

DIVINE DISCIPLINES

When We Pray

14th Sunday After Pentecost

August 30, 2026 – 11:00 AM

AS WE GATHER

We are a people of action, we establish routines, we make decisions, and we follow schedules. Our days are busy and our schedules fill up fast. Today we are going to look at the discipline of fasting. Fasting, believe it or not, is one of the best practices we can participate in as a Christian. Why? Because it's a sacred invitation for us to slow down and turn our hearts fully toward God. Even in the busyness of the everyday.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE SING

"Chain Breaker"

CONFESSION OF SINS

P: The commands of the Lord are words of life.

C: But as they speak to our hearts, they reveal our sin and our need for the Savior.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(silent moment for meditation)

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: Most holy and merciful Father: I confess in Your presence the sinfulness of my nature. My walk is not blameless, so much of what I do is not righteous. You alone know how much I have sinned. I've often ignored Your good guidance and have wandered in my own foolish directions. Have mercy on me, O Lord. Forgive my sins, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, my Savior. Restore in me a new and willing spirit to follow You. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

WE SING

"Holy Water"

PRAYER OF THE DAY

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

READING FROM THE PROPHETS

Isaiah 58:1-9

¹"Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet. Declare to my people their rebellion and to the descendants of Jacob their sins. ²For day after day they seek me out; they seem eager to know my ways, as if they were a nation that does what is right and has not forsaken the commands of its God. They ask me for just decisions and seem eager for God to come near them. ³"Why have we fasted," they say, "and you have not seen it? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you have not noticed?" "Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please and exploit all your workers. ⁴Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife, and in striking each other with wicked fists. You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high. ⁵Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for people to humble themselves? Is it only for bowing one's head like a reed and for lying in sackcloth and ashes? Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? ⁶"Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter and when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? ⁸Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard. ⁹Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 6: 16-18

¹⁶"When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ⁸so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

KIDS' TIME

DCE Liz Peters

MESSAGE

"Hunger For God"

Pastor Doug Slavens

WE CONFESS OUR FAITH – APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

WE PRAY

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

PREPARATION

COMMUNION PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

"Above All"

"Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)"

COMMUNION BLESSING

WE SING

"Child Of Love"

THE CLOSING BLESSING

OUR OFFERINGS

All that we have and all that we are, belong to the Lord. He fills us with what is good!
We pray: "Fill us, Lord, to overflowing, that others may receive blessed through the blessings we ourselves have received from You."

You can give online memoriallutheran.net or drop in the offering boxes located throughout the worship center.