



**UNITED PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL:
LIGHT OF CHRIST
ST. JOHN'S WINDISH
ST. PETER'S**

**SEPTEMBER 11, 12, 2021
16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Holy Communion

Sat. Sep 11, 4:45 PM at St. Peter's Luth. Church

Sun. Sep. 12, 10:30 AM at the Lutheran Center

The Rev. Mike Button, Interim Pastor UPG
Pastor's Email: mikebutton52@gmail.com

The Rev. Suzanne M. Trump, Pastor SJW
Pastor's Email: strump@ptd.net

Ministers: All Members of the Parish



CHILDREN ARE WELCOME IN THE WORSHIP SERVICE

INTRODUCTION

Three weeks ago we heard Peter's confession of faith as told in John's gospel. This week we hear Mark's version, when Peter says, "You are the Messiah." In John, the stumbling block is Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh, given for the life of the world. In Mark too the scandal has to do with Jesus' words about his own coming death, and here Peter himself stumbles over Jesus' words. But Jesus is anointed (the meaning of messiah) in Mark only on the way to the cross (14:3); so we are anointed in baptism with the sign of the cross.

~~~~~THE GATHERING~~~~~

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE HYMNS (livestream and/or Holy Communion)

Take My Life, That I May Be

(ELW 685)

*1 Take my life, that I may be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.*

*2 Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee.*

*3 Take my voice and let me sing
always, only, for my King;
take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee.*

*4 Take my silver and my gold,
not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use
ev'ry pow'r as thou shall choose.*

*5 Take my will and make it thine,
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own,
it shall be thy royal throne.*

*6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, if all for thee.*

Here I Am, Lord

(ELW 574)

*1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?"*

Refrain

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

*2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?" Refrain*

*3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?" Refrain*

Let Us Break Bread Together

(ELW 471)

*1 Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us break bread together on our knees.*

Refrain

*When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.*

*2 Let us drink wine together on our knees;
let us drink wine together on our knees. Refrain*

*3 Let us praise God together on our knees;
let us praise God together on our knees. Refrain*

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

(ELW 834)

*1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,*

almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise!

*2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.*

*3 To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.*

*4 Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render; oh, help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!*

WELCOME: Pr. Suzanne

PRELUDE: Here I Am, Lord - arr. John Carter

The assembly stands as able.

All may make the sign of the cross ✠, the sign marked at baptism.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart. God our comforter:

C: like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Amen.

P: All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in ✠ Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

C: Amen

GATHERING SONG

God's Work, Our Hands (To the tune Earth and all Stars ELW 731)

*God's work, our hands: working together,
building a future, repairing the world,*

*raising up homes, planting new gardens,
feeding the hungry and shelt'ring the cold.
Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
sharing the good news of your Gospel.*

*God's work, our feet: trav'ling together,
following Jesus to places unknown,
walking as friends, marching for freedom,
running the race with God's future the goal.
Bless, God, our feet as we follow your way,
sharing the good news of your Gospel.*

*God's work, our voice: singing together,
praising, proclaiming to all who will hear,
praying for peace, shouting for justice,
claiming God's love for the lost and the least.
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
sharing the good news of your Gospel.*

*God is at work in and around us:
seedlings are sprouting and bread's on the rise!
Washed and set free, humbled and honored,
gifted by grace, we respond in God's love.
Bless, God, our lives as we answer your call,
sharing the good news of your Gospel.*

Text: Wayne L. Wold

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GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A: Let us pray. O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

The assembly is seated.

~~~~~**THE WORD**~~~~~

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a**

*The image of the servant of the Lord is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.*

A: A reading from Isaiah:

*<sup>4</sup>The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. <sup>5</sup>The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. <sup>6</sup>I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. <sup>7</sup>The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; <sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. <sup>9a</sup>It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?*

A: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 116:1-9 (read responsively)**

A: *<sup>1</sup>I love the Lord, who has heard my voice,  
and listened to my supplication,*

**C: <sup>2</sup>for the Lord has given ear to me  
whenever I called.**

A: *<sup>3</sup>The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me;  
I came to grief and sorrow.*

**C: <sup>4</sup>Then I called upon the name of the Lord:  
"O Lord, I pray you, save my life."**

A: *<sup>5</sup>Gracious is the Lord and righteous;  
our God is full of compassion.*

**C: <sup>6</sup>The Lord watches over the innocent;  
I was brought low, and God saved me.**

A: *<sup>7</sup>Turn again to your rest, O my soul.  
for the Lord has dealt well with you.*

**C: <sup>8</sup>For you have rescued my life from death,  
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling;**

A: *<sup>9</sup>I will walk in the presence of the Lord  
in the land of the living.*

**SECOND READING: James 3:1-12**

*This text uses various images to illustrate how damaging and hurtful the way we speak to and about others can be. Not only are we to control our speech, but what we say and how we say it are to reflect our faith.*

*A: A reading from James Chapter 3:*

*<sup>1</sup>Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. <sup>2</sup>For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. <sup>3</sup>If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. <sup>4</sup>Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. <sup>5</sup>So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! <sup>6</sup>And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. <sup>7</sup>For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, <sup>8</sup>but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup>With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. <sup>10</sup>From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. <sup>11</sup>Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? <sup>12</sup>Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.*

*A: The word of the Lord.*

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Children's Chat: Pr. Suzanne**

*The assembly stands as able.*

### **HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 8:27-38**

*This story provides the turning point in Mark's gospel. Peter is the first human being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.*

*P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter.*

**C: Glory to you, O Lord**

*<sup>27</sup>Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" <sup>28</sup>And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." <sup>29</sup>He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." <sup>30</sup>And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. <sup>31</sup>Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and*

after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." <sup>34</sup>He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

*P: The gospel of the lord.*

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**SERMON: PR. SUZANNE**

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

*The assembly stands as able.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY:**

**Will You Come and Follow Me: The Summons (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?"

2 "Will you leave yourself behind  
if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare,  
should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer pray'r  
in you and you in me?"

3 "Will you let the blinded see  
if I but call your name?  
Will you set the pris'ners free  
and never be the same?"

*Will you kiss the leper clean,  
and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean  
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?"*

*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.*

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

***C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.***

### **Installation of Leaders in the Congregation**

*P: The following people have been elected by the Light of Christ, St. Peter's, and St. John's Windish congregations to positions of leadership on their congregation councils. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these sisters and brothers will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as congregations working together.*

*The offices and names of those who are to be installed are read by a representative of each congregation.*

*A: A reading from First Corinthians: There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)*

*You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in these congregations. You are to see that the words and deeds of these households of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church.*

*You are to seek to involve all members of these congregations in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in these congregations, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world.*

*You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified.*

*You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in these congregations.*

*P: On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you: Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected?*

*Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.*

*A: People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?*

***C: We will, and we ask God to help us.***

*P: I now declare you installed as officers / council members of Light of Christ, St. Peter's, and St. John's Windish congregations.*

*Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ.*

***C: Amen.***

### ***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION***

*A: Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.*

*Revealing God, you have made yourself known through bread and wine, water and word. Continue to nurture your church, that it is a place where your presence is experienced and shared. Lord, in your mercy,*

***C: hear our prayer.***

*A: Creating God, you brought life into being and called it good. Bring new*

creation to lands devastated by tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, fires, and other disasters (recent destructive events may be named here). Restore forests and curb overflowing waters. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Protecting God, you desire all people to live in peace and safety. Provide for all who are in danger. Strengthen first responders to help meet to the complex needs of others. Provide care and compassion as they face trauma themselves. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Transforming God, you announce release to the captives and freedom to the oppressed. Break chains of discrimination and injustice. Amplify voices that go unheard and inspire us to advocate for the those who are overlooked. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Forming God, you gather this community together. Shape our communal life, that in our prayer, praise, and worship, we honor you and encourage one another. Keep our disagreements civil and increase our joy in working together. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Redeeming God, you accompany your people through every stage of life. We give you thanks for the saints who now rest in your embrace (especially). Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

## **~~~~~THE MEAL~~~~~**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

The assembly stands as able.

## **OFFERING**

### **Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful**

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,  
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.

Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,  
that we may be fed with the bread of life.

Gather the hopes and dreams of all;  
unite them with the prayers we offer.

Grace our table with your presence,  
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

*A: God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.*

**C: Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

*Prepare your communion elements*

## **DIALOGUE**

*P: The Lord be with you.*

**C: And also with you.**

*P: Lift up your hearts.*

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

*P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **PREFACE**

*P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

## **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

*P: Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance. You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven. You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.*

*In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Remembering, therefore, his life given for us and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast. By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want, and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.*

**C: Amen**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

*P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:*

***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.***

### **~::~COMMUNION~::**

#### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

*P: All who hunger and thirst, come. The table is ready.*

*The assembly is seated.*

*The body of Christ, given for you.*

*The blood of Christ, shed for you.*

*and each person may respond "**Amen.**"*

#### **COMMUNION SONG**

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace, grant us peace.***

*Please take note: If you are abstaining from receiving Holy Communion, please utilize this time of silence to share the following prayer.*

***C: I believe that You are truly present in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. I always desire to offer You praise and thanksgiving as I***

***proclaim Your resurrection. I love You above all things, and long for You in my soul.***

***Since I cannot receive You in the sacrament of Your Body and Blood, I implore You to come into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with Your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from You. May I live in You and You in me, in this life and in the life that is to come. Amen.***

Based on a prayer from: *The Prayer Book for the Armed Forces (1988)*

*The assembly stands as able*

### **TABLE BLESSING**

*P: The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.*

***C: Amen***

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*A: Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.*

***C: Amen.***

*The assembly is seated.*

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **~::~THE SENDING~::~**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

### **BLESSING**

*P: People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, ☩ one God, bless you now and forever.*

***C: Amen***

### **SENDING SONG:**

***Lift High the Cross***

***(ELW 660)***

*Refrain*

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

*1 Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,  
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. Refrain*

*2 All newborn servants of the Crucified  
bear on their brows the seal of him who died. Refrain*

3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. Refrain

4 So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain

**DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE: Lift High the Cross - arr. Burkhardt**

**The candles today are sponsored by Linda and Lois Torok, and burn in loving memory of our brother, Frank H. Torok, who was born September 22. They also burn in loving memory of our parents, Frank and Margaret Torok. "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."**

**GOSPEL MESSAGE: Who Are You?**

"Who do people say that I am? . . . But who do you say that I am?" (Mark 8:27, 29). Jesus' questions to the disciples highlight a distinction between what society at large recognizes about him, and what those closest to him know. From the outside, Jesus looks to many people like an important prophet or great moral teacher at best; at worst, he is an irrelevant rule-giver.

To those who know him, though, the answer is different. We who have been baptized into his family and nourished with his body and blood, we who hear his voice in the words of absolution and the promises of scripture, we who have felt his healing power through the gift of the Holy Spirit know just a bit more. This Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah. Like Peter, even we who know the story may wish to reject the necessity of Christ's death. The words of the beloved Holy Week hymn echo deeply, "Oh, who am I that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?" (ELW 343).

Who are you? You are a sinner in need of redemption, the one for whom Christ has died, a beloved child of God, and a sibling of your Messiah. Jesus rebukes Peter not for Peter's compassion or desire for Jesus to avoid suffering, but because the compassion and desire are misplaced. We need a Messiah—and we have one—precisely because we don't need any more prophets, moral teachers, or irrelevant rule-givers. We are sinners who need forgiveness. We are broken people in need of healing. And we have found what we need in Jesus, the Messiah. The world will always set its mind on human things; may the Holy Spirit set your mind on divine things and continue to confirm in you the truth of Jesus Christ, who was crucified, died, and raised on the third day for you.

\* \* \* \* \*

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