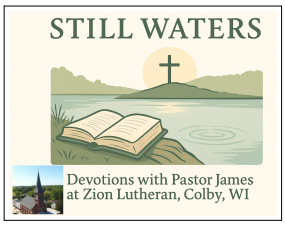
Date: August 30, 2026
Suggested Reading: Matthew 16:21-28
Text: Matthew 16:25
"Whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."



The King Behind the Cross

Most of us like a road that looks safe. When the detour sign appears, the weather turns bad, or the road ahead looks difficult, our first instinct is often to find another way. Peter felt something like that when Jesus told the disciples He must go to Jerusalem, suffer, die, and rise again. Peter loved Jesus, but he wanted another road - a crown without a cross.

We often want the same thing. We want Christ's blessings without hardship, faith without struggle, and a life in which God removes whatever hurts. When trouble comes, we may wonder whether God has forgotten us. Our desire for an easier road can become a desire to tell God which road He ought to take.

Jesus did not take the easier road. He went willingly to Jerusalem and to the cross for us. He carried the sin we could not carry, entered the death we could not defeat, and rose again in victory. The cross was not the failure of His kingship; it was where our King gave Himself to redeem us.

That changes the way we face our own crosses. Our suffering does not earn God's love, and we do not have to pretend pain is good. We can trust that the risen Christ has already walked ahead of us. Whatever road lies before us, we travel it with the King whose nail-scarred hands still hold us.

Prayer:
Lord Jesus, when we want an easier road keep our eyes on Your cross and empty tomb. Strengthen us to trust that You have gone before us and hold us securely in Your saving grace. Amen.

Thought for the Day:
The road of faith may pass beneath a cross, but we never walk it alone. Our crucified and risen King has already gone ahead of us.

Hymn: LSB 685 - Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

