



Summer 2023

14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
SEPTEMBER 3, 2023

*FOR THE PROMISE IS FOR YOU, FOR YOUR CHILDREN,  
AND FOR ALL WHO ARE FAR AWAY, EVERYONE WHOM THE  
LORD OUR GOD CALLS*  
ACTS 2:39

FILLED BY GOD'S SPIRIT - SERVING IN TODAY'S WORLD



HOLY CROSS  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

HOLYCROSSNJ.COM

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SEPTEMBER 3, 2023  
14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PRELUDE:

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CONFESSION

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**We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned 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.**

**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**

SONG: EVERY PRAISE

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Every praise is to our God  
Every word of worship with  
one accord

Every praise every praise is to  
our God

Sing hallelujah to our God  
Glory hallelujah is due our God  
Every praise every praise is to  
our God

God my Savior  
God my Healer  
God my Deliverer  
Yes He is yes He is

CCLI Song # 6623483  
Hezekiah Walker | John David Bratton  
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PRAYER OF DAY

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The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,,,,, be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

READING: ROMANS 12::9-21

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Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' No, 'if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

## GOSPEL READING MATTHEW 16:21-28

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The Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew the 10th Chapter

**Glory to you O Lord**

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? 'For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.'

The Gospel of our Lord

**Praise to you O Christ**

MESSAGE: REV. GUNNAR ANDERSON

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## SONG: RECKLESS LOVE

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1. Before I spoke a word  
You were singing over me  
You have been so so good to me  
Before I took a breath  
You breathed Your life in me  
You have been so so kind to me

**O the overwhelming never-ending  
reckless Love of God**

**O it chases me down fights 'til I'm  
found Leaves the ninety-nine**

**I couldn't earn it I don't deserve it  
Still You give Yourself away**

**O the overwhelming never-ending  
reckless Love of God**

2. When I was Your foe, still Your  
love fought for me  
You have been so so good to me  
When I felt no worth  
You paid it all for me  
You have been so so kind to me

There's no shadow  
You won't light up  
Mountain You won't climb up  
Coming after me  
There's no wall  
You won't kick down  
Lie You won't tear down  
Coming after me

CCLI Song # 7089641

Caleb Culver | Cory Asbury | Ran Jackson

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## APOSTLES CREED

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**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 catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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Merciful God  
**Receive our Prayer**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

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## COMMUNION

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The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise**

Lord remember us...

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are  
yours, now and forever. Amen**

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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**We give you thanks almighty God that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love of one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen**

## BENEDICTION

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## SONG: AMAING GRACE

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Amazing grace  
how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost but now am found  
Was blind but now I see

2.'Twas grace  
that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed

3.Through many dangers  
toils and snares  
I have already come  
'Tis grace has brought me  
safe thus far  
And grace will lead me home

4.When we've been there  
ten thousand years  
Bright shining as the sun  
We've no less days  
to sing God's praise  
Than when we've first begun

## DISMISSAL

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Go in peace and serve the Lord  
**Thanks be to God!**

# KEEPING IN OUR PRAYERS

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*Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. James 5:13 (NRSV)*

- **Lola Weedon, Justin Gingeske, Diane Ebeling, Randy Knecht, Sue Bird (WI), Bev Currier, Russell Dawson, Emily Freely, Joanne Paras, Dick Peterson, Mabel Rapp, Carl Swenson, and Carolyn Swenson for healing. The Weedon Family on the passing of his sister Virginia**
- **Our homebound- Chris Mancinelli, Fong Yee, Helga Schalpe, Bill Culver, Eleanor Willert**
- **For Peace in Ukraine, Russia, and the Sudan**
- **For the families of those killed by the Maui fires, those in the paths of hurricanes, and for wise solutions to help us adapt to a changing climate**
- **For Operation Warm Heart at Zion Lutheran Church in Rahway– that the city will allow it to reopen next year.**
- **For an end to mass gun violence**

## BIBLE STUDY:

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Wednesdays 1PM (see Heidi Klebaur for location)  
3rd Tuesday 7Pm in the Library

## GIVE TO HELP THOSE DEVASTATED BY WILDFIRES

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**Lutheran Disaster Response**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

Give through Holy Cross or make your check out to Lutheran Disaster Response and send to: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA Gifts Processing Center, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009 and write ""US Wildfires"" on your check's memo line. Your gifts will support wildfire survivors. Gifts will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by wildfires.

# WANT TO KNOW MORE?

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Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number / Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:

- ☐ Visitor
- ☐ New to Area
- ☐ Would like a visit
- ☐ Would like a call
- ☐ Would like to know more about Holy Cross
- ☐ Would like to receive email updates from Holy Cross *(please reply to confirmation email)*



NEXT WEEK:  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH

**God's Work Our Hands**



## SUPPORT HOLY CROSS

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Please consider supporting Holy Cross  
by visiting the link: <http://holycrossnj.com/donate/>  
or by scanning the QR code:

