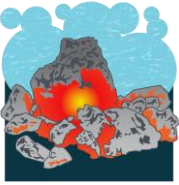


FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Faith Lutheran Church

Delight in Difficulty

September 3, 2023



As We Gather: “Your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart” (Jeremiah 15:16). The prophet Jeremiah did not praise God with such words because his life was super easy. No, Jeremiah rejoiced in the Lord even as his life had plenty of problems. Why such delight in difficulty? Surrounded by evil in this world, like Jeremiah, we cling to the God who is good, learning to trust His Word as the means by which we receive His deliverance from our enemies of sin and death. The living, active, delightful voice of our Savior guarantees His ongoing presence in our life. Because of this, we rejoice! As we gather in the presence of Jesus this day, let us echo Jeremiah’s anthem of praise: “Your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart!”

PREPARATION

Video ‘Back to School’ A prayer

Opening Hymn Son of God, Eternal Savior #842



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and
2 As You, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, So may we for
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and



truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us
oth - ers live. Free - ly have Your gifts been grant - ed,
Prince of Peace; Hush the storm of strife and pas - sion,
truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us



Hal - lows all our hu - man race, You our Head, who, throned in
 Free-ly may Your ser - vants give. Yours the gold and Yours the
 Bid its cru - el dis - cords cease. By Your pa - tient years of
 Hal - lows all our hu - man race: By Your pray - ing, by Your



glo - ry, For Your own will ev - er plead: Fill us with Your
 sil - ver, Yours the wealth of land and sea; We but stew - ards
 toil - ing, By Your si - lent hours of pain, Quench our fe - vered
 will - ing That Your peo - ple should be one, Grant, O grant our



love and pit - y, Heal our wrongs, and help our need.
 of Your boun - ty Held in sol - emn trust will be.
 thirst of plea - sure, Stem our self - ish greed of gain.
 hope's fru - i - tion: Here on earth Your will be done.

Text: Somerset T. C. Lowry, 1855–1932, alt. Tune: Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse . . . Contradanseu, c. 1710, Amsterdam.
 Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Jeremiah 15:20b

- P** Since we are gathered to delight ourselves in the Word of God and to assemble as one family around His Table, let us with repentant hearts confess our sins before our heavenly Father, seeking His forgiveness in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

(We pause for a moment of silent prayer and confession.)

- P** O Lord our God, hear us as we pray:
- C** We confess that we have not walked in Your faithfulness, turning away from You when we should be turning toward You.

P Father, forgive us.

C **Our love has not been genuine. We have not overcome evil with good.**

P Have mercy upon us, Lord Jesus.

C **The grace You tell us to share with both our friends and our enemies is the mercy we also need.**

P Renew us, Spirit of truth.

C **Remove our transgressions from us so that we may live as those who have been called by Your name, delighting in Your goodness to us in Christ. Amen.**

P “I am with you to save you and deliver you,” declares the Lord. Through Jesus Christ—crucified, risen, and coming again—you have been delivered from your enemies of sin, death, and the devil. Keep His saving, steadfast love before your eyes and walk by faith in His promises. As one called to be your pastor and commissioned by Jesus to deliver the delight of His Word, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

WORD

Introit

Psalm 37:5–7; antiphon: v. 4

L Delight yourself in the LORD,

C **and He will give you the desires of your heart.**

L Commit your way to the LORD;

C **trust in Him, and He will act.**

L He will bring forth your righteousness as the light,

C **and your justice as the noonday.**

- L** Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for Him;
C fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!

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.

- L** Delight yourself in the LORD,
C and He will give you the desires of your heart.

Hymn of Praise Praise to You and Adoration #692

1 Praise to You and ad - o - ra - tion, Bless - ed Je - sus,
 2 Hold me ev - er in Your keep - ing; Com - fort me in

Son of God, Who, to serve Your own cre - a - tion, Came to
 pain and strife. In my laugh - ter and my weep - ing Be with

share our flesh and blood. Guide me that I nev - er may
 me through - out my life. Give me great - er love for You,

From Your fold or pas - tures stray, But with zeal and
 And my faith and hope re - new In Your birth, Your

joy ex - ceed - ing Fol - low where Your steps are lead - ing.
 life, and pas - sion, In Your death and res - ur - rec - tion.

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; (st. 1): tr. Kristen Kvamme, 1866–1938, alt.; (st. 2): tr. Christian Worship, 1993.
 Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois. Text and tune: Public domain

Salutation

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray.
Almighty God, Your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption.
- C** **Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow Him wherever He leads.**
- P** Delighting in Your goodness to us, we ask for this in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading *Jeremiah 15:15–21* (“I am with you to save you and deliver you.”)

- ¹⁵O LORD, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and take vengeance for me on my persecutors.
In your forbearance take me not away;
know that for your sake I bear reproach.
- ¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart,
for I am called by your name,
O LORD, God of hosts.
- ¹⁷I did not sit in the company of revelers,
nor did I rejoice;
I sat alone, because your hand was upon me,
for you had filled me with indignation.
- ¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?
Will you be to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail?
- ¹⁹Therefore thus says the LORD:
“If you return, I will restore you,

and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,
you shall be as my mouth.
They shall turn to you,
but you shall not turn to them.
²⁰And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,
declares the LORD.
²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.

P Fear the LORD, you His saints,

C **for those who fear Him lack nothing!**

P Many are the afflictions of the righteous,

C **but the LORD delivers him out of them all.**

Epistle *Romans 12:9–21* (“Overcome evil with good.”)

⁹Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.

¹⁰Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the

lowly. Never be conceited. ¹⁷Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel *Matthew 16:21–28* (Losing life and finding it in Christ.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²¹From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." ²³But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life? ²⁷For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. ²⁸Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

Sermon Hymn In the Cross of Christ I Glory #427



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, Tow'r - ing
 2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, Hopes de -
 3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing Light and
 4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure By the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of sa - cred
 ceive, and fears an - noy, Nev - er shall the cross for -
 love up - on my way, From the cross the ra - diance
 cross are sanc - ti - fied; Peace is there that knows no



sto - ry Gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
 sake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.
 stream - ing Adds more lus - ter to the day.
 mea - sure, Joys that through all time a - bide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872. Tune: Ithamar Conkey, 1815–67. Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon “Only the Cross of Christ” – Matthew 16: 21-28

Offering and Hymn Love in Christ Is Strong and Living #706



1 Love in Christ is strong and liv - ing, Bind - ing faith - ful
2 Love is pa - tient and for - bear - ing, Clothed in Christ's hu -
3 Love in Christ a - bides for - ev - er, Faint - ing not when



hearts in one; Love in Christ is true and giv - ing.
mil - i - ty, Gen - tle, self - less, kind, and car - ing,
ills at - tend; Love, for - giv - ing and for - giv - en,



May His will in us be done.
Reach - ing out in char - i - ty.
Shall en - dure un - til life's end.

Text: Dorothy R. Schultz, 1934. Tune: Ralph C. Schultz, 1932. Text and tune: © 1979 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110006139

Prayer of the Church

- P** Remember the call of God through Paul in Romans 12:12:
- C** “Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.”

P Rejoicing in God’s promise to hear our prayers, we delight ourselves in Him, even in the difficulties of life. Together let us give voice to our constant prayers.

Heavenly Father, You alone have the power to redeem Your enemies and make them friends. In the mercy of Jesus, who has claimed us as His own, enable us to show love to our enemies, heaping Your grace upon them. As You have loved us even though we never deserve it, help us to do the same to others in our lives. In Your love, O Lord,

C help us to love as You have first loved us.

P Lord Jesus, our hearts delight in Your goodness despite the evil of this fallen world. You entered into our midst because of Your

mission to seek and save the lost. We join with You in this mission, Lord, commissioned by Your Gospel to make known among the nations what You have done. Restore us, renew us, and lead us! We delight in the new life You have given to all who trust in You. In Your joy, O Lord,

G **help us to rejoice in all things.**

P Spirit of truth, You resuscitate what is dead, mend what is broken, and overcome what is evil with the goodness found only in You. Turn us again and again to Your mercy that we, having received it from You, may then extend it to others. Work mightily through each of us in our vocations at church, home, work, and society. Fill the hearts and minds of all who need Your wisdom and discernment, equipping them for the challenges they face. Through it all, instill in us Your peace to guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. In Your peace, O Lord,

G **help us to be peacemakers.**

P Be near to those who are broken in heart, body, and mind. Comfort the lonely and renew the spirit of those who despair. Clothe the naked and shelter the homeless. Let those who walk through the desert of difficulty discover the oasis of Your living water. Hear the prayers we offer for those in our family of faith who need Your healing mercies, [*including . . .*]. Your caring love for us is genuine and eternal. In Your care, O Lord,

G **help us to care for others.**

Other Petitions. Lord, in Your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

P To You, gracious Father, be all the glory, honor, and praise, in Christ Jesus and in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

G **Amen.**

Lord, hear us as we pray in Jesus' name and in the words He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

C 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.

Closing Sentences

Based on Romans 12:9–21

P Let your love be genuine. Turn from what is evil and hold fast to what is good.

C Let us see one another as brothers and sisters in Christ!

P Delight yourself in the Lord even when life is difficult. Hold fast to Jesus. Rejoice in Him!

C Let us overcome evil with good as we go forth in Jesus' name.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn Christ, the Word of God Incarnate #540 sts. 1, 4–6



1 Christ, the Word of God in - car - nate, Lord and Son of
4 Christ, our good and faith - ful shep - herd, Watch - ing all Your
5 Christ, the way that leads un - fail - ing To the Fa - ther's
△ 6 Christ, the Al - pha and O - me - ga, Christ, the first-born



A - bra - ham; Christ, the ra - diance of the Fa - ther,
 lambs and sheep; Christ, the gate that guards the sheep - fold,
 home on high, Christ, the truth that frees the cap - tive,
 from the dead, Christ, the life and res - ur - rec - tion,



Per - fect God, the great I AM; Christ, the light, You
 Nev - er - fail - ing vig - il keep. When we stray, Good
 Christ, the life that can - not die. Me - di - a - tor
 Christ, the Church's glo - rious head: Praise and thanks and



shine un - van - quished, Light and life You bring to all; Light our
 Shep - herd, seek us, Find us, lift us, bear us home; Lamb of
 to the Fa - ther, Sac - ri - fice and great High Priest: Lead us
 ad - o - ra - tion And un - end - ing wor - ship be To the



path with Your own pres - ence, Grant us grace to heed Your call.
 God, our shep - herd, keep us; Let us hear Your voice a - lone.
 to Your heav'n - ly man - sions, There to share Your wed - ding feast.
 Fa - ther and the Spir - it And to You e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: Steven P. Mueller, 1964. Tune: Columbian Harmony, 1825, Cincinnati. Text: © 2001 Steven P. Mueller. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110006139. Tune: Public domain

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