

August 9, 2026

Beautiful Feet: Where Are You Going?

By Pastor Beate Chun

Beautiful Feet

"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news."

How beautiful!

Why would Paul say that?

And what made those feet beautiful?

Was it a nice pedicure?

A graceful arch?

Well-formed toes?

Elegant sandals?

Of course not.

None of those things

made those feet beautiful.

It was not even the feet themselves,

but where they were going,

and why.

All day long our feet

carry us to all kinds of places,

some places we eagerly seek out

some places we literally drag our feet to.

We might step lightly or heavily,

and children might run and skip

to their favorite destinations.

And while we rush
through our day,
or through our life,
we hardly notice our feet—
until they hurt.
Then we discover
how much of our life
depends on them.

With our feet we can go forward or stand still,
we can dance or march in protest
or enjoy a hike through the woods.

We can go to the grocery store
to the dentist,
to the house of our best friend
to the hospital room of a sick person
to the house of God.
to the altar of our Lord.

Think about your own feet.
Where have they carried you this past week?
And where will you be going next?
Where are you going?

Quo Vadis?

Where are you going?
That simple question has echoed through Christian history.
It even became the title of
a famous Christian story,
the story of Peter's return to Rome
and it goes like this:

Peter is leaving Rome
because the persecution has become too dangerous.

On the road he meets Jesus.
"Lord, where are you going?"

Jesus answers
"I am going back to Rome
to be crucified again".
Peter understands.
He turns around.
He goes back.

"Where are you going?"
in Latin these words are *Quo Vadis*,
and they are the title of a movie
I saw when I was a teenager
and I was mesmerized by it.

Two Worlds, One Gospel

Quo Vadis is a movie about many things,
but at its core it is about
two different worlds colliding.

Rome believed
that peace came
through military victory.
Christians believed
that peace came
through reconciliation.
Rome honored
the powerful.
Christians honored
the servant.
Rome celebrated
those who conquered.
Christians worshiped
the One who gave himself away.

And Paul is writing into exactly that world,
and into that collision.

And he urged the followers of Jesus
to engage with this world,
he urged them to
get their feet out of the door
and into the market place
and into the homes of their neighbors
and friends so that they could tell
everyone the good news of Christ.

When the Church Looks Inward

And yet, something was holding them back.
What was it?
Well, for one thing, it was dangerous to come out as a Christian,
there was a persecution going on.
But that was not what was holding them back.
Actually, from many ancient documents
it is evident that the first Christians
were very brave and courageous.
Their feet had not stopped moving.
But their eyes had begun
to turn inward.
Instead of seeing
the people around them,
they were watching one another.

Instead of asking
Who still needs to hear the gospel?
they were asking
Which of us has it right?

It was an argument
between one group

that was shaped by the Law of Moses
and another group made up of
believers from many nations.

It was an argument
between different histories,
different traditions,
different ways of understanding God.

The Word Is Near You

And Paul says,
My dear friends,
you are asking
the wrong question.
Stop trying
to climb up to heaven.
Stop imagining
that Christ is still far away.
Christ has already come near.
Nearer than you can imagine
—in your mouth and in your heart.

You have something precious:
a word of grace
and the world is hungry for it!

The world is still hungry.
Hungry for hope.
Hungry for forgiveness.
Hungry for a place to belong.
Hungry for grace.
And Paul says:
You already have that!
It is in your heart.
It is on your lips. ... So go.

Grace on the Move

Think about your feet this past week.

Where did they carry you?

To work?

To a doctor's appointment?

To visit a friend?

To the grocery store?

Maybe somewhere you were excited to go.

Maybe somewhere you dreaded going.

Our feet quietly tell the story of our lives.

Where might Christ be sending your feet this coming week?

Christ may not be sending you
somewhere far away.

He may simply be sending you
where you were already planning to go tomorrow.
to the lonely neighbor
to the difficult conversation
to the hospital room
to someone who needs encouragement

And what about our congregation?

Where are the feet of this congregation leading us?

We have been blessed

just as the people

to whom Paul wrote

so many years ago:

the beautiful word of God's grace

has been placed

in our hearts,

on our lips,

and now,

will we let it travel to our feet

so that they can take us to those

who need to hear it next?

Paul never tells us
that beautiful feet have to be perfect feet.
They may be tired feet.
Sore feet.
Old feet.
Young feet.
Feet that limp.
Feet that need a cane
or a walker.
And yet they can be beautiful,
and what makes them beautiful
is simply this:
They carry
the good news
of Jesus Christ.
And wherever those feet go,
Christ goes with them.

Amen.

Sermon for Sunday, August 9, 2026 - Pentecost 11

Presented at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church San Francisco

The 10th in a series of Sermons on the Letter to the Romans.

Text: [Romans 10:5-15 NRSVue - Salvation Is for All - Moses writes - Bible Gateway](#)

Tags: Romans 10:5-15 | Beautiful Feet | Quo Vadis | Engaging with the world around us

