

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, August 9, 2020



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

745 Front Street S., Issaquah, WA 98027 425-392-4169

SERVICE OF THE WORD

GATHERING: THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS US TOGETHER AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty — Tune: Beach Spring

Jonathan Shue, Scott Hafso

WELCOME Pastor Jim Kruse

GREETING

PM: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

PM: Let us pray. O God our defender,

C: storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD: GOD SPEAKS TO US IN SCRIPTURE READING, PREACHING AND SONG.

FIRST READING Romans 10: 5-15

⁵Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them." ⁶But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷"or 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸But what does it say? "The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

¹⁴But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

AM: Word of God, word of life. C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Celtic Alleluia — Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker

THE GOSPEL Matthew 14:22-33

Galilee], while he dismissed the crowds. ²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

²⁸Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³²When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

PM: The Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Waiting Out the Storm

Pastor Jim Kruse

When I hear about the thunderstorm that overtakes Jesus and his disciples in the Gospel for today, it brings to my mind the summers that I spent just out of college working at a camp in central Illinois. Most of the time during these beautiful summer days in the middle of America were bright and sunny, and the air was thick and sticky. But every once in a while, especially late in the summer, when July turns to August, powerful thunderstorms would pass through.

These storms rolled in slowly. And if you were paying attention, you always knew they were coming. At first, the entire western sky would start to turn a deep dark gray. And ever so slowly the sky would get darker and darker, and the darkness would move up and over your head. Next, again, far off to the west, would come a sound of a deep rumbling, like someone was rolling a giant barrel down a rocky hill. And flashes of light would streak through the darkness.

This would go on for two or three hours as the storm was building; darker and darker, louder and louder, closer and closer. No wind, no rain, but you knew it was coming. And when it did, it hit fast and hard. Big heavy raindrops fell from sky like pellets, driven sideways by the strong wind. From the time the first drops hit the dry, dusty earth, until the time you were drenched to the skin, you could only run about 15 or 20 feet, diving under whatever cover was nearby.

And there, from your little corner of protection, you would sit and watch, and wait. And wonder if everyone in the camp found a same place away from the trees that can draw lighting strikes, and plan what you will be doing in your cabins for the rest day. From your safe little perch, you could watch the whole process in reverse. First the rain slow sand stops. Then the western sky begins to slowly lighten and brighten, bringing sunshine with it. The rolling barrel of lightning and thunder rumbles off to the east until the last faint sounds fade away. The peace of summer is restored.

This story from Chapter 14 of Matthew comes immediately after last week's reading about the miraculous healing and feeding of the large crowds that have been following Jesus around the northern shores of the lake. You may recall that, just before the miracle takes place, Jesus had received word that his cousin, John the Baptist, had been murdered by King Herod. Jesus had hoped to find a quiet place to pray by getting into a boat himself and pushing out on the water, but the needs of the moment prevented that from happening.

Today's story is Jesus' second attempt to get the space he needs to grieve. This time the strategy is reversed. This time Jesus places the disciples in the boat, giving them a safe place, away from the crowds, where they are comfortable to hang out. Then he dismisses the crowds and finally finds the peace and quiet he needs.

There is no indication, at the beginning of today's Gospel, that a storm is brewing on the horizon. And there is no indication that the disciples are afraid of the storm as it rolls in. Or that they are scared of the wind that howls all night, impeding their progress. After all, these are fishermen who have spent most of their adult lives in boats. They are content to ride out the storm throughout the night. Eventually the storm will subside. It always does. It is not until they see a ghost walking on the water in the early morning haze that fear overtakes them.

As if to say, it is not what is known that gets you, no matter how wild and crazy and unexpected it is. It is the unknown, the ghosts, the unexplained, the bumps in the night and the lights in the sky, that gets our adrenaline pumping and our fearfulness with it.

A storm has slowly rolled into and over our lives. It is an invisible storm that rides on the back of a tiny virus that is one tenth the size of the moisture molecule that carries it into the air. And the moisture molecule itself is one one-hundredth the size of a human hair. As the storm slowly moved in, those who know something about viral infections spoke up. It is a new virus, we were told, a dangerous virus, that can cause severe illness, even death, in some people. And we quickly hunkered down, didn't we? We dove to safety. "Stay Home, Stay Safe," we called it. And from the safety of our cover, we waited and watched. We calculated the risks and figured out what we could and couldn't do.

But then some of us started to plan what life would look like when the storm subsided and we went back out. "Maybe by Easter," we thought. Then, "maybe by summer," or "maybe by the new school-year." And some are now wondering, "maybe by Christmas."

Maybe it is this last exercise, maybe it is the longed-for, the unknown, the unpredictable, the bumps in the night and the lights in the sky—maybe these are the "ghosts" we are seeing more and more as time goes by. But whatever it is, fear is on the rise and we are terrified. Here is a short list of what I have heard over the last few weeks in no particular order:

- "I am afraid to go to work. I am afraid of going back to school. I don't feel safe."
- "I am afraid of going to the grocery store."
- "I am afraid I will be laid off and I can't pay my rent and I will lose my home.
- "I am afraid of being alone all the time. I need to be around people."
- "I am afraid of getting on an airplane. I am afraid of staying in a motel. I am afraid I won't be able to find a public bathroom that is open."
- "I am afraid of catching the disease. I am afraid I won't survive if I do."

"I am afraid if we don't get back to church, we will lose members. They won't come back, or they will go to a church that is open."

"I am afraid to go to family gatherings. I don't know if they will honor masks and distance."

"I am afraid of those who pass by me and are not wearing masks."

"I am more afraid of losing my civil rights than getting sick."

"I am afraid we are overwhelming the heath system. We can't protect our care providers or they can't help the sick."

If we look carefully at this Gospel story, we realize that the one who speaks and breaks the terror of the moment is the "ghost" himself. "Take heart," the ghost says, "it is I, do not be afraid." And Peter, who has just experienced the most amazing feat of God's power over nature he has ever witnessed in the feeding of thousands and thousands of people, thinks there is another miracle in the works. "Here we go again," Peter thinks, "but this time I am ready. This time I will join you." And he goes rushing in. Only to realize the foolishness of his actions.

It is a miscalculation on our part if we think that the many fears that I have just listed, along with all the other more frightening ones that live only in our hearts, can be ignored or pushed aside by some super, out-of-this world, intervention by God. Yes, God does, in fact, take on the powers that threaten us. God does, in fact, walk into the storm of fear that threatens to overwhelm us. Our "ghost" of terror becomes God's Word of peace when the one who speaks it picks up our fears and carries them into a powerful confrontation with death and all that threatens to kill us. In the death and resurrection of Jesus, we see God taking on power with power, taking on pain with pain, confronting the storm with another storm." But as human beings, are not equipped to participate.

Paul warns the church in Rome about trying to "move up" to the work of God when he says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' to bring Christ down." And again he warns about "moving down" to reach what God is doing in our lives here and now, "Or 'who will descend into the abyss' to bring Christ up from the dead?"

"The words of faith that we proclaim," Paul says, "sustain us." That is, the daily and regular refreshment of what God in Christ has accomplished in the suffering and death and ultimate resurrection and ascension of Christ, sees us through.

The wind does not stop blowing when Jesus walks onto and across the lake to get to the disciples. The wind does not stop when the disciples suddenly realize the thing that nearly scared them to death was in fact their teacher and friend. Nor does the storm subside when Peter, with his "big faith" pants on, steps out onto the water. The wind keeps blowing when Jesus takes his hand soon afterwards and supports him when he shrinks back to his "little faith." The wind only stops when Peter is safely back in the boat.

"Get back into the boat!" Jesus says to Peter and to us. Being a "little faith" is a statement of fact, not a statement criticism. Being a "little faith" is not a shortcoming to be overcome. <u>Doubt</u> is believing, like Peter, that we can do what God can do, or, worse yet, that God is not big enough and we have to do it ourselves. Being <u>faithful</u> (big or small) is staying in the boat and watching what happens. And then accepting the gift of peace that it brings.

HYMN OF THE DAY

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

Text: Ray Palmer, 1908-1887; Music: Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine!

Now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away,

Oh, let me from this day be wholly thine!

May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire;

As thou hast died for me, oh, may my love to thee

Pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire!

While life's dark maze I tread and griefs around me spread, be thou my guide;

Bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow's tears away,

Nor let me ever stray from thee aside.

OFFERING

Please take a moment to give thanks to God for all that you have received in life, and remember your generous financial support of the ongoing ministry obligations of OSLC.

OFFERING PRAYER

PM: Merciful God,

As grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread,

so let your church be gathered together

from the end of the earth into your kingdom,

for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever.

C: Amen.

OFFERING SONG

Praise to You, O God of Mercy — Text & music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Praise to you, O God of mercy: thanks be to you forever! Raising high the weak and lowly: thanks be to you forever!

From of old you loved and sought us: thanks be to you forever! Truth and justice you have taught us: thanks be to you forever!

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

"Baptism is not simply plain water. Instead, it is water used according to God's command and connected with God's word. With the word of God. it is a grace-filled water of life and a 'bath of the new birth in the Holy Spirit.' It brings about forgiveness of sins, redeems from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe it." -Luther's Small Catechism

AM: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,

we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,

for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters

and by your word you created the world,

calling forth life in which you took delight.

By water and your word you claim us as daughters and sons,

Making us hears of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Adapted from the NW Washington Synod "Weekly Prayer Message."

God of life and breath, you are our source of hope.

+ We give thanks for your precious gift of life; embrace us in your love; sustain us when we are feeling broken or frightened; open our hearts to hear your word and call; strengthen us to seek justice for our neighbors; grant us creativity to joyfully share your Good News.

We give thanks for your creation.

+ Enable us to be educated to be better stewards of your world. We give thanks for our partners at <u>Earth Ministry</u> and <u>Lutherans Restoring Creation</u>.

We pray for our world, nation, and local communities.

- + We lift up people for whom insecurity and violence are the norm. Help us to bring healing and safety to all.
- + God of Mercy, guide us to awareness of our prejudices and empower us to act to eliminate racism in our church and community. O God, help us to behold one another as you behold us. Help us to be more firmly rooted in the practices of the gospel—so that the way we live will make real your beloved community within and among us.
- + We pray for all in the wake of natural disasters, including recent tropical storms on the east coast, the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean. Grant strength to those affected as they recover and rebuild.
- + We lift up all in our community who provide emergency services: medical workers, fire-fighters, and police. Grant them strength, endurance, and safety.

We pray for all who are in need of healing and strength:

- + We pray for those who are facing ongoing challenges and health concerns: Dee, Marlene, Jeremy, Henrik & Patty, Vern, Mike, communities across the country, Mike, Pattie, Paul, Lyle, Dave, Emily, Guests of the Community Meals Program, Sonja, Nicole, Josee and Jeannie.
- + We continue to pray for those affected by the COVID-19 crisis: grant peace to the families of those who have died from the corona virus; provide healing for those diagnosed; protect and sustain care providers and chaplains; guide work to improve testing and work toward a vaccine; sustain those unable to work and facing financial uncertainty; and help us to be wise when we go out in public and catch up with friends.
- + We pray for our neighbors who are fearful or in danger in their relationships. We lift up the work of those who protect, support, and advocate for people who are experiencing domestic violence.
- + We lift up those experiencing anxiety, depression, and other mental health challenges. Empower us to reach out to those who need care and support. For those who are in despair, remember you are loved. You are never beyond God's mercy, grace and love.

We pray for those who are grieving:

+ Loving God, wrap your arms of love and hope around all who are experiencing any kind of loss, disconnection, or brokenness. We lift up the family and friends of Sheila, Dick, Germaine, Bob, Fran, Joe and Don.

We pray for your church:

- + We give thanks for the leaders and members of ministries of our congregation. Grant them creativity for their work; give them grace to rest when needed.
- + We pray for the residents, staff, and families of nursing homes and care facilities, including those ministries that are part of our synod: Josephine Caring Community, Foss Home, Columbia Lutheran Home, Norse Home, Bethany of the Northwest, and Hearthstone Community.
- + We pray for congregations in the call process. Grant them wisdom and patience as they discern where it is that you are leading them. We lift up transition teams, call committees, transition pastors, congregation staff and lay leaders, and synod staff.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

+ Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Trusting in your mercy and grace, we lift our prayers to you.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

PM: God of all grace,
who has called you to life in Christ,
restore, support, protect, strengthen, and bless you
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG The Summons — Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949; Music: Scottish traditional

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.

Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.

In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.

Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

POSTLUDE O Holy Spirit, Enter In — Sigfrid Karg-Elert Jiyoung Lee

Commemorations for the Week

Lawrence, deacon, martyr, died 258, Monday, August 10

As one of the seven deacons of the church at Rome, Lawrence was responsible for the church's financial matters and for the care of the poor. Asked by the emperor to gather the church's treasure, he presented a collection of orphans, lepers, and the like. The enraged emperor had him put to death.

Clare, Abbess of San Damiano, died 1253, Tuesday, August 11

A contemporary of Francis of Assisi, Clare and a growing number of companions established a women's Franciscan community, called the Order of Poor Ladies, or Poor Clares. She inspired other women to pursue spiritual goals.

Florence Nightingale, died 1910; Clara Maass, died 1901, Thursday, August 13

Nightingale was born in England, and horrified her wealthy family by deciding to become a nurse. She led a group of nurses in ministering in the midst of the Crimean War, and worked for hospital reform. Maass, a native of New Jersey, was also a war nurse, and volunteered as a subject for research on yellow fever. She died of the disease.

Maximilian Kolbe, died 1941; Kaj Munk, died 1944; martyrs, Friday, August 14

Father Kolbe was a Franciscan priest arrested by the Nazis and confined in Auschwitz. Kolbe gave generously of his meager resources, and finally volunteered to be starved to death in place of another man. A Danish Lutheran pastor and playwright, Munk strongly denounced the Nazis who occupied Denmark in the Second World War. His sermons and articles helped to show the anti-Christian nature of the movement.

Serving in Worship:

Worship Leader:

Pastor Jim Kruse

Assisting Minister:

Sue Johnson

Song Leaders:

Lori Downey, Scott Hafso

Mandolin/Guitar/Percussion: Jonathan Shue Videographer:

Elizabeth Waltzer

Banner:

Elaine Stamm

Flowers provided by:

Stacy Smith

Bulletin Cover:

Craig Gillin

Readings for Next Sunday: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8; Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

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Our Savior Lutheran Church Staff

Rev. James R. Kruse, Transition Pastor Shari Lundberg, Parish Administrator Dr. Jiyoung Lee, Parish Organist

Scott Hafso, Director of Worship & Music Kate Gagnon, Lay Visitation Minister



Flowers for this service provided by Stacy Smith.

Additional worship resources:

Readings: Psalm 85: 8-13; 1 Kings 19: 9-18

Suggested Hymn for Listening: When Peace Like a River
Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1838-1888; Music: Philip P. Bliss, 1838-1876

Prayer is putting our faith into action. We invite you to include these people in your daily prayers. You can make prayer requests via email at of-

fice@oslcissaquah.org. All written requests will remain on this list for 4 weeks.

Delores Bakamus "Dee" strength and healing while at Swedish Hospital for pneumonia and heart condition. (Dar Boni)

Marlene Braun peace and comfort in hospice care. (sister to Cheryl Neeb)

Jeremy healing broken legs after a motorcycle accident. (brother to Diane Murff)

Henrik & Patty Christopherson comfort and support after experiencing a house fire. (Dianne Tanner)

Vern Lindquist peace and comfort.

Safety and peace for communities being torn apart during these difficult times. (Karen Hansen)

Mike Golick continued recovery and safe travel to an assisted living facility in Anchorage, Alaska. (brother-in-law to Patty Gerde)

Mike special ops military unexpectedly called up. (nephew of Dave and Marilyn Carlson)

Pattie Rutten, peace and strength as she recovers from a broken femur and the loss of her husband. (aunt of Mark Howe)

Paul Salazar continued recovery from a heart attack. (step-father to Cheryl Hauser)

Lyle Bentley successful radiation treatment. (Don Robertson)

Dave Carlson continued strength, healing and comfort following kidney transplant surgery.

Emily Gacek acquired COVID19 from a caregiver, healing and strength. (Connie Fletcher)

Guests of the Community Meals Program safety, health and peace of mind. (Connie Fletcher)
Sonja 3 years old undergoing treatment for cancer. (granddaughter of Henrik & Patty Christopherson)
Nicole DeCamp healing and strength. (Ken DeCamp and Cheryl Leiter)

Josee Jordan peace of mind as she faces health challenges. (Dianne Tanner)

Jeannie Lindquist continued healing and strength.

Healing and peace of mind: Evy Sneva (Karen Hansen), Marian James; Douglas Mandt (brother of Mary Ann Hult and Lorna Robertson); Gregory (nephew of Joanne Suttmeier); Doug Patur; Katie Moeller; Margot Inman; Ken Acker (son of Lucy Acker); Marilyn Carlson; Taufik Hidayut (Ken Konigsmark); Don Wilkinson (husband of Gwynn

Wilkinson); Rebecca Thomas; Tanisha Foote (Marilyn Carlson); Dorothy Soland; Randi Strom; Jeanne Kuipers; Talton Johnson; John Pass; Florence Kinnune; Carol Harbolt; Sandy Aldworth; Jen Winslow; Larry Pruitt.

Undergoing cancer treatment: Amy Aldworth (daughter-in-law of Sandy Aldworth) Les Carlson (father of Dave Carlson); Harold Mandt (brother of Mary Ann Hult and Lorna Robertson); Chris Howe (brother of Mark Howe); Peggy Scalise (cousin of Mark Howe); Eileen Letts (cousin of Mark Howe); Keith DeCamp (brother of Ken DeCamp); Barbara Jones (mother of Ron Sordahl); Doug McVety (Helen Nychay); Al Batt (Connie Fletcher); Larry Harbolt (Ray Harbolt); Gerald Welch (Vern and Jeannie Lindquist); Joe Martin (father of Stacy Smith); Christy Williams (Bill Bergsma); Diane Powis (Paul Tolo); Dana Mancini (Jan Setterlund); Greg Petersen (Wes Collum); Barry Donker (Joan Parish); Germaine Korum (Lyle and Alice Lewis); Kathryn Aitcheson (Gerrie Hendrickson); Yuko Takiguchi (Teiko Soland); Barb (Janette Singley)

Living with cancer: Liz Kidd (Bob Beck); Duane Jacobson; Mary Lewis (sister-in-law of Lyle and Alice Lewis); Mark Becker (uncle of Paula Seeger); Barbara Krogh Jarvis (sister of Steve Krogh); Suzanne Lewis (daughter-in-law of Lyle & Alice Lewis); Mira Bergsma

Mourning the death of loved ones: For peace and comfort during this time of grieving for the family and friends of: Richard "Dick" Birdsall (Dianne Tanner); Germaine Korum (Lyle & Alice Lewis); Bob Gray (Doug & Dianne Tanner); Fran Hildebrand (Karen Hansen); Joe Rutten (uncle of Mark Howe); Don Brannon [former member of OSLC] (Rowan Hinds); Don McWhirter (Rowan Hinds); Tim Teodoro (Janet Heck); Karen Miley (Doug & Dianne Tanner)

Members and friends serving in the military; fire & police departments, & emergency rooms.

Global Missions and Missionaries: For peace in Hong Kong. (Global Missions). Congregations in Chiclayo, Peru: Pepe at Las Brisas, Merci in San Antonio and Harold at Las Lomas. MaaSae Girls Lutheran Secondary School in Tanzania.

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