

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The Glory of God Is the Passion and Cross of Christ Jesus



Background: In previous weeks, we saw how Jesus Christ manifested His life as only God can do. Last week, we came to the critical question: “*Who do you say is Jesus Christ?*” only with the help of God are we able to “*The Christ, the Son of God.*” If left to our own reasoning, we will come up with another answer, like a great teacher or prophet .

So it is crucial we accept Jesus is the Son of the Living God. Because only God is capable of solving our sinful condition. A sacrifice must be made. Blood must be shed. Something better than a spotless lamb must die. It must be a person without sin, and only the Son of God is capable of fulfilling that demand. Our ability to trust in Christ as our Savior from sin is achieved the same way as we accept that Christ is the

Son of God. It is the work of the Holy Spirit that calls us to this faith, and keeps us in this faith. How do we receive such information? Through the word as written in the Bible, through the sacraments, and through listening to God’s word in church services, bible classes, and regular devotions.

The Lessons: Jeremiah 15:15–21, Romans 12:9–21, & Matthew 16:21–28

After St. Peter confessed that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, our Lord “*began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised*” (Matt. 16:21). Upon hearing this “theology of the cross,” Simon Peter stumbled into a satanic “theology of glory.” But the glory of God is revealed in the Passion and cross of His incarnate Son. The faithful prophets, such as Jeremiah, suffered persecution and rejection in anticipation of Jesus’ cross. Yet the Lord did not abandon them; He remembered them, and He was with them to deliver them (Jer. 15:15–20). By His cross, Jesus has redeemed the world, and in His resurrection, He has vindicated all who trust in Him. Thus, the Christian life is a discipleship of self-sacrificing love. Since Christ Jesus has reconciled us to God, we “*live peaceably with all*” (Rom. 12:18). By the certainty of His cross and resurrection, we “*rejoice in hope,*” and we are “*patient in tribulation*” and “*constant in prayer*” (Rom. 12:12).