

Faith Lutheran Church

September 7, 2025

10:10 a.m. at Library Square

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Kick-off Sunday



Gathering Music "Highlands" (CCLI #7122399)

Oh how high would I climb mountains if the mountains were where You hide. Oh how far I'd scale the valleys if You graced the other side. Oh how long have I chased rivers from lowly seas to where they rise against the rush of grace descending from the source of its supply. 'Cause in the highlands and the heartache You're neither more or less inclined. I would search and stop at nothing, You're just not that hard to find.

***Chorus:* Oh I will praise You on the mountain, I will praise You when the mountain's in my way. You're the summit where my feet are so I will praise You in the valleys all the same. No less God within the shadows, no less faithful when the night leads me astray. You're the heaven where my heart is. In the highlands and the heartache all the same.**

Oh how far beneath Your glory does Your kindness extend the path? From where Your feet rest on the sunrise to where You sweep the sinner's past. And Oh how fast would You come running if just to shadow me through the night, trace my steps through all my failure and walk me out the other side. For who could dare ascend that mountain, that valleyed hill called Calvary, but for the One I call Good Shepherd, who like a lamb was slain for me.

Chorus

Whatever I walk through, wherever I am, Your name can move mountains Wherever I stand. And if ever I walk through the valley of death I'll sing through the shadows my song of ascent. My song of ascent, whoa, whoa. My song of ascent, whoa, whoa. From the gravest of all valleys come the pastures we call grace. A mighty river flowing upwards from a deep but empty grave.

“His Glory and My Good” (CCLI #7235691)

And the more that I behold Him the more He satisfies
When I gaze upon His beauty, when I see Him as I should
Then my eyes are lifted upward for His glory and my good.

There is hope in every trial; For I can trust the Lord
He will turn my heart towards Him and help me bear the thorn
So in faith I follow Jesus on the road not understood
For I know that He is working for His glory and my good.

Chorus: To our God be the glory; To our God be praise
He alone the name above all names. I will boast ever only
in the Lord my God, for I know His glory is my good.

See the open arms of Jesus upon the cross that day
What they understood as weakness deserves my every praise
For the charge that was against me, it was nailed into the wood
Yes I know that He has saved me for His glory and my good.

Would I gladly be made nothing that Christ would be made more
Would I seek the only kingdom that far outweighs them all
I will stand before my Father where the faithful saints have stood
And with joy my heart shall praise Him for His glory and my good. *Chorus*

Greeting/Announcements

Song “How Great Thou Art” (CCLI #14181)

Oh Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy pow’r throughout the universe displayed;

Chorus: Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee, How great thou art!
How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; *Chorus*

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin; *Chorus*

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, “My God, how great thou art!” *Chorus*

Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Most merciful God,

C: **We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name, Amen.**

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a fellow member of the priesthood of all believers and by the authority of Jesus Christ I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and eternal God, you know our problems and our weaknesses better than we ourselves. In your love and by your power help us in our confusion and, in spite of our weakness, make us firm in faith; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Song “Firm Foundation (He won’t)” (CCLI #7188203)

**Christ is my firm foundation, the rock on which I stand
When everything around me is shaken, I've never been more glad
That I put my faith in Jesus. 'Cause He's never let me down
He's faithful through generations so why would He fail now?
He won't, He won't.**

**I've still got joy in chaos, I've got peace that makes no sense
So I won't be going under, I'm not held by my own strength**

**'Cause I've built my life on Jesus. He's never let me down
He's faithful in every season. So why would He fail now.
He won't. He won't. He won't fail. He won't fail.**

**Rain came and wind blew, but my house was built on You
And I'm safe with You, I'm going to make it through. *Repeat***

**Yeah I'm going to make it through 'cause I'm standing strong on You.
Yeah I'm going to make it through 'cause my house is built on You.
When everything around me is shaken, I've never been more glad
That I put my faith in Jesus. 'Cause He's never let me down
He's faithful through generations so why would He fail now?
He won't, He won't, He won't fail. He won't fail, no He won't.**

First Lesson Deuteronomy 30:15-20

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson Philemon 1-21

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother. For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a

prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Bible Presentation to Three-Year Old Children

Faith Seeds:..... Faith Lutheran Puppets

Faith Seeds is a time for children of all ages to come forward for a lesson geared to them.

The Gospel Acclamation: “Alleluia”

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia to you alone.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

You alone have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, to you alone.

Gospel: Luke 14:25-35

Now large crowds were traveling with him; and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions. "Salt is good; but if salt has

lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; they throw it away. Let anyone with ears to hear listen!"

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "A (Inner) Mission From God" Pastor Dave Wollan

Song "Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me" (CCLI Song #7121852)

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer. There is no more for heaven now to give, He is my joy my righteousness and freedom. My steadfast love my deep and boundless peace.

To this I hold my hope is only Jesus. For my life is wholly bound to his. Oh how strange and divine I can sing all is mine yet not I but through Christ in me.

The night is dark but I am not forsaken. For by my side the Savior he will stay. I labor on in weakness and rejoicing. For in my need his power is displayed.

To this I hold my Shepherd will defend me. Through the deepest valley He will lead. Oh the night has been won and I shall overcome. Yet not I but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread I know I am forgiven. The future sure the price it has been paid. For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon, and he was raised to overthrow the grave.

To this I hold my sin has been defeated. Jesus now and ever is my plea Oh the chains are released I can sing I am free. Yet not I but through Christ in me.

With every breath I long to follow Jesus, for he has said that he will bring me home. And day by day I know he will renew me until I stand with joy before the throne.

To this I hold my hope is only Jesus. All the glory evermore to him. When the race is complete still my lips shall repeat. Yet not I but through Christ in me.

**When the race is complete still my lips shall repeat.
Yet not I but through Christ in me. Yet not I but through Christ in me.**

Installation of Sunday School Teachers and other CYF Education Leaders

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under

Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering Song “In Christ Alone” (CCLI Song #3350395)

**In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song.
This Cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought
and storm. What heights of love! What depths of peace! When fears are
stilled when strivings cease. My comforter, my all in all, here in the love
of Christ I stand.**

**In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless Babe.
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save.
'Til on that cross, as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied.
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid. Here in the death of Christ I live.**

**There in the ground, His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth, in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again.
And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ in me.
From life's first cry, to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand.
'Til He returns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.**

Offertory Response: “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” (CCLI #56204)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayers of the Church

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Benediction

Sending Song “My Lighthouse” (CCLI #7002032)

**In my wrestling and in my doubts
In my failures, You won't walk out
You great love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea
You are the peace in my troubled sea.**

**In my silence, You won't let go
In my questions, Your truth will hold
Your great love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea
You are the peace in my troubled sea.**

***Chorus:* My lighthouse, my lighthouse
Shining in the darkness, I will follow you
My Lighthouse, my lighthouse, I will trust the promise,
You will carry me safe to shore.
Safe to shore, safe to shore, safe to shore!**

**I won't fear what tomorrow brings
With each morning I'll rise and sing
My God's love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea
You are the peace in my troubled sea. *Chorus***

**Fire before us You're the brightest
You will lead us through the storms. *Chorus***

“What Does This Mean?”

Questions about today's worship theme

1. How is the *Inner Mission* movement helpful for us today? How is it harmful?
2. How is the cost of discipleship both steep and freeing?
3. What has Christ freed you for?

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