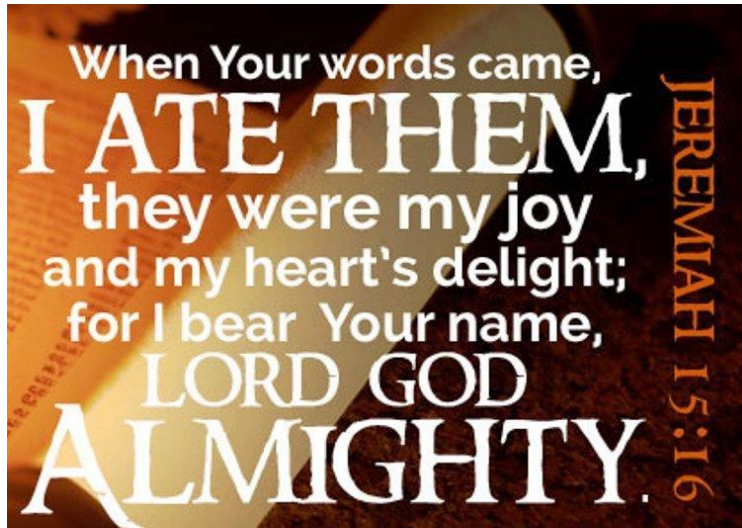


# FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

## Delight in Difficulty



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September 3, 2023

### AS WE GATHER

“Your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart” (Jeremiah 15:16). The prophet Jeremiah did not praise God with such words because his life was super easy. No, Jeremiah rejoiced in the Lord even as his life had plenty of problems. Why such delight in difficulty? Surrounded by evil in this world, like Jeremiah, we cling to the God who is good, learning to trust His Word as the means by which we receive His deliverance from our enemies of sin and death. The living, active, delightful voice of our Savior guarantees His ongoing presence in our life. Because of this, we rejoice! As we gather in the presence of Jesus this day, let us echo Jeremiah’s anthem of praise: “Your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart!”

✘ **Welcome and Announcements** ✘

HYMN

“Crown Him With Many Crowns” 525



1 Crown Him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on His throne;  
 2 Crown Him the vir - gin's Son, The God in - car - nate born,  
 3 Crown Him the Lord of love. Be - hold His hands and side,  
 4 Crown Him the Lord of life, Who tri - umphed o'er the grave  
 5 Crown Him the Lord of heav'n, En - throned in worlds a - bove,



Hark how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns All mu - sic but its own.  
 Whose arm those crim-son tro - phies won Which now His brow a-dorn:  
 Rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, In beau - ty glo - ri - fied.  
 And rose vic - to - rious in the strife For those He came to save.  
 Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n The won-drous name of Love.



A - wake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee, And  
 Fruit of the mys - tic rose, Yet of that rose the stem, The  
 No an - gels in the sky Can ful - ly bear that sight, But  
 His glo - ries now we sing, Who died and rose on high, Who  
 Crown Him with man - y crowns As thrones be - fore Him fall; Crown



hail Him as thy match-less king Through all e - ter - ni - ty.  
 root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, The babe of Beth - le - hem.  
 down-ward bend their won-d'ring eyes At mys - ter - ies so bright.  
 died e - ter - nal life to bring And lives that death may die.  
 Him, ye kings, with man - y crowns, For He is king of all.

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## INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Jeremiah 15:20b*

Pastor: Since we are gathered to delight ourselves in the Word of God and to assemble as one family around His Table, let us with repentant hearts confess our sins before our heavenly Father, seeking His forgiveness in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

*(We pause for a moment of silent prayer and confession.)*

Pastor: O Lord our God, hear us as we pray:

**People: We confess that we have not walked in Your faithfulness, turning away from You when we should be turning toward You.**

Pastor: Father, forgive us.

**People: Our love has not been genuine. We have not overcome evil with good.**

Pastor: Have mercy upon us, Lord Jesus.

**People: The grace You tell us to share with both our friends and our enemies is the mercy we also need.**

Pastor: Renew us, Spirit of truth.

**People: Remove our transgressions from us so that we may live as those who have been called by Your name, delighting in Your goodness to us in Christ. Amen.**

Pastor: "I am with you to save you and deliver you," declares the Lord. Through Jesus Christ—crucified, risen, and coming again—you have been delivered from your enemies of sin, death, and the devil. Keep His saving, steadfast love before your eyes and walk by faith in His promises. As one called to be your pastor and commissioned by Jesus to deliver the delight of His Word, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

*(Share the Peace of Christ with those around you)*

## HYMN OF PRAISE

“There is a Redeemer” 971



1 There is a Re - deem - er— Je - sus, God's own Son;  
2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, Name a - bove all names;  
3 When I stand in glo - ry, I will see His face;



Pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes - si - ah, Ho - ly One.  
Pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes - si - ah, Hope for sin - ners slain.  
There I'll serve my King for - ev - er In that ho - ly place.



Thank You, O my Fa - ther, For giv - ing us Your Son,



And leav - ing Your Spir - it Till the work on earth is done.

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## SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, Your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Give us courage to take up our cross daily and follow Him wherever He leads. Delighting in Your goodness to us, we ask for this in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**     *Jeremiah 15:15–21*     (“I am with you to save you and deliver you.”)

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.  
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.  
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.  
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?  
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.  
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.  
I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,  
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:            Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE**     *Romans 12:9–21*     (“Overcome evil with good.”)

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

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be conceited. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 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.” 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.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:**        **Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE**        *Matthew 16:25*

Pastor: Alleluia. Whoever would save his life will lose it,

**People:**        **but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. Alleluia.**

**HOLY GOSPEL**     *Matthew 16:21–28*     (Losing life and finding it in Christ.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixteenth chapter.

**People:**        **Glory to You, O Lord.**

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. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.” 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.”

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life? 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. 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.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**CREED** *Nicene Creed*

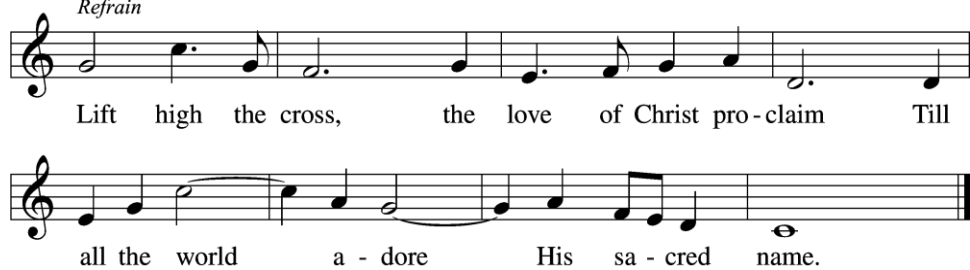
**People: I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and  
the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and  
glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**      “Lift High the Cross” 837 vs. 1-4


*Refrain*



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim Till  
all the world a-dore His sa-cred name.

1 Come, Chris-tians, fol-low where our Cap-tain trod,  
2 Led on their way by this tri-um-phant sign,  
3 All new-born sol-diers of the Cru-ci-fied  
4 O Lord, once lift-ed on the glo-rious tree,

*Refrain*



Our king vic-to-rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
The hosts of God in con-quiring ranks com-bine.  
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died.  
As Thou hast prom-ised, draw us all to Thee.

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**SERMON** “Losing is Living” Matthew 16:21-28

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: Remember the call of God through Paul in Romans 12:12:

**People:**            “Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.”

Pastor: Rejoicing in God’s promise to hear our prayers, we delight ourselves in Him, even in the difficulties of life. Together let us give voice to our constant prayers.

Heavenly Father, You alone have the power to redeem Your enemies and make them friends. In the mercy of Jesus, who has claimed us as His own, enable us to show love to our enemies, heaping Your grace upon them. As You have loved us even though we never deserve it, help us to do the same to others in our lives. In Your love,  
O Lord,

**People:**            help us to love as You have first loved us.



Pastor: Lord Jesus, our hearts delight in Your goodness despite the evil of this fallen world. You entered into our midst because of Your mission to seek and save the lost. We join with You in this mission, Lord, commissioned by Your Gospel to make known among the nations what You have done. Restore us, renew us, and lead us! We delight in the new life You have given to all who trust in You. In Your joy, O Lord,

**People: help us to rejoice in all things.**

Pastor: Spirit of truth, You resuscitate what is dead, mend what is broken, and overcome what is evil with the goodness found only in You. Turn us again and again to Your mercy that we, having received it from You, may then extend it to others. Work mightily through each of us in our vocations at church, home, work, and society. Fill the hearts and minds of all who need Your wisdom and discernment, equipping them for the challenges they face. Through it all, instill in us Your peace to guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. In Your peace, O Lord,

**People: help us to be peacemakers.**

Pastor: Be near to those who are broken in heart, body, and mind. Comfort the lonely and renew the spirit of those who despair. Clothe the naked and shelter the homeless. Let those who walk through the desert of difficulty discover the oasis of Your living water. Hear the prayers we offer for those in our family of faith who need Your healing mercies, [*including . . .*]. Your caring love for us is genuine and eternal. In Your care, O Lord,

**People: help us to care for others.**

Pastor: To You, gracious Father, be all the glory, honor, and praise, in Christ Jesus and in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## OFFERING

### ✠ SACRAMENT ✠

#### PREFACE *2 Timothy 4:22*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth! Our hearts delight in You! Your words give us joy, assuring us of the victory of the cross, where Your Son conquered both sin and death. Gathered in the name of Jesus, we remember Your steadfast love, new to us every morning! Bowing our heads and our hearts before You, we honor and praise You, O Lord, rejoicing in the goodness You now prepare our hearts to receive.

Hear us as we pray in Jesus' name and in the words He has taught us:

## **LORD'S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9–13*

**People: 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** *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\times$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\times$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **Amen.**

## AGNUS DEI

“Lamb of God” 550



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, But You have  
2 Your Gift of love they cru - ci - fied, They laughed and  
3 I was so lost, I should have died, But You have



sent Him from Your side To walk up - on this guilt - y  
scorned Him as He died: The hum - ble King they named a  
brought me to Your side To be led by Your staff and



sod, And to be - come the Lamb of God.  
fraud, And sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.  
rod, And to be called a lamb of God.



*Refrain*

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God!



O wash me in His pre - cious blood, My Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

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## DISTRIBUTION

## POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God the Father, the source of all goodness, who in perfect love sent Your only-begotten Son into this world to deliver us, we delight in the mercy we have here received. Thank You for the sacred sharing of His body and blood and for the joy that is ours in Christ, even amid the difficulties of this life. As we have received, so may we give, extending to others the grace You have for all; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## CLOSING SENTENCES *Based on Romans 12:9–21*

Pastor: Let your love be genuine. Turn from what is evil and hold fast to what is good.

**People: Let us see one another as brothers and sisters in Christ!**

Pastor: Delight yourself in the Lord even when life is difficult. Hold fast to Jesus. Rejoice in Him!

**People: Let us overcome evil with good as we go forth in Jesus' name.**

## BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

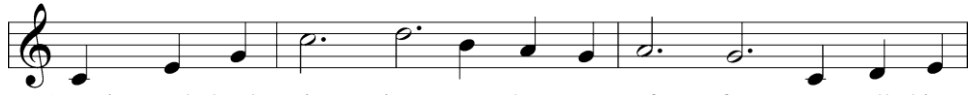
Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**People: Amen.**

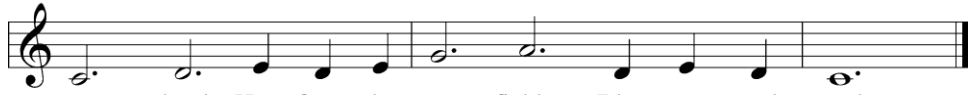
HYMN "Praise and Thanksgiving" 789 (in recognition of Labor Day)



1 Praise and thanks - giv - ing, Fa - ther, we of - fer For all things  
2 Bless, Lord, the la - bor We bring to serve You That with our  
3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing Food for Your chil - dren, By Your wise



liv - ing, Cre - at - ed good: Har - vest of sown fields, Fruits of the  
neigh - bor We may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, We would work  
guid - ing Teach us to share One with an - oth - er, So that, re -



or - chard, Hay from the mown fields, Bloss - om and wood.  
with You, Har - vest - ing, mill - ing For dai - ly bread.  
joic - ing With us, all oth - ers May know Your care.

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