

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Proper 8
(28 June 2026)

Jeremiah 28:5–9
Romans 7:1–13
Matthew 10:34–42

The Lord Jesus Brings Division on Earth for the Sake of Peace with God in Heaven

False prophets preach what their hearers want to hear, promising peace even when the Lord has spoken *“war, famine, and pestilence”* (Jer. 28:8). But if *“the LORD has truly sent the prophet,”* he speaks what the Lord has spoken, and *“the word of that prophet comes to pass”* (Jer. 28:9). The preaching of God’s Law is hard, because it confronts sin, brings it to light and makes it worse, *“sinful beyond measure,”* thereby *“producing death”* in the sinner (Rom. 7:13). But through our Baptism into Christ, *“we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive”* (Rom. 7:6). Now we belong *“to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God”* (Rom. 7:4). Belonging to Him puts us at odds with the world and divides us from all earthly ties, not only from our human family, but each person from his own life. For Christ does not come *“to bring peace, but a sword”* (Matt. 10:34). Yet, whoever takes up his cross to follow Christ, and *“loses his life”* for Christ’s sake, finds new life in Him (Matt. 10:38–39).