



*Worship Folder for September 13, 2020*

Christ Lutheran Church

32962 Vickers St, NE

Cambridge, MN

[www.christcambridge.com](http://www.christcambridge.com)

Find us on Facebook @ Christ Lutheran Church – Cambridge, MN

# Christ Ev. Lutheran Church

*Information to help you stay connected and get involved!*

## CHURCH INFORMATION

<b>Pastor</b>	Sam Biebert	<b>Church Office</b>	763.689.5333
<b>Contact Information</b>	ChristCambridgePastor@gmail.com 701.471.0341 (cell)	<b>Webpage</b>	www.christcambridge.com

## THIS WEEK AT CHRIST | September 14 - 20

<b>SUNDAY</b>	9:00am	Worship w/ Communion
<b>MONDAY</b>	6:15pm	Confirmation (In-Person)
<b>TUESDAY</b>	5:00pm	Adult Discipleship Meeting
<b>TUESDAY</b>	5:30pm	Church Council Meeting
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	6:30pm	Zoom Bible Class (Judges)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Sunday School** Packets are available to pick up for your children. Please make sure to grab one. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. Thank you for working with us to keep this very important aspect of growing in faith going. Please pass along any suggestions you may have to make this process go more smoothly. Thank you!

**Bible Class** A zoom link will be sent out for the online class this coming **Wednesday at 6:30**. We will be looking at the book of Judges and the historical setting of it as well as the present day application of it.

**Confirmation** Class will begin on Monday, September 14th at 6:15pm. Our first class will be held at church in person. Following that, classes will be a mix of online and in person.

**Craft & Baking Day** In preparation on for our Fall Bazaar, the Women of Christ are invited to meet at church on **Saturday, October 10** at 9:00am to assemble gift items to be sold. Masks will be utilized, and social distancing will be practiced.

**Fall Bazaar** The Women of Christ are hosting their Fall Bazaar on **Sunday, October 11** and **October 18**. We welcome donations of items to be sold. Plan to purchase baked goods, crafts, and gift items to support our missions.



“Here am I. Send me!”  
Isaiah 6:8

**Ushers:** Brian M., Austin, Brian L.    **Counters:** Sean, Emma

**Cleaners:** Paul & Joella S., Shawn & Sarah M.

## MEDITATION ON THE MINISTRY OF THE KEYS

### **Opening Hymn – “Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spoke”**

(Christian Worship #453 vs. 1,4-5)

*(The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism)*  
In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you:  
**God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.**

If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness,  
**We lie and do not live by the truth.**

If we claim to be without sin,  
**We deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.**

### **Confession of Sin**

**Father, I have sinned against you and am no longer worthy to be called your child. Yet in mercy you sacrificed your only Son to purge away my guilt. For his sake O God, be merciful to me a sinner, and in the joy of your Holy Spirit let me serve you all my days.**

*Silence for personal examination and confession.*

### **Absolution**

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. Upon this, your confession, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

*The church is militant, and that means dying to self and the things of man. After a hard ministry, Jeremiah began to forget the things of God and concentrate too much on the things of man. The prophet Jeremiah struggled to carry the cross given him by his God. God's Word was a joy and delight to his heart, but Jeremiah's life had been anything but joy and delight. After bearing much persecution, God's prophet finally tired of self-denial. He wondered whether God's promises amounted to nothing, but were as failed and fruitless as a dried-up brook in times of drought. How does God respond? Does he remove the cross and persecution? No, he commands his prophet to repent and turn to God for mercy. Then, God will permit him again the privilege of carrying a cross in his name. God renews a promise that he had made at the beginning of Jeremiah's ministry. He didn't promise to remove the persecution, but to make Jeremiah strong enough to take it. May God make each of us bronze walls, certain of the fact that even as we follow the way of the cross—no, especially as we follow the way of the cross—our God is with us to rescue and save us, and redeem us from the grasp of the cruel. That knowledge renewed and restored Jeremiah to a ministry centered on the things of God as he served in the Church militant.*

## **First Lesson: Jeremiah 15:15-21**

### **Jeremiah Responds**

<sup>15</sup> O LORD, you understand.

Remember me and care for me.

Take vengeance for me on those who persecute me.

You are slow to anger.

Do not take me away.

Keep in mind that for your sake I bear disgrace.

<sup>16</sup> Your words came to me, and I devoured them.

Your words became my joy,

the delight of my heart,

because I bear your name,

O LORD God of Armies.

<sup>17</sup> I did not sit with the band of partygoers,

nor did I celebrate with them.

I sat alone, because your hand was upon me.

You filled me with indignation.

<sup>18</sup> Why is my pain unending?

Why is my wound incurable, refusing to heal?

Will you be as deceptive as an intermittent stream to me,

like a source of water that a person can't depend on?

### **The LORD's Response**

<sup>19</sup> Therefore this is what the LORD says.

If you repent, I will take you back,

so that you may stand before me.

If what you say is worthwhile and not worthless,

you will be my spokesman.

They must turn to you,

but you must not turn to them.

<sup>20</sup> I will make you like a bronze wall to this people.

They will fight against you,  
but they will not overcome you,  
because I am with you to save you  
and to rescue you, declares the LORD.

<sup>21</sup> I will rescue you from the hand of the wicked,  
and I will deliver you from the grasp of the ruthless.

*Jesus did not heed Satan's temptation or Peter's command. He denied himself and carried his cross to the hill of his death and our eternal life. Through that one act of righteousness, God gave justification that brings life to all mankind. St. Paul spends eleven chapters outlining the amazing nature of God's plan for our salvation centered on our crucified Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Then in chapter 12, Paul begins, "Therefore..." He points back to the past eleven chapters and says, In view of all that—in view of everything God did to save you eternally...let death come before life for you. First the cross, then the crown. Offer your bodies as living sacrifices. This oxymoron only makes sense in the Christian response of life lived by dying to self and living for Christ.*

### **Second Lesson: Romans 12:1-8**

Therefore I urge you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice—holy and pleasing to God—which is your appropriate worship. <sup>2</sup> Also, do not continue to conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, so that you test and approve what is the will of God—what is good, pleasing, and perfect<sup>3</sup> So by the grace given to me, I tell everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought, but think in a way that results in sound judgment, as God distributed a measure of faith to each of you. <sup>4</sup> For we have many members in one body, and not all the members have the same function. <sup>5</sup> In the same way, though we are many, we are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.<sup>6</sup> We have different gifts, according to the grace God has given us. If the gift is prophecy, do it in complete agreement with the faith. <sup>7</sup> If it is serving, then serve. If it is teaching, then teach. <sup>8</sup> If it is encouraging, then encourage. If it is contributing, be generous. If it is leadership, be diligent. If it is showing mercy, 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 cf. RSV)

*Peter's great confession from last Sunday's Gospel showed the disciples understood who Jesus was. But though they understood his person, they still failed to understand his work. He had come to fulfill the redemptive mission for which he was anointed; he had not come to fulfill Israel's earthbound views of Messiah. He couldn't be the Messiah they wanted, and still be the Savior they needed. "He must go..." Cross and death were necessary first. When Jesus spoke most clearly about his cross, Peter spoke Satan's words of compromise. Thanks be to God that our Savior saw the necessity of the cross before the crown! Now for Christian followers, cross comes before the crown as well. We die to self, but gain Christ, the Life.*

### **Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:21-26**

<sup>21</sup> From that time, Jesus began to show his disciples that he had to go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and experts in the law, and be killed, and on the third day be raised again.<sup>22</sup> Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "May you receive mercy, Lord! This will never happen to you."<sup>23</sup> But Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get

behind me, Satan! You are a snare to me because you are not thinking the things of God, but the things of men.”<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. <sup>25</sup> In fact whoever wants to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup> After all, what will it benefit a person if he gains the whole world, but forfeits his soul? Or what can a person give in exchange for his soul?

[Click Here For Message](#)

[Click Here For Children's Message](#)

## Sermon on Matthew 16:21-26

### Theme “Keep the Crown Behind the Cross”

Theme: “Keep the Crown Behind the Cross”

9-13-2020

I know it isn't a very Lutheran thing, but I want to ask you to do something this morning. Raise your hand if you want a difficult life. Whew, right? We were almost in danger of doing something during a sermon haha. But you aren't out of the woods yet, we are about to enter dangerous territory. Raise your hand if you want life to go according to plan and if you actively seek out ways to avoid difficulty in your life.

Look around you, and you can quickly see just how difficult today's lesson is for each one of us. Social distancing has been the topic of conversation both for months now. Today, we begin a new sermon series looking at a topic that may also be on our minds, that of Divine Distancing. Many of us have wondered where is God throughout all of this pandemic? Many of us have had the thought that maybe we are being punished for the sins of our country and so God is distancing himself. And while we will touch on some of these things in this series, the focus of it will actually be the opposite. This series will seek to focus on how God is actually coming closer to us through the troubles we face and how we can have a better understanding of the Christian life through trouble and hardship.

We begin this conversation by looking at a confrontation between Peter and Jesus found in Matthew 16. But at first glance it looks like anything but, at first glance it may even look like Jesus was being overly harsh with Peter. But as we remind ourselves of our lesson once more, ask yourself if you could see yourself speaking the same words as Peter and additionally, ask yourself why his words were so very troubling to Jesus, why his words was actually the voice of Satan himself. We listen to our lesson once more:

<sup>21</sup> From that time, Jesus began to show his disciples that he had to go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and experts in the law, and be killed, and on the third day be raised again.

<sup>22</sup> Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “May you receive mercy, Lord! This will never happen to you.” <sup>23</sup> But Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a snare to me because you are not thinking the things of God, but the things of men.” <sup>24</sup> Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. <sup>25</sup> In fact whoever wants to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup> After all, what will it benefit a person if he gains the whole world, but forfeits his soul? Or what can a person give in exchange for his soul?

What was Peter doing? Couldn't you just about see his response to Jesus on a sympathy card? It really doesn't seem all that bad. I mean all he is doing is not wanting some terrible sounding suffering to come upon his dear friend. Does that really warrant being called Satan? Does that really deserve the rebuke he received? I would imagine this response from Jesus had Peter scratching his head scratching his head to a certain degree.

But it doesn't take long and we see the why. Peter completely misunderstood why Jesus came. Jesus did not come to have a cushy life. Jesus did not come to live a life as trouble free as possible. Jesus did not leave his throne in heaven to win a popularity contest here on earth. Jesus didn't come to know all of the happinesses this world had to offer. Jesus came with a single, driving purpose. He came to take up his cross. He came to give up his life for the sake of saving ours. He came for the purpose of living a perfect life, a life that gave full and complete glory to his father in heaven, and then to give up that life as a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of you and me. He came to suffer all of sins hell, all of sins anguish, all of sins consequences. He came to focus on the cross before receiving the glory of victory.

Have you ever thought how the truth of Jesus' life has a lot to say about the truth of yours and mine? It is not often we go seeking hardship. In fact, we want to avoid it at all cost. We are constantly wanting one less worry, one less hardship, one less trouble, one less pain. We take medications to fix problems. We buy insurance to lessen the hit of loss. We put into savings to create a safety net. We try to prepare and build in a way that has foresight so their might be fewer possible future headaches. In short, we don't want trouble. We pray it will never happen to us!

Yet, Jesus comes to us with a shocking truth of divine distancing, we only seek to distance ourselves from God when we put the things of this world and the truths of this world ahead of why we are really here on this earth. Jesus tells us very plainly, "If anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. In fact whoever wants to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." Growing closer to God means distancing ourselves more from this world. Growing closer to God, means making things less about us, what we want, desire, and love, and making our life more about that which God wants, desires, and loves. In short, just like Jesus, first the cross, then the crown.

But wait. What does that mean? What does that look like? Does this mean a Christian is going to be going around looking for ways to receive punishment? Does this mean we should be purposefully inflicting suffering on our lives? Does this mean we should be depriving our lives of any and every good thing from a worldly perspective and living lives void of any and all luxury or pleasure? Jesus says first the cross, then the crown but what does that mean?

A big answer coming out of our lesson is found in Jesus' rebuke to Peter. He did not have in mind the things of God but the things of man. A big answer is found in Jesus' attitude to his suffering, he said he HAD to suffer these things. A big answer is found in Jesus question of priorities when he asks "What benefit is it for a person to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?" In other words, it is just as important for us to recognize our purpose here on earth as it was for Christ to always know his purpose here on earth. It was not to make a home down here. The Son of man did not come to be served but to serve. It was not to build up wealth and treasure down here. It was not to receive all glory and honor down here, in fact, Jesus often told people not to say anything about what he had done until after he had risen from the dead. The cross had to come first.

Sometimes, we would like to live as though we are experiencing heaven right now. We want all joy no sadness. When sadness comes we can despair and blame God or feel as though punishment has fallen upon us. We can easily seek out the things that would seemingly have a much greater return, the things that would

leave us less likely to become frustrated. It can even be easy to do that to God's Word. It can be easy to hold on to certain aspects of it, often the aspects of it which are personally easiest for us, and then sort of distance ourselves from the parts that are harder and more difficult. We want Jesus' victory over sin to be a cushy, problem free life right now. We want heaven to be close and in hand, not something that we wait for and see only by faith. But that is not what Jesus asks of us. In fact, when we make that wish, Jesus looks at us the same as he did with Peter, get behind me Satan, you don't have in mind the things of God, but the things of man.

God be praised, that he didn't say to Peter, yeah, I don't deserve that. Maybe lets just not let that happen. God be praised Jesus loved you all the way to the cross. God be praised that Jesus saw what he had to do and then gladly and willingly did it. And God be praised he has given us such an example as this. It is for this reason we can take on the things that scare us, we can withstand the things that shame us and humble us, it is this reason we can walk boldly through the dangers and difficulties of this life, the pain and the hurt that come from bearing Christ's name. We can wrestle with all the difficulties that come with proclaiming and supporting the gospel. We can lean on each other for strength and we can support each other when we succumb to weakness. We can remember that each one of us, right down to the individual, has struggles and is struggling and we can seek to share those. As Paul echoed, we can delight in weakness, insults, hardships, persecutions and difficulties. We can do all of this because Jesus made sure His cross came first so that as we follow in his path, we can look forward to our Crown.

**Offering:** (Though we are not meeting together at this time please do not forget the opportunity to give back what is rightfully God's with respect to what he has given us. Offerings can be mailed or dropped off at church. You can also make use of online giving through the giveplus app or by going to the church's website ([www.christcambridge.com](http://www.christcambridge.com)) and selecting the "Donate" tab under "About" in the site menu.)

**Prayer:**

Lord Jesus, you have told us that the way of the Christian is the way of the cross. It is a message we don't enjoy hearing. We would much prefer it if there were no troubles in life, if we didn't have to crucify the sinful desires we have but could rather indulge them, if we didn't have to confront the opposition – and sometimes the hatred – of the world because we hold to, live, and proclaim your truth. Remind us that it must be this way, but also help us to remember that the way of the cross is the way that has you at our side, and that you are blessing and love personified. Give us your Spirit that we may always take hold of you and of the life that is truly life.

Be with us, triune God, as we leave this place to go about our daily lives. Keep us and our loved ones safe. Bless our labors. Be with those who are our civic leaders. Guard our country from adversity and our enemies. Let us daily find our peace in you as we rejoice in your salvation and marvel at the beauty of the world into which you have placed us.

### *Private Petitions*

These and all our other prayers we offer in the name of our Savior Jesus who has taught us to pray:

**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.**

### **Children's Message**

#### **BLESSING:**

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.

**Amen.**

**Closing Hymn: "Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken" (Christian Worship #465))**