

**Salem-Sauk Valley Lutheran Parish**  
**Order of Sunday Worship- 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023**  
**At Salem Lutheran Church**

**Prelude**

Emily Larson, Musician

**Welcome/Announcements**

**Invocation:**

P: We gather in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

**Opening Prayer:**

P: O Lord, our Maker, Redeemer, and Comforter, we are assembled in Your presence to hear Your holy Word. We pray that You would open our hearts by Your Holy Spirit, that through the preaching of Your Word we may be taught to repent of our sins, to believe on Jesus in life and in death, and grow day by day in grace and holiness. Hear us for Christ's sake. **C: Amen.**

**Opening Hymn:**

*"Living for Jesus"*

Praise #450

**Confession of Sin:**

P: Let us bow before the Lord and confess our sins.

**C: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Therefore, we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**Kyrie:**

*C: O God the Father in heaven, have mercy upon us!*

*O God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy upon us!*

*O God the Holy Spirit, true Comforter, have mercy upon us!*

**Absolution:**

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us, and has given his only Son to die for us, and for his sake God forgives all our sins. To those who believe in his name he gives power to become the children of God, and has promised them his Holy Spirit. Those who believe and are baptized shall be saved. Grant this Lord unto us all.

**C: Amen.**

**Gloria:**

P: Glory be to God in the highest.

*C: And on earth peace, good will toward men.*

P: The Lord be with you.

*C: And also with you.*

**Prayer of the Day:**

P: Let us pray together.

**C: O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**Psalm-26:1-8**

**First Reading- Jeremiah 15:15-21**

**Second Reading- Romans 12:9-21**  
**Gospel Reading- Matthew 16:21-28**

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

*C: God be praised for his glad tidings!*

### **Apostles Creed**

**C: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator 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, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty from whence he shall 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 life everlasting. Amen.**

**Children's Message – “Jesus Loves Me”**

**Offering and Offertory: *We give Thee but Thine own, whate'er the gift might be. All that we have is Thine alone, a trust O Lord from Thee.***

**Hymn:**

*“Fill my Cup Lord”*

Praise #271

**Sermon**

**Pastor Lexy Carson**

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

When I was in sixth grade, my first day of cross-country practice ended with me throwing up. I was miserable and embarrassed and ready to quit, throw in the towel. But my coach kept me going, to give it another try and so I did. It was thanks to her support and pushing of me that I kept going, I continued running cross country from that day until I graduated high school. That coach became a huge mentor and part of my life and still is.

When times get tough it is tempting to throw in the towel. Maybe there's been a time where your career felt like too much, it's time to try something new because this isn't right, it is too much. Maybe even in your personal life, with your marriage when times get difficult it is tempting to give up on it. Even when conflict arises in families, whether it is cousins, siblings even your own children there is a temptation to quit, to throw in the towel. A desire to start over.

It is easy to stay put, have a smile on and hold that towel close when things are looking good. When it is all green lights, roses and rainbows but when things get tough, when news, conflicts, disagreements, diagnosis rock you to your core that's when you want to run the other way, throw in the towel.

This is exactly what happens in our Gospel for today. Peter was living the good life, green lights for as far as the eye can see. Last week Jesus had just told him that he was going to build the church on Peter's confession of faith, Peter had been traveling with Jesus witnessing miracle after miracle, being fed by his word, life was really good for Peter.

Until today. Until “Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.” This news stops Peter in his tracks. And we have all been there, we’ve all received that call, gotten a message that stops us in our tracks and has us doing exactly as Peter does.

Peter says, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen!” I don’t want to believe; I want to throw in the towel and run the other way. This cannot be, this is not what I signed up for or what to be a part of. This is not the news that I want to hear. Then Jesus turns and says to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

Human things. Of course Peter has his mind set on human things. He is a human after all and he is scared, he is terrified of this news Jesus brings. Jesus is going to endure great suffering at the hands of the Jews and is going to be killed. No. Jesus, let’s just keep roaming around the countryside, doing some miracles every now and again, hauling in some fish, providing some wine at weddings, let’s be a part of those things. Let’s not talk about dying. After all, if Jesus is going to die, what does that mean for Peter? He’s worried about his own life, turning inward, Jesus you are not going to die because I don’t want to die.

Jesus literally calls Peter Satan, that’s probably the worst thing that Jesus can say to you. “Get behind me Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” To be called a rock last week and now a stumbling block this week, is quite the fall.

So why is it exactly Jesus calls Peter Satan? Throughout Scripture, Satan is after one thing, hindering faith, trying to get God’s people to listen to any other voice than God’s. In the Garden of Eden, Satan placed the seed of doubt, did God say? Wouldn’t that be appealing to eat the fruit to know as God. He was putting a different word than God’s, in Adam and Eve’s ear one far more appealing and tempting. Even when Satan comes and tempts Jesus himself in the desert, he is appealing to the human in him, look at what could be yours, you are hungry just eat. The devil is always after one thing, stopping faith. Trying to separate God from his people and he does this by putting a different word in your ear.

Peter in this passage is being Satan to Jesus Christ. He is trying to stop faith. He is trying to stop Jesus from his mission, what he came to do, to die on the cross for the forgiveness of sins. He is trying to get Jesus to throw in the towel, choosing the easier way “God forbid it, this must not happen to you.” Jesus isn’t just shouting any old name out at Peter, he full heartedly means this word. Get behind me Satan, here in this passage because Peter is no different than the Satan who was tempting Jesus in the desert. Peter is trying to hinder faith, trying to get Jesus to throw in the towel and go a different way, one more glorious and full of life not death.

And the promise in this passage is that although we end up just like Peter, wanting to throw in the towel, want to go a different way even if that means trying to get away from God himself and his mission, our hope is that Jesus goes to the cross regardless. And he goes to the cross for exactly these words Peter speaks, he goes to the cross to silence the devil, to forgive sinners like Peter and like you and me. He keeps giving us faith day after day no matter what. If even Peter, whom Jesus calls Satan will keep going after him, giving him faith he absolutely will for you. He will keep chasing you down, forgiving your sins and giving you new life.

Jesus tells his disciples, you need to deny yourself, take up your cross, follow me, lose your life for my sake, look at divine things. At the heart of all of this, at the heart of Jesus's counter word to Peter's is to know God is in control, God has you in the palm of his hands, he's got you. The true denial of the self, is taking your hands off the steering wheel, no matter how hard the news is to bear that Jesus gives, no matter how scary or nerve wrecking the diagnosis is, or the hurt and suffering you endure. It reminds me of little Milo riding on the tractor with Dan, you see his little hands grab that steering wheel and start turning like a wild man, clenching his tiny little fists holding on for dear life. That's exactly what Peter so desperately sought to do, to hold some control in how all of this would play out. Take your hands off the wheel.

True denial of the self, taking up your cross is exactly what we pray week after week, day after day in our Lord's Prayer - God your will be done, not my will, your will be done. Because if it were my will it would sure look a lot different, a lot more glamorous, a lot easier but God your will be done.

Denial of the self, picking up your cross is God coming down to you in the waters of baptism, in the bread and wine, these are the divine things we focus on. God coming to us and forgiving us in those moments when the devil gets into our head and places that seed of doubt.

In a few short minutes, we will gather as sinners at this rail and we will deny ourselves and receive our cross, as we receive the body and blood of our savior. Where you will hear that Jesus is for you, come down to you that his will was to die for your sake.

The peace of Christ which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

**Hymn:** "Lead on oh King Eternal" Praise #460

**Prayer of the Church:** Each prayer will end: Lord, in your mercy. **C: Hear our prayer.**

**Hymn:** "Lord Listen to your Children Praying" Praise #413

### **Holy Communion**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts to the Lord.

**C: We lift up our hearts unto the Lord.**

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

**C: It is meet and right so to do.** P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give praise to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Jesus Christ, your dear son our Lord and Savior, who ascending above the heavens and sitting at your right hand, poured out the Holy Spirit as he had promised upon the chosen disciples, causing the whole earth to rejoice. Therefore, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name; evermore praising you and singing:

**C: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth. Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Words of Institution  
Lord's Prayer  
Invitation/Distribution  
Thanksgiving-

P: The Lord be with you. **C: *And also with you.***

P: Let us give thanks and pray: We thank you Lord God almighty that you have refreshed us with these gifts; and we ask you, in your mercy, to strengthen us through these same gifts in faith toward you and in fervent love for one another; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

**C: *Amen.***

**Hymn:** "O Jesus, Blessed Lord to Thee" Concordia #106

### **Benediction**

P: Now may the Lord bless us and keep us. May the Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious to us. May the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon us and give us his peace.

**C: *Amen, Amen, Amen.***

### **Doxology**

**C: *Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him all creatures here below. Praise him above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

### **Birthdays & Anniversaries**

**Dismissal:** P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **C: *Thanks be to God!***

### **Postlude**