

Psalm 126

When the Lord changed Zion's circumstances for the better, it was like we had been dreaming. Our mouths were suddenly filled with laughter; our tongues were filled with joyful shouts. It was even said, at that time, among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them!" Yes, the Lord has done great things for us, and we are overjoyed. Lord, change our circumstances for the better, like dry streams in the desert waste! Let those who plant with tears reap the harvest with joyful shouts. Let those who go out, crying and carrying their seed, come home with joyful shouts, carrying bales of grain!

Matthew 16:21-28

From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he had to go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and legal experts, and that he had to be killed and raised on the third day. Then Peter took hold of Jesus and, scolding him, began to correct him: "God forbid, Lord! This won't happen to you." But he turned to Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan. You are a stone that could make me stumble, for you are not thinking God's thoughts but human thoughts." Then Jesus said to his disciples, "All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross, and follow me. All who want to save their lives will lose them. But all who lose their lives because of me will find them. Why would people gain the whole world but lose their lives? What will people give in exchange for their lives? For the Human One is about to come with the majesty of God with the angels. And then God will repay each one for what that person has done. I assure you that some standing here won't die before they see the Human One coming in his kingdom."



Sunday, August 30, 2026, 9:00 am

**Please stand if it is comfortable for you*

PRELUDE

WELCOME & GREETING

SONG OF BEGINNING

*Take My Life, and Let It Be
vs. 1-3, #399 Red Hymnal*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: When the Lord restored our fortunes, we could hardly believe the joy that filled our hearts.

People: **The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy!**

Leader: Today we gather again as God's people—with ministries to begin, gifts to share, hopes to renew and lives to touch.

People: **We come ready to worship, ready to serve, and ready to follow.**

Leader: We will sow seeds of faith, hope, love, and grace.

People: **We will follow Jesus—not only when the road is easy, but together through the challenges.**

Leader: This is a new season. New opportunities are before us. New ministries are waiting to grow. New seeds are ready to be planted.

All: **So let us worship the God who restores, the Christ who calls, and the Spirit who sends us.**

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 126

*HYMN *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*
vs. 1-3, #384 Red Hymnal

WITNESSING GOD'S LOVE TO OUR CHILDREN
Blessing of the Backpacks

Children Kindergarten and under may go to the Nursery. 1st through 5th grade may go to the Chapel for Children's Church.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Gracious God, as we gather for Rally Day and prepare to kick off a new season of ministry, we confess that we do not always begin with you. We rush ahead, focusing on what we can accomplish rather than remembering what you are already doing among us. We sometimes hold tightly to our own preferences, our own comfort, and our own expectations. Forgive us, God. Forgive us when we are reluctant to try something different, or too comfortable to step beyond what we know. Remind us that every ministry is an opportunity to make your love visible. Shape us into a people ready to serve, ready to welcome, ready to grow, and ready to follow your leading as we make our silent confessions (*silent confession*).

SUNG RESPONSE *Change My Heart, O God*
#2152 Black Hymnal

MINISTRY OF MUSIC *A Joyful Noise*

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 16:21-28

SERMON *The Call that Launches Us*

*HYMN *The Summons*
vs. 1-2 & 4, #2130 Black Hymnal

A TIME FOR PRAYER

OFFERING OUR LIVES AND OUR BLESSINGS

Invitation
Offertory
Doxology #94 Red Hymnal

*CLOSING BLESSING

*SUNG *They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love*
RESPONSE vs. 1-2, #2223 Black Hymnal

POSTLUDE

Participating in Worship:

Rev. Jenny Arneson, Pastor
Lisa Wink, Treasurer, Worship Assistant
Marcia Flaherty, Reader
Daniel Taylor, Dir. of Family Ministry, Children's Time
Pop-Up Choir, Special Music
Sue Lundeen, Organist