  
over the man who carries out evil devices!*

**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.**

*Delight yourself in the LORD,  
and he will give you the desires of your heart.*

### **COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**P** *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 the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

**G** *♪[Amen]♪*

### **GRADUAL**

*Psalm 34:9, 19*

*Fear the LORD, you his saints,  
for those who fear him lack nothing!*

*Many are the afflictions of the righteous,  
but the LORD delivers him out of them all.*

### **RESPONSE FOR PRAYERS**

*After each petition:*

**P** *Lord, in Your mercy*  
**G** **hear our prayer.**

## **Jeremiah 15:15-21 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup> O LORD, you know;  
remember me and visit me,  
and take vengeance for me on my  
persecutors.

In your forbearance take me not away;  
know that for your sake I bear  
reproach.

<sup>16</sup> Your words were found, and I ate  
them,  
and your words became to me a joy  
and the delight of my heart,  
for I am called by your name,  
O LORD, God of hosts.

<sup>17</sup> I did not sit in the company of  
revelers,  
nor did I rejoice;  
I sat alone, because your hand was  
upon me,  
for you had filled me with  
indignation.

<sup>18</sup> Why is my pain unceasing,  
my wound incurable,  
refusing to be healed?  
Will you be to me like a deceitful  
brook,  
like waters that fail?

<sup>19</sup> Therefore thus says the LORD:  
“If you return, I will restore you,  
and you shall stand before me.  
If you utter what is precious, and not  
what is worthless,  
you shall be as my mouth.  
They shall turn to you,  
but you shall not turn to them.

<sup>20</sup> And I will make you to this people  
a fortified wall of bronze;  
they will fight against you,  
but they shall not prevail over you,  
for I am with you  
to save you and deliver you,  
declares the LORD.

<sup>21</sup> I will deliver you out of the hand of  
the wicked,

and redeem you from the grasp of the  
ruthless.”

## **Romans 12:9-21 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> Let love be genuine. Abhor what  
is evil; hold fast to what is good. <sup>10</sup>  
Love one another with brotherly  
affection. Outdo one another in  
showing honor. <sup>11</sup> Do not be slothful in  
zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the  
Lord. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice in hope, be patient in  
tribulation, be constant in prayer. <sup>13</sup>  
Contribute to the needs of the saints  
and seek to show hospitality.

<sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you;  
bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice  
with those who rejoice, weep with  
those who weep. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony  
with one another. Do not be haughty,  
but associate with the lowly. Never be  
wise in your own sight. <sup>17</sup> Repay no  
one evil for evil, but give thought to do  
what is honorable in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup>  
If possible, so far as it depends on you,  
live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup> Beloved,  
never avenge yourselves, but leave it  
to the wrath of God, for it is written,  
“Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says  
the Lord.” <sup>20</sup> To the contrary, “if your  
enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is  
thirsty, give him something to drink;  
for by so doing you will heap burning  
coals on his head.” <sup>21</sup> Do not be  
overcome by evil, but overcome evil  
with good.

## **Matthew 16:21-28 (ESV)**

<sup>21</sup> From that time Jesus began to  
show his disciples that he must go to  
Jerusalem and suffer many things from  
the elders and chief priests and scribes,  
and be killed, and on the third day be  
raised. <sup>22</sup> And Peter took him aside and  
began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it  
from you, Lord! This shall never

happen to you.”<sup>23</sup> But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup> For what will it profit a man if he gains the

whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? <sup>27</sup> For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.

<sup>28</sup> Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

## **FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

### **Proper 17 A**

Jeremiah 15:15–21

Romans 12:9–21

Matthew 16:21–28

### ***The Glory of God is the Passion and Cross of Christ Jesus.***

After St. Peter confessed that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, our Lord “*began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised*” (Matt 16:21). Upon hearing this “theology of the Cross,” Simon Peter stumbled into a satanic “theology of glory.” But the glory of God is revealed in the Passion and Cross of His incarnate Son. The faithful prophets, such as Jeremiah, suffered persecution and rejection in anticipation of Jesus’ Cross. Yet the Lord did not abandon them; He remembered them, and He was with them to deliver them (Jer. 15:15–20). By His Cross Jesus has redeemed the world, and in His Resurrection He has vindicated all who trust in Him. Thus the Christian life is a discipleship of self-sacrificing love. Since Christ Jesus has reconciled us to God, we “*live peaceably with all*” (Rom. 12:18). By the certainty of His Cross and Resurrection, we “*rejoice in hope,*” and we are “*patient in tribulation*” and “*constant in prayer*” (Rom. 12:12).

### ***Next Week’s Readings from God’s Word:***

September 10 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 33:7-9; Psalm 32:1-7 (v.1); Romans 13:1-10; Matthew 18:1-20