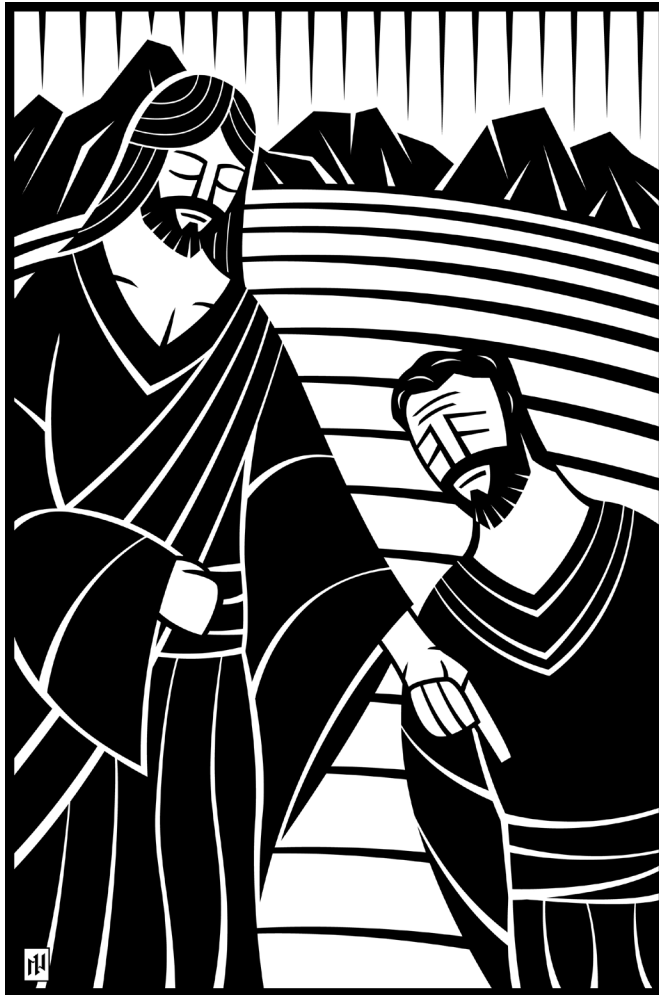




Our Savior Ev. Lutheran Church & School
Grafton, WI
August 30, 2026

Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Today's Focus: Cross comes before Crown.

Some churches teach that if a person follows God, God responds by granting prosperity and peace, as would only be expected. Today we see how that is nonsense. The Bible explains that if we are part of the Church of God, we will have to bear crosses. Believers suffer in this world, sometimes just because they are believers.

Why bother? We carry our crosses in gratitude for Jesus carrying his cross, one too heavy for us because it was weighted down with our sin. We carry our crosses because we know that in those moments of struggle, we are forced to turn to Christ and rely on his strength. This is the unexpected path, the one Jesus himself walked: the cross comes before the crown.

Stewardship from God's Word: Romans 8:18-25

God's stewards live with awareness of present and eternity, which needs a delicate balance. It is easy to become occupied with here and now, and lose sight of there and then! Wise stewards of life and its resources, make the most of each opportunity as it comes, but are also aware of eternity. What we do as Christian stewards has both immediate and eternal impact. Eternal hope in Christ enables us to rise above life's circumstances, so we can freely give ourselves in his service. That's good stewardship!

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Presiding:	Jonathan Fischer
Preaching	Doug Zabel
Organist:	Charissa Breitreutz

Pastor: Jonathan Fischer
Church Office: Lisa Skogstad
School Office: Jill Klug

pastorfischer@oursaviorgrafton.org
church@oursaviorgrafton.org
school@oursaviorgrafton.org

The 10:30 service is livestreamed for our members at home.



Our Savior
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

1332 Arrowhead Rd, Grafton, WI
OurSaviorGrafton.org
Church 262-377-6363
School 262-377-7780

Welcome!

Afflicted Saint, to Christ Draw Near

CW 867

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession

CW 188

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

CW 190

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Glory to God in the Highest

CW 191

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains an instrumental introduction. The second staff begins the vocal melody with the lyrics 'Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to'. The third staff continues the melody with 'God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,'. The fourth staff concludes the phrase with 'and peace to his peo - ple on earth.' The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to
God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,
and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might - y God and

Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we

praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly

Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on

us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the

Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For

you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the

Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus

Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to
God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,
and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow him wherever he leads; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Jeremiah 15:15–21

When Jeremiah complained about carrying his cross, the Lord called on him to repent and promised salvation.

¹⁵LORD, you understand; remember me and care for me. Avenge me on my persecutors. You are long-suffering—do not take me away; think of how I suffer reproach for your sake.

¹⁶When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, LORD God Almighty.

¹⁷I never sat in the company of revelers, never made merry with them; I sat alone because your hand was on me and you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸Why is my pain unending and my wound grievous and incurable? You are to me like a deceptive brook, like a spring that fails.

¹⁹Therefore this is what the LORD says: "If you repent, I will restore you that you may serve me; if you utter worthy, not worthless, words, you will be my spokesman. Let this people turn to you, but you must not turn to them.

²⁰I will make you a wall to this people, a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you to rescue and save you," declares the LORD.

²¹"I will save you from the hands of the wicked and deliver you from the grasp of the cruel."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

31C My Rock and My Refuge

Psalm 31C



1 My rock and my ref - uge, take note of my cry.
 2 What pow'r can dis - suade me from trust - ing in you?
 3 But now I am trou - bled and fear for my life,
 4 My wel - fare and fu - ture to you I en - trust.
 5 Such to - tal pro - tec - tion, such an - swers to prayer—



My strength and my Sav - ior, on you I re - ly.
 My heart will be yours, for I know you are true!
 my days are a pag - eant of sor - row and strife,
 Pro - tect me from those whose de - signs are un - just.
 may all who re - vere you re - joice in your care!



My right - eous de - liv - 'rer, pre - serve me from shame.
 My soul was im - pris - oned till you set me free,
 for slan - der sur - rounds me, and ter - ror looms near—
 LORD, purge from cre - a - tion all false - hood and spite;
 Take cour - age, you saints, and be strong in the LORD,



May I know your guid - ance and hon - or your name.
 I bask in the love you have lav - ished on me.
 my neigh - bors de - ride me, my friends dis - ap - pear.
 en - a - ble your ser - vants to live in your light.
 for he is your hope, your e - ter - nal re - ward.

Second Reading

Romans 8:18–25

No cross can compare with the crown of glory that is waiting.

¹⁸I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

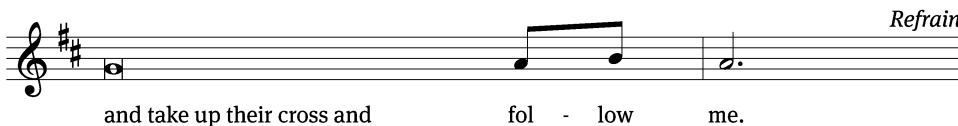
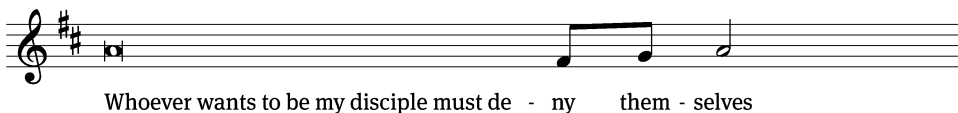
Mark 8:34



Refrain



Tone



Gospel

Matthew 16:21–26

Jesus calls his Church to walk in his path. First comes the cross, then comes the crown.

²¹From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

²²Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!”

²³Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

²⁴Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. ²⁶What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

CW 694

Sermon

Jeremiah 15:15–21

Our Partner in Suffering

Space is provided for you to take notes during the sermon.

Stand

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Be seated

Profession of Faith

Today, Elana Coleman, Austin Cormack, Celina Kolkman, Makayla Kolkman, Linda Wilkens, and Ron Wilkens will join Our Savior by public profession of their faith.

Prayer of the Church

Loving God and Lord, you created the universe that surrounds us and the globe on which we live. You control all things through your Son, who sits at your right hand in glory.

Comfort us with the promise of your eternal presence.

Give your Word power as it works in our hearts and minds. Clear away our confusion and demolish our doubts. Send your Spirit to strengthen both our confidence in your promises and our desire to live according to your will.

Take away our love of sinning and restore us each day by your grace.

The signs of the times warn us that the end of time is near. Protect us from scoffers who sneer at your truth. Spare us and Christians around the world from all forms of hate and persecution.

Give us courage to carry the cross with patience and joy.

Instill in the hearts of our children a desire to follow you as they prepare for future days. Help them distinguish between what is passing and what is eternal, between instant thrills and lasting joy. Encourage more young people to prepare for service in the public ministry of the gospel.

Mold us and move us to be good examples for our youth.

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical or emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. [Especially bless . . . *here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Pour out your compassion on the grieving and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Whether we pray together or alone, you have promised to hear and answer us. Give us patience to accept your blessings in whatever way you send them. In your love and wisdom, prepare us for the day when you will take us to be with you forever.

Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Offering

Our Savior's ministries are supported by the joyful and generous gifts of her members. If you are not a member of Our Savior, please do not feel obligated to give an offering. It is our privilege and pleasure to serve you with God's Word today. You may make your gift in the following ways:

Give In person: The offering is collected during each service.

Give with the App: Download the Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app, search near me and select "Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran".

Give Online Oursaviorgrafton.org/give.



During the offering, please sign the friendship register located in each pew.

Or use the following QR code to log attendance online:



The Sacrament

Stand

Preface

CW 199

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 200

The musical score is written for a single voice part on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts, heav - en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.' The score consists of seven lines of music, each with a corresponding line of lyrics. The first line of music is a short phrase. The second line of music is a full line of music. The third line of music is a full line of music. The fourth line of music is a full line of music. The fifth line of music is a full line of music. The sixth line of music is a full line of music. The seventh line of music is a full line of music.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts,
heav - en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin.

We remember and give you thanks that your eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh and made his dwelling among us, that he willingly placed himself under law to redeem those under law, that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross, that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast. Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God our Father, and to your Son and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Lamb of God

CW 202

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; grant us, grant us peace.

Be seated

Distribution

Out of sincere love for the truth of God's Word and precious souls, we practice closed Communion in our congregation. This has been the practice of Christians for centuries and is thoroughly scriptural. It neither questions the faith nor judges the heart of any individual, yet expects that there be full doctrinal agreement among those who commune. For this reason, we ask that only members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) join us for the Lord's Supper today. If you have any questions please speak with Pastor Fischer after the service.

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.
Amen.

Be seated

THIS WEEK AT OUR SAVIOR

Sunday (8/30)	8:00 a.m.	Worship and Communion
	9:30 a.m.	Twenty-Minute Family Bible Study
	10:30 a.m.	Worship and Communion
	11:45 a.m.	Church Picnic
Monday (8/31)	6:00 p.m.	Elders Meeting
Tuesday (9/1)		
Wednesday (9/2)		
Thursday (9/3)	7:00 p.m.	Worship and Communion
Friday (9/4)		
Saturday (9/5)		
Sunday (9/6)	8:00 a.m.	Worship and Communion
	9:30 a.m.	Twenty-Minute Family Bible Study
	10:30 a.m.	Worship and Communion

SERVING IN WORSHIP

	Thursday August 27th	Early August 30th	Late August 30th
Ushers	Team Whitford	Team 1E	Team 1L
Altar Asst		TBD	TBD
Tech Team		Esther Fischer	Stephen Fischer
Altar Guild	Deanna Edwards Sandy Hahn	Deanna Edwards Sandy Hahn	Deanna Edwards Sandy Hahn
	<i>Thursday</i> <i>September 3rd</i>	<i>Early</i> <i>September 6th</i>	<i>Late</i> <i>September 6th</i>
Ushers	Team Whitford	Team 2E	Team 2L
Altar Asst	Russ Whitford	TBD	TBD
Tech Team		Allie Lederer	Landyn Noble
Altar Guild	Jean Stein Jodie Martens	Jean Stein Jodie Martens	Jean Stein Jodie Martens

Acknowledgments

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