



**Church At Home**  
**St. Timothy's Lutheran Church – Pembroke, Ontario**  
**Pentecost 13** **September 7, 2025**

**Prayer of the Day**

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with our continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, buy your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

**The Holy Gospel: Luke 14:25-33**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you O Lord.

Now large crowds were traveling with him; and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you O Christ.

**Homily**

I greet you in the name of Jesus, our risen Saviour. Amen.

A mother expressed this concern to me, "Is it ever difficult getting the kids to sleep at night. I put them to bed and they are up six to seven times before I go to bed." I smiled and shared with her that I knew exactly what she was talking about.

September is a transitional month for most of us. The hazy days of summer's more casual pace switches into high gear of life. Work is back to "normal" or a full complement of employees. Within two days of returning from holidays it seems like we haven't been on one. We have been through the back-to-school rat race again and it seems to be tougher than normal. Our backs are sore from moving furniture into our children's new dorm. And, our own children are finding their way back to their schools of learning.

Most roads back to school are paved with lines of procedures and rules. Yet, I believe, the teachers of the congregation will agree with me that the foundation of learning is far less formalized – it's more relational like a disciple and master or a protégé and mentor or hockey player and coach. The best learning happens in healthy relationships.

As we grow in maturity, we realize the love of learning comes from giving up one's own privileges and pleasures in order to commit to a new course – guided in relationship by the hands of those of who gently shapes us, like clay in the potter's hand.

The last number of weeks we have been travelling the road to Jerusalem with Jesus. He has worked by plucking grain on the Sabbath, healed the sick on the Sabbath, and ate at the house of a leader of the Pharisees so they can keep close tabs on him – watch his actions – listen carefully to what he has to say. Jesus has upset the people in control. He has challenged the establishment, threatened their system with his teaching of an upside-down society. No wonder they wanted to sit close to him.

Luke tells us that large crowds are now travelling with him. And this also signals a problem; not all who are following him are disciples. Jesus' popularity is running very high, that is if you had a backache, or headache, or a disease. People were following Jesus because of the healing miracles that he had performed. Jesus was the great physician who would heal all your problems and so he was enormously popular with the people. Hordes of people were joining the Jesus bandwagon. They want to get close to this incredible character and experience this unusual energy that seemed to surround him. Jesus was like a rock star and groupies were following him.

Jesus looks into the crowds. What do you think is going through his mind? Has the mass of people understood his message? Do they get it? What do you think?

The nice Jesus is gone. Jesus confronts the mass and tells them the sacrifices that they will need to make to follow him. Harsh? Yes. Shocking? You bet! So, what does Jesus mean?

Hate your family, carry the cross, and sell all your possessions? I believe there is a greater significance to these words than what we hear on the surface.

What Jesus is saying to the folks gathered then and for us today – following him is costly. Faithful discipleship is not for the faint of heart. Discipleship is costly. It comes with many sacrifices.

Discipleship does come at a hefty price. It requires letting go of the things of this world and serving Christ and Christ alone. It even involves giving up your own life for the sake of the gospel.

Jesus asks us to sacrifice. Actually, he doesn't ask. He tells us that he expects, even demands, undivided loyalty. This is why we are asked to count the cost because discipleship – the

Christian life is expensive; it demands our commitment in terms of our time, attention and money.

As I look out over the congregation this morning; I know you are sacrificing already; in many ways. Parents give up nearly every weekend for their kid's sports team. Some of you put in long hours in jobs you don't love just to make ends meet. And how many mothers and fathers have or are now sacrificing in order to make sure the children are dressed well and have a chance for further education.

Please understand that I am not criticizing any of these choices. But I do want to ask why we make these and other sacrifices. I believe it's because these things are important to us. We all sacrifice according to our priorities. And in today's passage Jesus is saying that the Kingdom of God he proclaims and exemplifies should be a priority, actually be **the** priority. Let's face it – what parent doesn't add up the cost before signing up for a season of figure skating or a travelling soccer team. We all make sacrifices and Jesus is saying that Christian discipleship calls for the same.

Discipleship is a way of being, a way of living, a way of doing things differently because of living "in Christ." This was Apostle Paul's favourite phrase. It doesn't happen at once. It doesn't happen over night or by the pass of a magic wand. Discipleship takes a long time. That's how I understand discipleship. We grow in the grace and love of God, little by little, as we experience God's grace and love.

My Friends in Christ. At the heart of discipleship is transformation. The cost of discipleship is learning to give up all our possessions – our need to acquire, our petty jealousies, our arrogant thoughts of others, our prejudices and hatreds.

The danger of discipleship is simply this - it changes us. Suddenly, we see the world through new eyes, the eyes of Jesus. We see needs and we want to fill them; we see hurts and we want to heal them. Discipleship - it changes us, and keeps on changing us...for now and always. Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit let us pray as Jesus taught us.....

### **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.

## **Benediction**

The Lord bless you and keep you,  
The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious unto you,  
The Lord look upon you with favour and give you (+) peace. Amen.

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## *STTLC Communiqué*

### **In Our Prayers Today.....**

Sheila Zadow-Purdy, Lila Martinat, Irlavere Tubbe, Bobby Keuhl, Adele Krieger, Tracy Schori, and Christa Reitlingshoefer.

### **The Sacrament of Holy Baptism**

Receiving God's gift of baptism at the font this morning is Bella Harmony Kidd, daughter of Kaci and Calvin Kidd.

We welcome Bella into the body of Christ and our community of faith. We rejoice with the Kidd and Epp families on this special occasion.

**Rally Sunday** – Please mark Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup> on your calendar. Blessing of backpacks and activities for the children will take place during the service. Hot dogs and treats will follow the service. Stay and enjoy the fun and the food with your St. Timothy's family.

