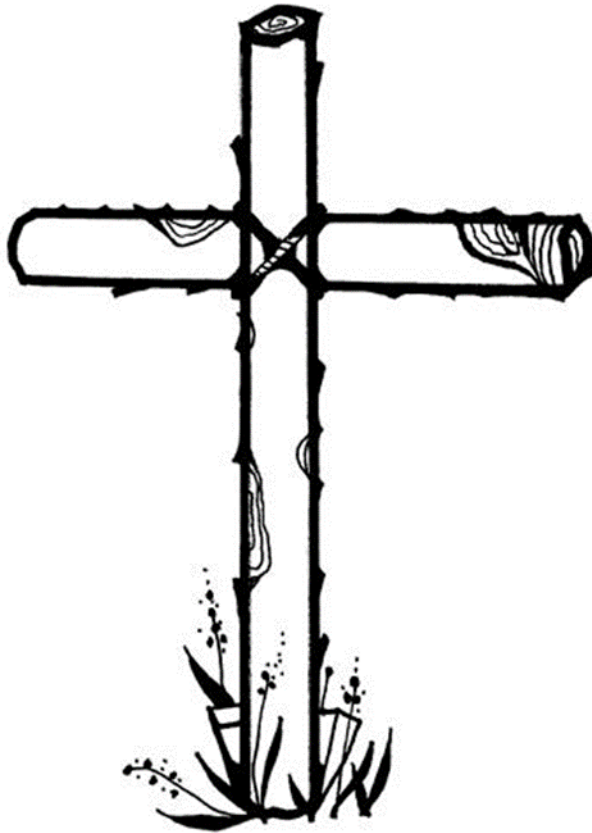


# **Moxham Lutheran Church**

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# Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 3, 2023 + 9:30 a.m.

## Introducing Today's Liturgy

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

## Gathering

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

### Welcome

### Prelude

### Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be God,  
the one who forms us,  
✠ Jesus who bears the cross,  
the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

**Amen.**

Let us bow before God in humility,  
confessing our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Steadfast and faithful God,  
**you have revealed the ways of justice,  
yet we fail to follow you.**

**We are overwhelmed  
by the world's violence and suffering.**

**We are afraid to risk what we have  
for the sake of others.**

**For the harm we have caused,  
known and unknown, forgive us.**

**For the unjust demands we place on others  
and your creation, forgive us.**

**For the ways we turn away  
from you and our neighbor, forgive us.**

**Lead us back to you  
and set us on the right path;  
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,  
God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.  
God's compassion is beyond compare.  
In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.  
In † Christ, you are already and always forgiven.  
**Amen.**

**Gathering Song:** "Son of God, Eternal Savior"

**No. 655**

### **Greeting**

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the holy spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### **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.**

## **Word**

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

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

<sup>15</sup>O LORD, you know;  
remember me and visit me,  
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;  
know that on your account I suffer insult.

<sup>16</sup>Your words were found, and I ate them,  
and your words became to me a joy  
and the delight of my heart;

for I am called by your name,  
O LORD, God of hosts.

<sup>17</sup>I did not sit in the company of merry-makers,  
nor did I rejoice;  
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,  
for you had filled me with indignation.

<sup>18</sup>Why is my pain unceasing,  
my wound incurable,  
refusing to be healed?

Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,  
like waters that fail.

<sup>19</sup>Therefore thus says the LORD:  
If you turn back, I will take you back,  
and you shall stand before me.  
If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,  
you shall serve as my mouth.  
It is they who will turn to you,  
not you who will turn to them.  
<sup>20</sup>And I will make you to this people  
a fortified wall of bronze;  
they will fight against you,  
but they shall not prevail over you,  
for I am with you  
to save you and deliver you,  
says the LORD.  
<sup>21</sup>I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,  
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

<sup>1</sup>Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived  
with integrity;  
I have trusted in the LORD and I have not faltered.  
<sup>2</sup>**Test me, O LORD, and try me;  
examine my heart 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 with the worthless,  
nor do I consort with the deceitful.**  
<sup>5</sup>I have hated the company of evildoers;  
I will not sit down with the wicked.  
<sup>6</sup>**I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD,  
that I may go in procession round your altar,**  
<sup>7</sup>singing aloud a song of thanksgiving  
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.  
<sup>8</sup>**LORD, I love the house in which you dwell  
and the place where your glory abides.**

## **Second Reading: Romans 12:9-21**

<sup>9</sup>Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup>love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup>Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

<sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. <sup>17</sup>Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup>If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup>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." <sup>20</sup>No, "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." <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Acclamation**

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## **Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup>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. <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 stumbling block 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."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

*Brief silence for reflection.*

**Hymn of the Day:** “Jesus, Still Lead On”

**No. 624**

**Apostles’ Creed**

**Page 105**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

*A brief silence.*

God of life, your words are the joy at the heart of your church. Draw the seeker to you, place messages of hope and healing in the mouths of your witnesses, and open your children to your truth when we stumble. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of steadfast love, renew the earth by your Spirit, that lands and oceans reveal the beauty of your creation. Challenge us to live humbly and peaceably as part of your world. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of patience, lead those who govern to hold fast to what is good. Guide them to show honor to the people in their care. Overcome evil in all nations and grant peace to peoples and places mired in conflict: Ukraine, Libya, Syria, Palestine and Sudan. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of compassion, we pray for all who are suffering, lonely, or in pain especially..... Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of deliverance, on this Labor Day, give endurance to workers who persevere . May we continue to advocate for fair wages and safe working environments for workers and remember those who are unemployed or underemployed. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of justice, equip this congregation to boldly follow you in uncertain times and to remain faithful in prayer when facing challenges. Show us how best to love and care for one another and our communities. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of glory, we give thanks for the saints who now dwell with you in splendor. Nurture us in faith until the day we join their heavenly song. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## **Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*We share the peace with a holy wave.*

## **Meal**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## **Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you. **And, also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

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 has poured your love into our hearts through your Holy Spirit given to us.

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**

**Page 207**

You created all things and everything we have comes from you.

Through the prophets you promised one would come

who would show us your paths, teach us to follow,

and guide us by your truth and instruct us.

In Jesus that promise was fulfilled,

as you offered us your own beloved Son.

*Jesus' Words of Institution.*

Send your Spirit upon these your gifts,

that they may renew us in faith and life,

so that we hold close Jesus' teaching,

and deny ourselves, take up the cross,

and follow where Jesus leads the way;

the one who taught when we pray to say.

## **Lord's Prayer**

**Page 208**

## **Invitation to Communion**

Jesus invites you to this table.

Come, eat, and live.

**Thanks be to God!**

## **Lamb of God**

**Page 208**

*We come forward down the center aisle to kneel or stand at the communion rail.*

*We return by the side aisles.*

**Songs of Distribution:** “Day by Day”  
“Bind Us Together”

**WOV No. 746**

**WOV No. 748**

## **Prayer after Communion**

Blessed be your name, O God,  
for we have feasted on your Word,  
Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.  
Strengthened by this food,  
send us to gather the world to your banquet,  
where none are left out and all are satisfied.  
In Jesus’ name we pray.  
**Amen.**

## **Sending**

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

## **Blessing**

The God of glory,  
✠ Jesus Christ, name above all names,  
and the Spirit who lives in you,  
bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**Sending Song:** “For the Beauty of the Earth”

**No. 879**

## **Dismissal**

Together, we go into the world — **sharing God’s word, serving others, growing in faith, practicing stewardship as a way of life.**

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**