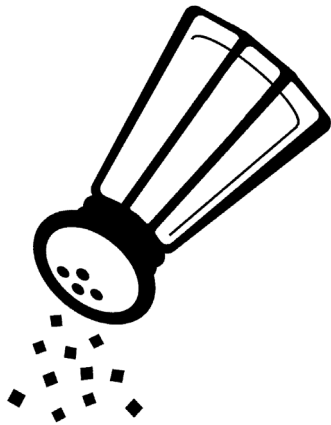


Pentecost 13

September 7, 2025

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 18 (Year C)

Life lived in the intentional presence of God is one filled with true joy and spiritual abundance. There is a cost, however, to following Jesus. The cost isn't measured in silver or gold, but in the very giving away of one's life for the sake of the Gospel. Jesus warned his followers to "count the cost" before they embarked on the journey with him. It sounds daunting, but once you're on the path it is true freedom.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Lesson: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Choose Life

As the covenant that God made with his people Israel was renewed, the Word of the Lord came to the people urging them to choose life. Loving the Lord and obeying his commandments are the way to true and abundant life. Turning away from the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is to turn toward false gods and therefore death.

Psalm 1

Everything They Do Will Prosper

The psalmist proclaimed that those who walk in the ways of the Lord are trees planted by streams of water. Growth and nourishment are readily available for those who love God and follow him; their work will prosper with God's help.

Second Lesson: Philemon 1-21

Paul's Appeal to a Slave Owner

Paul wrote an impassioned letter to Philemon, who was the owner of a slave named Onesimus. Paul met Onesimus in prison, becoming his spiritual father there. Paul asserted in the correspondence that he could demand Philemon do what was right and free Onesimus, but instead Paul asked him to free the slave out of love.

Gospel Lesson: Luke 14:25-35

Count the Cost of Discipleship

Jesus explained to his disciples that there is a very high cost of following him. One must be willing to bear his own cross, renounce all his worldly possessions, even walk away from family, if need be, and go with Jesus. He used the examples of a calculating the budget before beginning the foundation of a building project and a king figuring up the price of war before confronting an enemy.

Suggestions for the Day:

- * The liturgical color is green.
- * The Kyrie OR the Hymn of Praise may be used during Ordinary Time.
- * Labor Day in the U.S. is Sept. 1. Remind disciples of their baptismal call and how the call that was put on their lives at the day of their baptism is lived out in their daily work. Making this important connection is vital to helping people of faith understand the call of Christ on their lives. Living as Christians means that there is a definite cost to following Jesus.
- * If people haven't read "The Cost of Discipleship" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, encourage them to dig into this powerful book to gain a greater understanding of life in the faith.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
Take My Life, and Let it Be	406	---	783	685	233	233
When I Survey the Wondrous Cross	482	---	425	803	132	132
Lift High the Cross	377	---	837	660	269	269
Day by Day	---	746	---	790	210	210
For the Fruit of All Creation	563	---	894	679	---	---
Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus	487	---	685	802	---	---
Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways	480	---	707	772	235	235
Earth and All Stars!	558	---	817	731	---	---
O Jesus, I Have Promised	503	---	---	810	79	79
Give to Our God Immortal Praise	520	---	---	848	12	12

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW= Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV= With One Voice, ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB= The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC= The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at "Hymns and Music."

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles
From the Inside Out (CCLI # 4705176)
The Heart of Worship (CCLI# 2296522)
When We Walk With the Lord (CCLI# 22094)
Called Me Higher (CCLI# 5887880)
Step By Step (CCLI# 676994)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.