

Carry the cross and follow me

LUKE 14:27

13th Sunday after Pentecost

September 8, 2019 10:00 am

Spanaway Lutheran Church

16001 A Street South Spanaway, Washington (253) 531-7000

13th Sunday after Pentecost September 8, 2019 * 10:00 am Before worship, speak to God in prayer. During worship, listen to God. After worship, speak to each other.

PLEASE SILENCE ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES DURING WORSHIP.

Welcome To Our Worship. If you are visiting, consider yourself at home with us and our Lord Jesus Christ. Our Family Room is available to welcome parents and children before or during worship. It is located to the left of the sanctuary. Listening devices are available; please inquire of the ushers. Prayer Requests and Announcements. If you have a prayer request this morning, or wish for Pastor to make an announcement for you, please use the prayer cards provided in the blue folder and hand the completed card to an usher. If you wish to make an announcement yourself, please check with the Pastor or the Council President for approval prior to worship. Always use a microphone to accommodate those with impaired hearing. Thank you.

INTRODUCTION

Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship today, 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 the Christ in the blessed sacrament 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.

First Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. 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.

Second Reading: Philemon 1-21

While Paul was in prison, he was aided by a runaway slave named Onesimus. The slave's master, Philemon, was a Christian friend of Paul. Paul told Onesimus to return to his master and encouraged Philemon to receive Onesimus back as a Christian brother.

Gospel: Luke 14:25-33

Jesus speaks frankly about the fearsome 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.

PRELUDES

Come, Now Is the Time to Worship With Every Act of Love

Music Team
Music Team

WELCOME

- Ushers collect prayer requests and announcements -

STAND FOR THE CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS, IF YOU CAN COMFORTABLY DO SO.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- **P** Blessed be the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, † one God, the strength of our ancestors, the host of this meal, the builder of the city that is to come.
- C Amen.
- **A** If we have died with Christ, we will also live with Christ. Let us confess our sin to the one who is faithful.
 - Silence is kept for reflection -
- A God of mercy,
- C we confess that we have sinned against you, against one another, and against the earth entrusted to our care. We are worried and distracted by many things, and we fail to love you above all else. We store up treasures for ourselves and turn away from our neighbors in need. Forgive us, that we may live in the freedom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
- P When we were laid low by sin and guilt, God made us alive together with Christ, forgiving us all our trespasses by taking our sins to the cross. For freedom Christ has set us free: Rejoice in this good news! As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ and by His authority I declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, † and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.



GREETING

- **P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. 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.

C Amen.

BE SEATED FOLLOWING THE PRAYER OF THE DAY.

FIRST LESSON

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

¹⁵See, 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 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.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 1

"Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;

but their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither.

In all that they do, they prosper.

⁴The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

⁵Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; ⁶for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

SECOND LESSON

Philemon 1-21

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

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, ²to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

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

⁴When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God ⁵because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶I pray that the

sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. ⁷I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

⁸For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, ⁹yet 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. ¹⁰I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. ¹²I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; ¹⁴but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, ¹⁶no 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.

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

L The Word of the Lord.

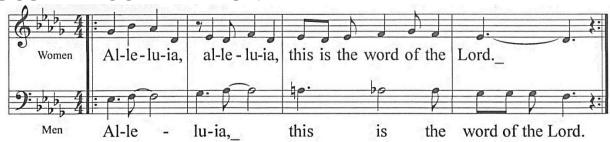
C Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor John Schier-Hanson

STAND FOR THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION, IF YOU CAN COMFORTABLY DO SO.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



- **P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 14th chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁵Now 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. ²⁷Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸For 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? ²⁹Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' ³¹Or 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? ³²If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

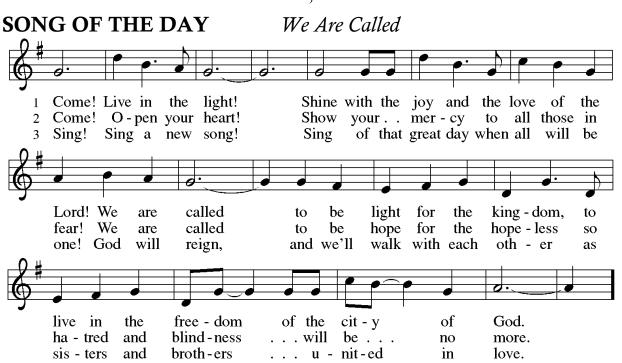
C Praise to you, O Christ.

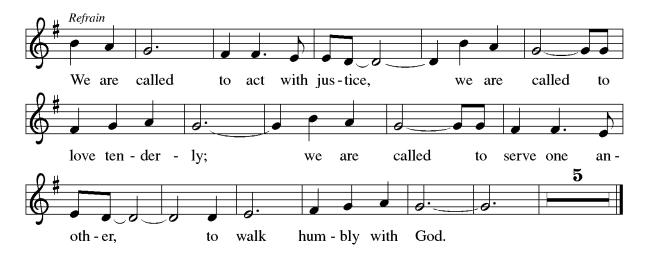
BE SEATED FOR THE SERMON.

SERMON

Pastor John Schier-Hanson

STAND FOR THE SONG OF THE DAY, IF YOU CAN COMFORTABLY DO SO.





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 again 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.

*"catholic" means "universal"

PLEASE BE SEATED FOR THE PRAYERS.

THE PRAYERS

A Sustained and nurtured by our generous God, we gather as one to pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

Each petition ends with the following dialog:

A Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Assured by your promise to hear us, we lay our prayers before your throne of grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

STAND TO SHARE THE PEACE, IF YOU CAN COMFORTABLY DO SO.

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

PLEASE BE SEATED FOR THE OFFERING.

OFFERING

Let the Peace of God Reign by Darlene Zschech

Music Team

STAND FOR THE OFFERTORY PRAYER, IF YOU CAN COMFORTABLY DO SO.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray. God our provider,

C we bring nothing into this world and we can take nothing out of it. Accept the gifts you have first given us, which we bring to your table, and with them the offering of our lives. Nourish us now with the life that really is life, revealed to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

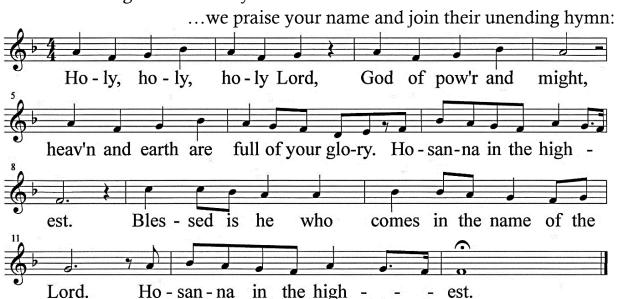
P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give God thanks and praise.
- **P** It is indeed right and salutary...



P You are indeed holy ...

... do this for the Remembrance of me.

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

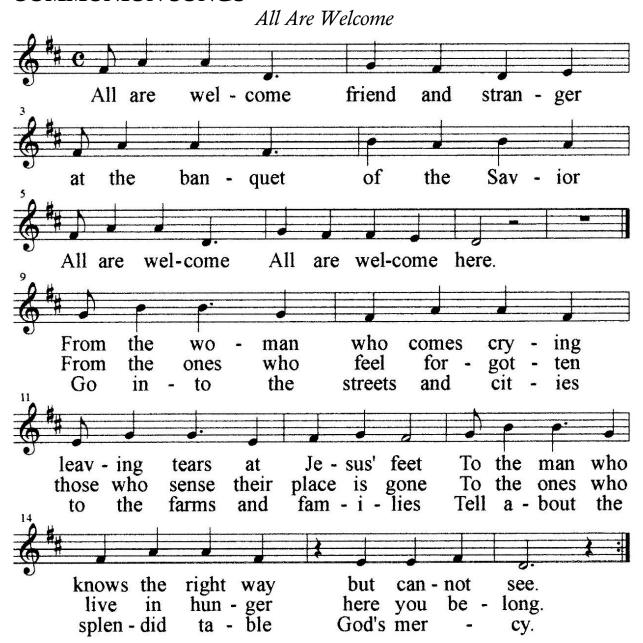


P God invites you to this table of bounty. Come, the banquet is ready.

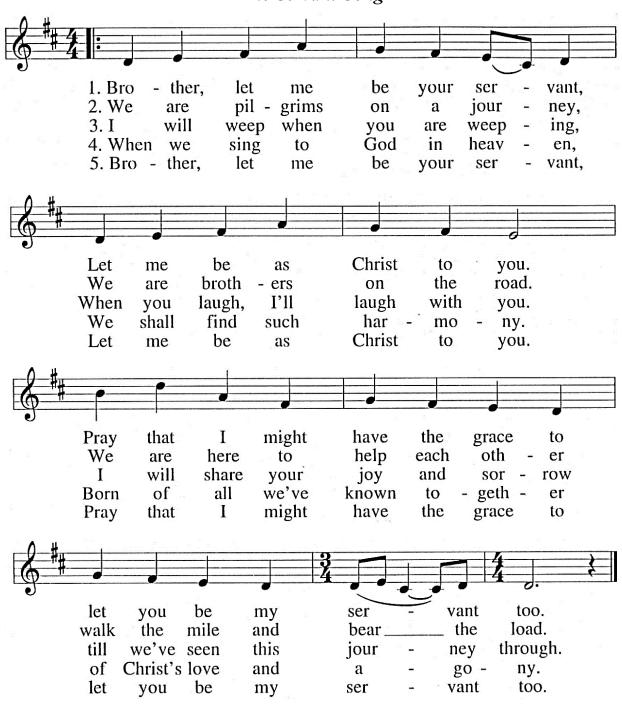
PLEASE BE SEATED.

We invite all who are baptized and believe that Christ is truly present to come to His table to commune. When we celebrate the Lord's Supper we receive the wine from a pouring chalice. Those who desire to receive wine bring an empty cup from the trays in front of the altar and wine is poured from the pouring chalice. Those desiring grape juice should bring a cup filled with juice from the trays to the altar rail. A gluten free option is available in place of the bread, let the ministers know at the altar rail. As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:

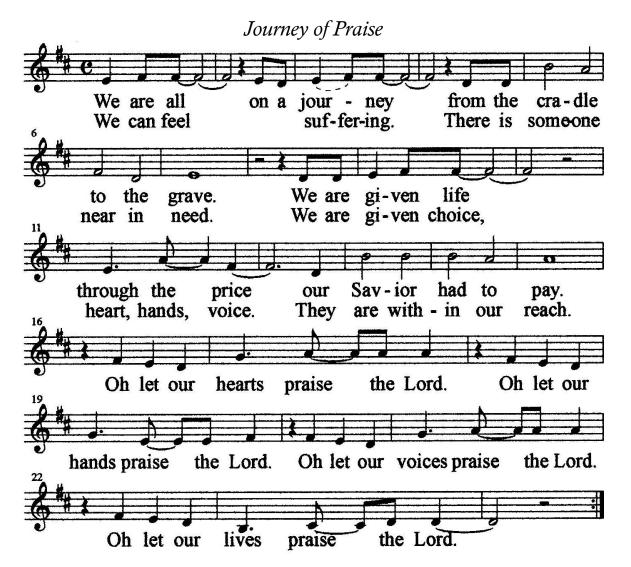
COMMUNION SONGS



The Servant Song







STAND FOR THE BLESSING, IF YOU CAN COMFORTABLY DO SO.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

- **P** The body of our Lord Jesus Christ and His most precious blood strengthen you and keep you in His grace.
- C Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A Let us pray. God of blessing, at this table we have seen you face to face, and in the gift of Christ's body and blood, our hearts have been refreshed. Send us now to shine with your goodness and bear witness to the one we have received: Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

P Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us. Almighty God † bless you with grace, mercy, and peace, now and forever.

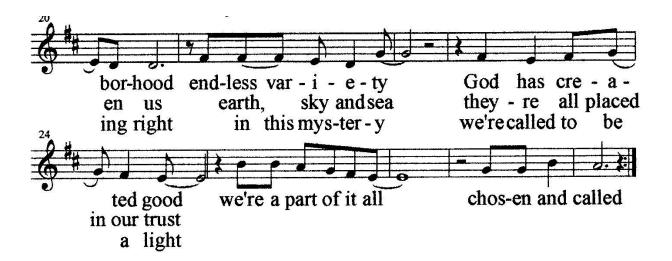
C Amen.

BE SEATED FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STAND FOR THE CLOSING SONG, IF YOU CAN COMFORTABLY DO SO.





DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Live in love as Christ loved us. C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Processional to the Community Garden

We Are Marching in the Light of God

Music Team

~ Words and music on the next page ~



Additional stanzas ad lib.:

We are dancing ...
We are praying ...
We are singing ...

Flowers are offered today for the Glory of God

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Worship Ministers Today

Presiding Minister	
Assisting Minister	
Minister of Music	Cheryl Drewes and Steve Howe & the Music Team
Altar Guild	. Sharon Wildfang, Cindy Boushack, Connie Carlson
Lector	Lydia Wise
Children's Message	
Communion Assistants .	Gregg Wright Osborn and Glen Ruediger
Acolyte	Hannah and Hayven Le'i
Greeters	
Ushers	Edna Coonc and Elois Macdonald
Control Booth	Jill Olson and Phil Aponte
Coffee Hour	Miriam Circle (Kay Schimke)
Holy Ground	Pastor John Schier-Hanson

Freed—From and For

Freedom flows through all the readings this day. Moses reminds the people of Israel they have the freedom to choose between life and prosperity or death and adversity. Ironically, this freedom to choose life comes through the freedom to choose obedience to the commands of God. In other words, Moses tells the people, they are free to choose bondage to God and life or bondage to sin and death. Either way they will be bound to something.

In the second reading Paul reminds Philemon that he—Paul—is not free but is a "prisoner of Christ Jesus." This is Paul's linguistic wordplay to help convince Philemon to free his slave Onesimus. Paul reminds Philemon that he has the freedom to hold on to his slave Onesimus and the freedom to grant Onesimus freedom as his brother in Christ.

In the gospel Jesus speaks a challenging word, which resonates in ways that might make modern people a tad uncomfortable. You might phrase it: Do you own your stuff or does your stuff own you? Jesus seems to suggest that our stuff, our possessions, could make it difficult to follow faithfully. It is easy to dismiss this suggestion with a wave of the hand, "Oh, that certainly is not me"—until you start to consider just how much stuff is stored up in our homes and attics and garages (some of the latter with no room for cars).

In Christ, freedom comes from letting go. Freedom comes through giving away and trusting Jesus. In Christ we are free people. Free to choose life, free to choose faithfulness, and free to open our arms wide and receive the free grace of God. This is the God who chooses to never stop loving us.