

5 Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

APOSTLE’S CREED ELW page 105

SHARING THE PEACE L) The peace of Christ be with you all. **C) And also with you.**

OFFERING/OFFERING SONG **“Give Thanks”**
Give thanks with a grateful heart. Give thanks to the Holy One, Give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ his son. Give thanks with a grateful heart. Give thanks to the Holy One, Give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ his son.
And now let the weak say I am strong, Let the poor say I am rich.
Because of what the Lord has done for us, And now let the weak say I am strong,
Let the poor say I am rich. Because of what the Lord has done for us. Give Thanks.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH L) Lord in your mercy C) *Hear our Prayer*

HOLY COMMUNION *(continuous)*

- ✚ Words of Institution
- ✚ The Lord’s Prayer
- ✚ Distribution of the Sacrament
- ✚ Benediction

CLOSING SONG **“Rise Up, O Saints of God” v-1,3,5** ELW #669

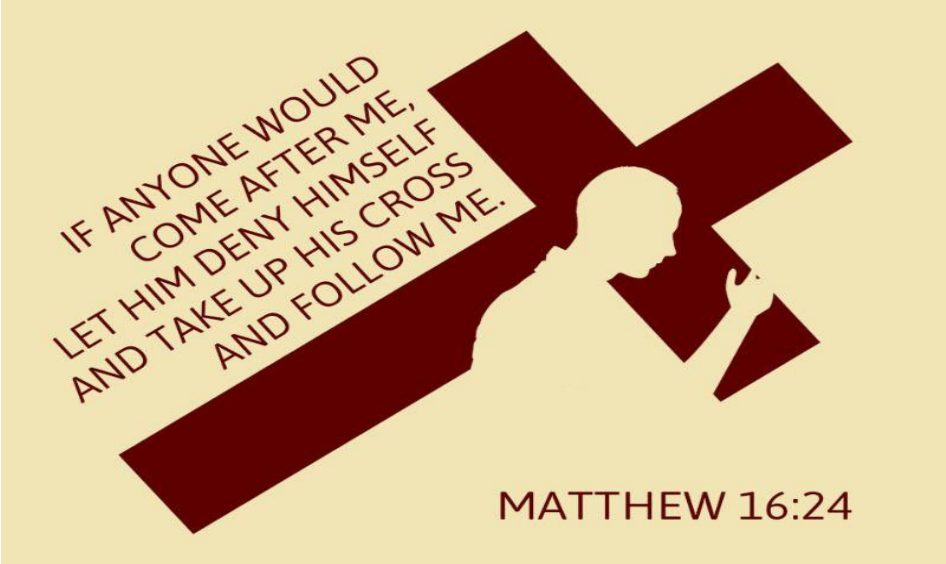
- 1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain ambitions turn;
Christ rose triumphant that your hearts with nobler zeal might burn.
- 3 Rise up, O saints of God! The kingdom's task embrace;
redress sin's cruel consequence; give justice larger place.
- 5 Commit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;
and, quickened by the Spirit's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

DISMISSAL L) Go in peace, Serve the Lord and your neighbors. **C) Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE



Fourteenth Sunday of Pentecost



Willow Creek and Benton Lutheran Churches

August 30th, 2026
Vicar Kendra Kappler and Pastor Renae Boehmer
Accompanist: Lisa Rave, Willow Creek, Kari Vosburg, Benton

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: God calls us by name and meets us where we are.
C: We come, trusting that God is here.
L: Christ calls us to follow—not because we have every answer, but because he leads the way.
C: We come, ready to listen and follow.
L: The Spirit sends us into a world that needs genuine love, generous hearts, and faithful neighbors.
C: We come, asking God to show us the next faithful step.
L: Come, let us worship the God who promises:
C: I will be with you.

BREATH PRAYER

Inhale: Show me who to be. Exhale: And what is mine to do. (Repeated 3x)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

Gracious God, ***we confess that we like to know where we are going. We want answers before we take the first step and guarantees before we risk very much. Like Moses, we wonder whether we are enough. Like Peter, we sometimes want to tell you how the story ought to go. Forgive us when fear keeps us from following, when we choose what is safe over what is loving, and when we forget that you have promised to be with us. Turn us again toward you and toward our neighbors. Teach us to trust your presence and take the next faithful step. Amen.***

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin and made us alive together with Christ. Hear the good news: the God who called Moses by name has called you by name and claimed you in baptism. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that you may walk boldly into the world to love and serve your neighbor. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG “For the Beauty of the Earth” v- 1,2,5 ELW #879

1 For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,
 for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:

Refrain
Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.

2 For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
 hill and vale and tree and flow’r, sun and moon and stars of light: *Refrain*

5 For each perfect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav’n;
 for thyself, best gift divine, to our world so freely giv’n: *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY
O God, ***you call us to follow even when the way ahead is uncertain. Quiet our fears, remind us that you are with us, and give us courage to take the next faithful step. Shape us by your love, that our lives may be marked by compassion, generosity, and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.***

FIRST READING Exodus 3:1-15
¹ Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness and came to Mount Horeb, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³ Then Moses said, “I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up.” ⁴ When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” ⁵ Then he said, “Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” ⁶ He said further, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

⁷ Then the LORD said, “I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, ⁸ and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹ The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰ Now go, I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.” ¹¹ But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” ¹² He said, “I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.” ¹³ But Moses said to God, “If I come to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” ¹⁴ God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” He said further, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’ ” ¹⁵ God also said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you’: This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.”
L) Word of God, Word of Life. ***All) Thanks be to God.***

SECOND READING Romans 12:9-21
⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.
¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ 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.” ²⁰ Instead, “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.” ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.
L) Word of God, Word of Life. ***All) Thanks be to God.***

CHILDREN’S SONG/MESSAGE “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying” WOV 775
Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow’r, send us grace.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Jesus, Name Above All Names”
Jesus, name above all names, Beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.
Emmanuel, God is with us, Blessed Redeemer, Living Word.

GOSPEL READING Matthew 16:21-28
²¹ From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] 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. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”
²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ 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?
²⁷ “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. ²⁸ 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.”
L) Word of God, word of life. ***All) Thanks be to God.***

MESSAGE “Called into God’s Story” Pastor Renae Boehmer
SONG OF THE DAY “Will You Come and Follow Me” v-1,4,5 ELW #798
1 "Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
 Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
 Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
 will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?
4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call your name?
 Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
 Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"