

Sermon Hymn: 536 Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's Head

Sermon: Is It Worth It?

Offering: *(Please remember to sign the Friendship Register.)*

New Member Welcome:

We welcome Kevin & Katie Roberts into our church family.

Hymn: 453 Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spoke

Benediction

Closing Hymn: 422 Jesus, Lead Us On

Ushers: This Week – Paul Milbrath & Lucas Zuehlke
Next Week – Jim Lichtenberg & Jeremy Wagie

Greeters: This Week – Richard & Elaine Engelhart
Next Week – Sharon Waldmann

Congratulations to Hudson Roberts on being welcomed into God's family. He will be baptized in a private ceremony after our service today. His sponsors are Tricia Lehmann, Cory Peirick and Kayla Roberts.

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost – July 14 & 15, 2019

P.O. Box 86, Helenville, Wisconsin

Pastor: Mark Swanson Church Tel: 920-674-3307

Principal: Craig Winkler School Tel: 262-582-3010

Organist: Ken Neipert

We Welcome You!

Order of Worship: Pg. 26

Opening Hymn: 288 v 1, 6 – The Gospel Shows the Father’s Grace

Prayer of the Day:

M: O Lord, our God, govern the nations on earth and direct the affairs of this world so that your Church may worship you in peace and joy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

First Lesson - Zechariah 13:7-9

In this prophetic vision of Jesus as the suffering Messiah, the Shepherd is struck and the flock is scattered. The sound of disciples’ feet fleeing into the darkness first fulfilled this prophesy in the Garden of Gethsemane. Yet God makes a promise: suffering for the Gospel is his way of refining his children. As fire removes impurities from gold and silver, so persecution refines the faith of God’s people. Only with this knowledge can we understand what Luther meant when he said that the absence of persecution is total persecution.

⁷“Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, against the man who is close to me!” declares the LORD Almighty. “Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered, and I will turn my hand against the little ones.”⁸ In the whole land,” declares the LORD, “two-thirds will be struck down and perish; yet one-third will be left in it.”⁹ This third I will bring into the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on my name and I will answer them; I will say, ‘They are my people,’ and they will say, ‘The LORD is our God.’”

Psalm of the Day - Psalm 22, p. 71

Second Lesson - Galatians 3:23-29

How can a Christian rejoice even in the suffering and persecution? When we know that these sufferings are for the sake of Christ who bought us and made us his heirs. We confess Christ even in the face of persecution because we belong to Christ and look forward to an inheritance that no suffering, no evil, no attack can take away from us. Paul contrasts the harsh imprisonment of the law with the gracious freedom of the gospel that comes through faith. In this contrast we see how the Lord can use the trials of life and temptations of the heart to build deeper appreciation for his gracious salvation in Jesus

Christ. Through baptism, we have been made equal and unified heirs of the promise, boldly claiming our inheritance from the Father.

²³ Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. ²⁴ So the law was put in charge until Christ came that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law.

²⁶ You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, ²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Verse of the Day: *Alleluia. Because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" Alleluia. (Galatians 4:6)*

Gospel - Luke 9:18-24

In a private moment, Jesus offers the disciples an opportunity to confess their faith. They confess Jesus as “the Christ of God.” These men so bold in faith have no idea what lies ahead. Jesus warns them of his impending suffering and glorious resurrection. But the suffering is not his alone. To all who confess Jesus as Lord and Savior come trials and suffering on account of his name. We bear his cross on our heads and hearts at the risk of our lives. But to him who overcomes is given the crown of eternal life.

¹⁸ Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, “Who do the crowds say I am?”

¹⁹ They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life.”

²⁰ “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

Peter answered, “The Christ of God.”

²¹ Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone. ²² And he said, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.”

²³ Then he said to them all: “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it.