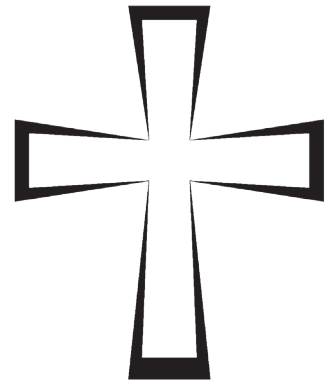


Pentecost 14

August 30, 2026

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 17 (Year A)

Life in Christ is not an easy way to live. On the contrary, to be a disciple of Jesus is a costly endeavor! It means being tested and tried, it requires great patience and perseverance, and it means acting the opposite of what our most basic instincts compel us to do. Instead of being vengeful, it means forgiving. Instead of fussing and fighting, it means living in harmony with fellow believers.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Reading: Jeremiah 15:15-21

Your Words Became a Joy to Me

The prophet Jeremiah asserted that the Lord knew his case and what his enemies had done to him. Jeremiah was getting impatient and pleaded with the Lord to come to his rescue. But the Lord answered: "If you will be patient and return to me, you will be the one to share my Word." The people would fight against him, but the prophet would not be moved.

Psalm 26

Test Me and Try Me

The psalmist sang to the Lord, asking him to judge his faithfulness. He asserted that he had been true to God and that God should test him and try him to assess his faithfulness. "I do not sit with men of falsehood," claimed the psalmist. Instead, he kept his eyes on God's steadfast love and mercy.

Second Reading: Romans 12:9-21

Paul's Advice for Communal Life

Paul advised the Christians in Rome to be loving to one another — not a fake love that was in word only, but a genuine love that sought not to punish or get revenge. We are called to live in harmony with one another and to seek to outdo one another by doing good.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:21-28

Denial of Self and Following Jesus

Jesus explained to his disciples what following him meant: denial of self, and taking up the cross and following. This means leaving behind our own wants and desires, putting ourselves last so that we can be a part of his kingdom.

Suggestions for the Day:

Liturgical Color: Green

During the Season of Pentecost:

- Use either the Kyrie or the Hymn of Praise.
- Use the Apostles' Creed.

Labor Day is tomorrow in the United States. An important theme for today's worship might be the vocation of our baptism and how it fits in with our daily labor. Work is sacred and holy when it is done to care for families and communities, when it is done with integrity and honesty. It has greater meaning for us when it is done with an awareness that our work serves our neighbors and honors God.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:

	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
The Old Rugged Cross	---	---	---	---	139	139
Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross	---	---	---	335	140	140
Lift High the Cross	377	---	837	660	269	269
Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word	230	---	655	517	71	71
Now Thank We All Our God	534	---	895	839	50	50
Praise and Thanksgiving	409	---	789	689	---	---
Blest Be the Tie that Binds	370	---	649	656	48	48
Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love	---	765	---	708	---	---
Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service	423	---	848	712	---	---
In the Cross of Christ, I Glory	104	---	427	324	138	138

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)
Trading My Sorrows
(CCLI# 2574653)
Don't Grow Weary
(CCLI# 1175263)
Lead Me to the Cross
(CCLI# 4785828)
Mighty To Save
(CCLI# 4591782)

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