



## **September 13, 2020**

### **15th Sunday after Pentecost**

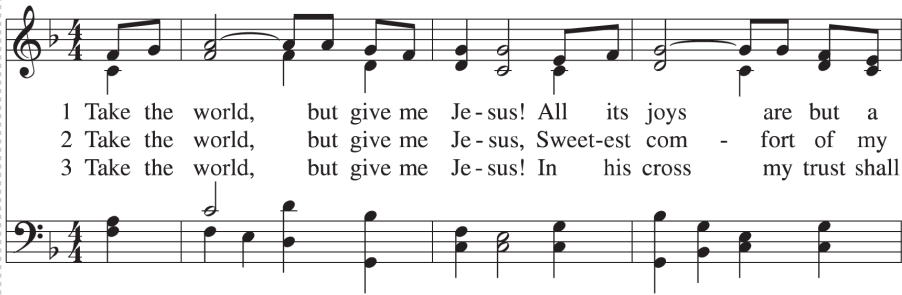
The Church is militant: first the cross, then the crown. The Prayer and Verse of the Day center the lessons. Today Christ tells us that for him and for us, going God's way means death must come before life. He calls on us to deny ourselves and follow him on the way of the cross. Those words offend our sinful flesh and make our Old Adam cry with Peter, "Never!" They make us accuse God with Jeremiah. So today the Church prays for the never-failing mercy of Christ that we might avoid such wicked and harmful thoughts and instead be guided on the cross-laden path to salvation. Then, and only then, do these words of Christ cease offending our flesh and become a joy and delight for our heart (Verse of the Day).



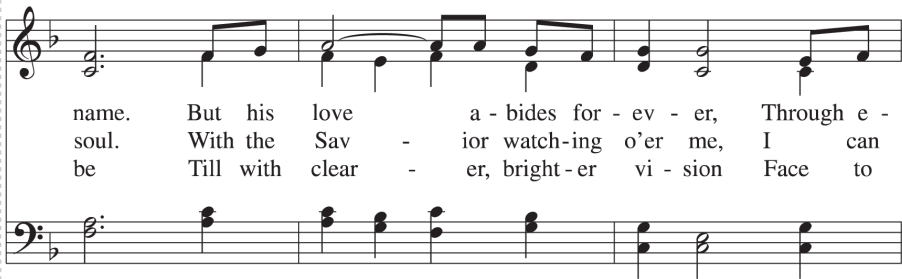
Our Mission is to nurture each other in God's Word and spread the Good News of Christ to all.

355

## Take the World, but Give Me Jesus

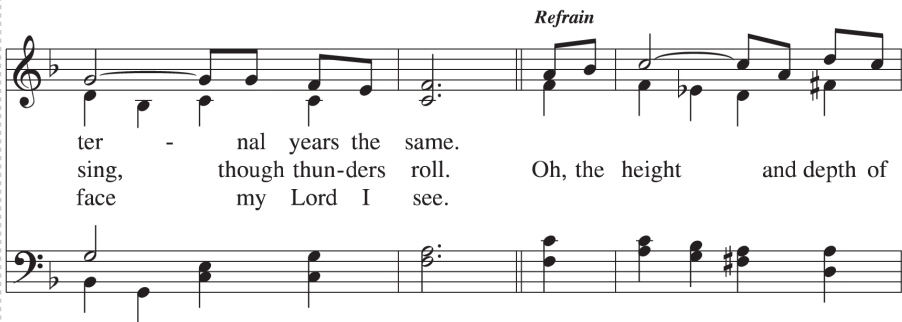


1 Take the world, but give me Je-sus! All its joys are but a  
 2 Take the world, but give me Je-sus, Sweet-est com - fort of my  
 3 Take the world, but give me Je-sus! In his cross my trust shall



name. But his love a - bides for - ev - er, Through e -  
 soul. With the Sav - ior watch-ing o'er me, I can  
 be Till with clear - er, bright - er vi - sion Face to

*Refrain*



ter - nal years the same. Oh, the height and depth of  
 sing, though thun-ders roll. face my Lord I see.



mer - cy; Oh, the length and breadth of love! Oh, the



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915, abr., alt.

Tune: J. Paul Williams, b. 1937, and Donna L. Williams, b. 1940

GIVE ME JESUS

87 87 with Refrain

Tune © 1980 Hope Publishing Co.; Setting © 1993 Hope Publishing Co.

## OPENING HYMN

## Take the World, but Give Me Jesus

355

### STAND

**M:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen

## CONFESSION OF SINS

**M:** Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**C:** Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

**M:** God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

M: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

M: Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, preserve the congregation of believers with your never-failing mercy. Help us avoid whatever is wicked and harmful, and guide us in the way that leads to our salvation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

*BE SEATED*

## **THE WORD**

### **FIRST LESSON**

**Jeremiah 15:15-21 (NIV84)**

You understand, O LORD; remember me and care for me. Avenge me on my persecutors. You are long-suffering—do not take me away; think of how I suffer reproach for your sake. <sup>16</sup> When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, O LORD God Almighty. <sup>17</sup> I never sat in the company of revelers, never made merry with them; I sat alone because your hand was on me and you had filled me with indignation. <sup>18</sup> Why is my pain unending and my wound grievous and incurable? Will you be to me like a deceptive brook, like a spring that fails? <sup>19</sup> Therefore this is what the LORD says: "If you repent, I will restore you that you may serve me; if you utter worthy, not worthless, words, you will be my spokesman. Let this people turn to you, but you must not turn to them. <sup>20</sup> I will make you a wall to this people, a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you to rescue and save you," declares the LORD. <sup>21</sup> "I will save you from the hands of the wicked and redeem you from the grasp of the cruel."

### **PSALM 121**

*read responsively by the pastor and congregation*

I lift up my eyes to the hills.\*

**Where does my help come from?**

My help comes from the LORD,\*

**the maker of heaven and earth.**

He will not let your foot slip,\*  
**he who watches over you will not slumber;**

indeed, he who watches over Israel\*  
**will neither slumber nor sleep.**

The LORD watches over you,\*  
**the LORD is your shade at your right hand.**

The LORD will keep you from all harm,\*  
**he will watch over your life;**

the LORD will watch over your coming and going\*  
**both now and forevermore.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy Spirit,**  
**as it was in the beginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## **SECOND LESSON**

## **Romans 12:1-8 (NIV84)**

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. <sup>3</sup> For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. <sup>4</sup> Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. <sup>6</sup> We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. <sup>7</sup> If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; <sup>8</sup> if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

## **VERSE OF THE DAY**

Alleluia. Your words became a joy to me, and the delight of my heart. Alleluia.  
(Jeremiah 15:16 )

*STAND*

**M:** The Gospel is from Matthew, chapter 16, beginning at verse 21.

**C: Glory be to you, O Lord!**

## **GOSPEL**

**Matthew 16:21-26 (NIV84)**

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. <sup>22</sup> Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!” <sup>23</sup> Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.” <sup>24</sup> Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. <sup>26</sup> What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?

**M:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

## **APOSTLES’ CREED**

**I believe in God the Father almighty,  
maker 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, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.**

**From there he will 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 the life everlasting. Amen.**

*BE SEATED*

**SERMON**

**The Things of God**

**Matthew 16:21-26**

**OFFERING**

**GOOD NEWS FOR KIDS**

*STAND*

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

M: O Lord, our God, you are wise and powerful, good and gracious. Your mercies are new every morning. Each day you open your hand and provide for the needs of your children on earth.

**C: We praise you for every grace and blessing.**

M: Strengthen your Church in all the world. Let your comforting message of salvation in Christ Jesus be proclaimed to troubled souls everywhere.

**C: Use our ministries and offerings to extend your healing and your hope.**

M: We bring you our requests for the various structures of our society. Bless our national, state, and local governments.

**C: Grant us civil servants who are worthy of honor and respect.**

M: Grant prosperity to our businesses and industries. Give employers a sense of fairness toward their workers, and employees a feeling of joy and pride in their workmanship.

**C: Help us find satisfaction in all work well done.**

M: Invigorate the schools of our land. Give success to every effort that helps students read, think, and communicate in ways that will promote an informed and responsible citizenry. Arouse curious minds to discover the wonders of your created order.

**C: Give us teachers and students who pursue excellence.**

**M:** Strengthen the families of our country. Give fathers and mothers a renewed commitment to be good parents. Give children and young people the wisdom to regard their parents as your representatives.

**C: Lead us to love one another as you have loved us.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow*

**M:** Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer*

**M:** Gracious Father, we pray boldly as Jesus taught, with the confidence that you will hear and with the faith that you will respond for our welfare.

**C: Amen.**

## **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.**

## **THE SACRAMENT**

**M:** The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

**M:** Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them up unto the Lord.**

**M:** Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**C: It is good and right so to do.**

**M:** It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



## **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

*Sanctus*

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord God of heavenly hosts:  
heav'n and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**M:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: Amen.**

## **O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD**

*Agnus Dei*

**C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us your peace. Amen.**

*BE SEATED*

## **DISTRIBUTION**

*We will commune by families or individuals. Come forward in the center aisle. Return by the side. Please stand directly in front of the front pews. Pastor will bring Communion to you. Only touch one individual cup. A basket is available for empty cups as you return.*

## **THANKSGIVING**

*STAND*

## SONG OF SIMEON

*Nunc Dimittis*

**C:** Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel.

**M:** O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

**C:** And his mercy endures forever.

**M:** We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

**M:** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

**C:** Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN

### If God Himself Be for Me

419 (v 1-5)

5 No sin can now condemn me  
Or set my hope aside.  
Now hell no more can claim me;  
Its fury I deride.  
No sentence now reproves me;  
No guilt destroys my peace,  
For Christ, my Savior, loves me  
And shields me with his grace.

## 419

## If God Himself Be for Me

1 If God him - self be for me, I may a host de - fy;  
 2 This I be - lieve, yea rath - er, Of this I make my boast,  
 3 I build on this foun - da - tion: That Je - sus and his blood  
 4 He can - celed my of - fen - ses, De - liv - ered me from death;

For when I pray, be - fore me My foes, con - found - ed, fly.  
 That God is my dear Fa - ther, My friend who loves me most,  
 A - lone are my sal - va - tion, My true, e - ter - nal good.  
 He is the Lord who clean - ses My soul from sin through faith.

If Christ, my head and mas - ter, Be - friend me from a - bove,  
 And that, what - e'er be - tide me, My Sav - ior is at hand  
 With - out him all that pleas - es Is val - ue - less on earth;  
 In him I can be cheer - ful, Cou - ra - geous on my way;

What foe or what dis - as - ter Can drive me from his love?  
 Through storm - y seas to guide me And bring me safe to land.  
 The gifts I have from Je - sus A - lone have price - less worth.  
 In him I am not fear - ful Of God's great Judg - ment Day.

# *Announcements*

## **In Our Prayers**

The Lord is eager to hear the prayers of thanks and petitions for help from his people. Please keep these members and families in your prayers. Contact Pastor to add someone to this list.

Lindsay Behl - expecting in November  
Kirk Twelmeyer - upcoming surgery

## **In Person Sunday School Starts This Morning**

8:45 am—9:15 am

We will have three groups: Preschool-1st, 2nd-4th grades, 5th grade and up. The two younger groups will split time between music and lesson. The older group will concentrate on the lesson.

## **Hy-Vee Helping Homeless Ministry**

Lincoln Heights Lutheran Church - Homeless Ministry will receive a \$1.00 donation from each purchase of the \$2.50 reusable red “My Heart” Bag at the store located at 3221 SE 14th Street, Des Moines, IA. (This is the corner of SE 14th Street and Park Avenue.)

## **Prepare for Next Sunday**

For a simple devotional reading plan, review the reading for this week on Monday - Wednesday. Then read the Scripture for next Sunday on Thursday - Saturday. The Word for next Sunday: *Ezekiel 33:7-11, Romans 13:1-10, Matthew 18:15-20*

## **Sunday School Mission Project**

This year’s Sunday School offerings will be benefitting WELS Christian Aid and Relief. This organization provides disaster relief and humanitarian aid for individuals and congregations around the country and worldwide. Workers were recently in Cedar Rapids to help with the clean-up from the derecho. More than 50 volunteers cleared fallen trees and picked up debris.

For more information go to

<https://wels.net/serving-others/christian-aid-relief/>

## **September 2020 Forward In Christ**

This month’s issue is available on the table outside the sanctuary or by contacting the church office.

WELS teens let their faith shine on pages 25 –27. Two Manitowoc Lutheran High School students tell personal stories as they reflect on their relationship with their Savior. Turn to page 7 to read about a teen from Alaska who invites other teens to her church’s catechism class so they can discover the truths of the Bible.

More than 70 WELS teachers retired at the end of the 2019-20 school year. On pages 7-9, read how their ministries were blessed, even with the challenge of a pandemic.

## THIS WEEK AT LINCOLN HEIGHTS

September 13 - 20

Today	8:00 am	Worship—Livestream
	8:45 am	Sunday School & Bible Study
	9:15 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Worship
	3:00 pm	Kunama Worship
Monday	5:15 pm	Council Meeting
Tuesday	10:00 am	Pastors' Study Club
	7:00 pm	Campus Ministry Bible Study - Zoom
Wednesday	5:30 pm	Catechism Class
	7:00 pm	Zoom Bible Class
Saturday	3:30 pm	Homeless Meal Preparation
Sunday	8:00 am	Worship—Livestream
	8:45 am	Sunday School & Bible Study
	9:15 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Worship
	3:00 pm	Kunama Worship

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