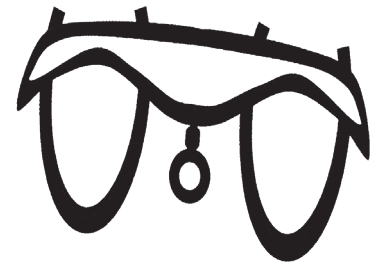


Pentecost 3

June 29, 2025

Third Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 8 (Year C)



Freedom in Christ is a paradox. On one hand, Jesus' grace and mercy frees us from the law that kills; on the other hand, obedience to God's call is the way of the cross. How are disciples of Christ meant to balance these seemingly contradictory ways of being? Paul reminded the Galatians that following Christ meant walking in the Spirit and turning away from the flesh. Jesus proclaimed a singular focus in life.

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Lesson: 1 Kings 19:9b-21

Elijah Encounters God at Mount Horeb

Soon after Elijah fled from King Ahab and his wife Jezebel, he lodged in a cave on Mount Horeb. God came to him, asking him why he was there. Elijah explained his distress to the Lord, saying that Israel had forsaken Him and now they sought to take his life. After the interaction, God sent Elijah to the wilderness with a mission and a call for Elisha to assist.

Psalm 16

I Bless the Lord

The psalmist proclaimed a list of reasons why he blesses the Lord and rejoices in his presence: He is a refuge and holds his lot, provides a beautiful inheritance, and will not abandon his servant.

Second Lesson: Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Christ Has Set Us Free

Paul urged the Galatian Christians to hold fast to their freedom in Christ and not to submit again to the yoke of slavery to the law. Walk by the Spirit, he told them, which is against the flesh that leads us to do what we want to do. Only by grace are we able to exhibit the fruits of the Spirit in our lives.

Gospel Lesson: Luke 9:51-62

Jesus Sets His Face Toward Jerusalem

As Jesus was rejected by a village of Samaritans, his disciples offered to vindicate him. Jesus, not concerned with retaliation, teaches his followers that there are more important things ahead of him in Jerusalem. No one can look back once they are working for the Kingdom of God. Pressing forward is the only way.

Suggestions for the Sunday:

- * The liturgical color is green.
- * The Kyrie OR the Hymn of Praise may be used during Ordinary Time.
- * Use the Apostles' Creed.
- * Today is the commemoration of Jeremiah the Prophet. What can we learn from Jeremiah's life when it comes to proclaiming the good news to those who do not want to hear?
- * Consider using (or printing and distributing) some excerpts from Martin Luther's "On the Freedom of a Christian" today as you think together about what it means to be free in Christ.
- * An option for today is to focus teaching on the fruits of the Spirit. Be creative in how you present each "fruit."

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spoke	455	---	688	799	---	---
Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me	333	---	722	767	249	249
Lord, Thee I Love With All My Heart	325	---	708	750	---	---
O Jesus, I Have Promised	503	---	---	810	79	79
In the Morning When I Rise (Give Me Jesus)	---	777	---	770	214	214
O Christ, Our Hope	300	---	553	604	---	web
O Holy Spirit, Enter In	459	---	913	786	---	---
Oh, that the Lord Would Guide My Ways	480	---	707	772	235	235
Precious Lord, Take My Hand	---	731	739	773	206	206
Be Thou My Vision	---	776	---	793	230	230

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW= Lutheran Book of Worship, WOVS= With One Voice, ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB= The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC= The Reclaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at "Hymns and Music."

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles

I Will Follow
(CCLI# 5806878)
Spirit of the Living God
(CCLI# 23488)
Jesu, Jesu
(CCLI# 186208)
Change My Heart, O God
(CCLI# 1565)
Oh, How Good It Is
(CCLI #6399272)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.