

## 09 May 2021: English liturgy and summary

### Calculate the cost: Luke 14: 25-33

- Word of welcome
- Intercession prayer
- Song: 163 (Psalm 42)
- Votum (Opening prayer): Psalm 24: 3-5

*Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place? <sup>4</sup> He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.*

*<sup>5</sup> He will receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation.*

- Blessing
- Hymn of praise: Psalm 146: 1, 5, 6
- Law: Exodus 20 (Ten commandments)
- Confession of sin: Psalm 44: 1, 2, 8
- Words of grace
- Confession of faith: Nicea
- Song: 453: 1-3
- Children sermon
- Offerings
- Scripture reading: Luke 14:25-33

*<sup>25</sup> Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup> "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup> Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup> For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup> Otherwise, when he*

*has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him,<sup>30</sup> saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'<sup>31</sup> Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand?<sup>32</sup> And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace.<sup>33</sup> So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.*

With the planting season on track, everyone is well aware of the huge input costs of trying to get crop on the land. Millions of rands are invested in the hope that there will be a harvest at the end of the year. It involves great risk and hard work and a lot of faith. In a similar way, our text this morning talks about the input costs of the gospel. What does your following of Christ cost?

In our text this morning we hear harsh words from Jesus about this. Serious admonitions about what it takes to be a disciple. We need to reconsider this morning whether we are willing to pay this price. For we must beware of cheap religion, cheap grace, where there is no self-denial, no turning away from the world, no giving up of carnal entertainment - where we are just the same as the world; where our religion costs us nothing, and in the end lets us down, like the man who could not finish building his tower or the king who could not win the war. If you want faith that will endure, that will overcome, you must spend costs on it.

What then is the cost? How much will it cost you to follow Christ? This morning we will make the calculation and hear again that following Christ is an expensive matter, but it is worth the expense.

- Prayer
- Song: 308: 1-5
- Blessing
- Amen