

Welcome to Worship  
September 3, 2023

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*We welcome Patricia Oakley on the piano today. Thank you for being with us today, Patricia!*

**Prelude**                      *Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life ~ arr. Lynn Trapp*

**Gathering Hymn**              *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service ~ ELW 712*

**Prayer of the Day**

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**First Reading**                      **Jeremiah 15:15-21**

*Jeremiah's delight in the word of the LORD is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."*

**Psalm**                                      **Psalm 26:1-8**

<sup>1</sup>Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived <sup>1</sup>with integrity;  
I have trusted in the LORD and <sup>1</sup>have not faltered.

<sup>2</sup>**Test me, O <sup>1</sup>LORD, and try me;**  
**examine my heart <sup>1</sup>and my mind.**

<sup>3</sup>For your steadfast love is before my eyes;  
I have walked faithfully with you.

<sup>4</sup>**I have not sat <sup>1</sup>with the worthless,**  
**nor do I consort with <sup>1</sup>the deceitful.**

<sup>5</sup>I have hated the company of <sup>1</sup>evildoers;  
I will not sit down <sup>1</sup>with the wicked.

<sup>6</sup>**I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD,**  
**that I may go in procession <sup>1</sup>round your altar,**

<sup>7</sup>singing aloud a song <sup>1</sup>of thanksgiving  
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

<sup>8</sup>**LORD, I love the house in <sup>1</sup>which you dwell**  
**and the place where your glory abides**

## **Gospel**

### **Matthew 16:13-28**

*At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades. After Peter confesses that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a "rock."*

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" <sup>14</sup>And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." <sup>15</sup>He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup>And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup>I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." <sup>20</sup>Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

<sup>21</sup>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. <sup>22</sup>And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." <sup>23</sup>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."

<sup>24</sup>Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup>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?

<sup>27</sup>"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. <sup>28</sup>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."

This is the Good News!

**Thanks be to God**

## **Hymn of the Day**

*Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult ~ ELW 696*

## **Musical Offering**

*MLK Prayer for the Church – Video by The Work of the People*

*In honor of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the March on Washington and I Have a Dream speech; In memory of those killed last week in Jacksonville and all who suffer racially motivated violence and discrimination; and in recognition that following Jesus requires us to work tirelessly for racial justice*

## **Offertory Hymn**

*In the Singing ~ ELW 466*

## **Communion Hymn**

*Will You Come and Follow Me ~ ELW 798*

## **Sending Hymn**

*Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song ~ ELW 808*

## **Postlude**

*Sonata in D minor, K.64 ~ Domenico Scarlatti*