



Summer

OUR SAVIOR
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, August 30, 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

God Is Here! — Music: Cyril V. Taylor, 1907-1991

Jiyoung Lee, 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,

C: we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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

FIRST READING

Romans 12: 9-21

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia — Jerry Sinclair

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 16: 21-28

²¹From that time on, after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

PM: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

It's a Roller Coaster Ride

Pastor Jim Kruse

When I was a young child, it was about this time, late in the summer each year—when my brothers and sister and I had long ago run out of things to do, and my mother had run out of suggestions for things for us to do—that she would pack everything up and take us all on a daylong outing to the amusement park in Denver.

This was the mid-60s, before there were the kinds of super-duper amusement parks there are today. And the place where we went was much more of a park than it was a place for amusement. The central ride in the park was the glittering, music-filled carousel. And working out from there, were the gentler rides, spinning teacups and the drive-your-own-car ride, electric cars that were guided by railings so you couldn't go wrong; things like that.

But there was also a section of the park we knew about, but did not dare to visit. In our minds it was a wild place, where the lights seemed to shine brighter, and the music was played a little louder, and people seemed to come away smiling a little bigger. But it was also a scary place. We could hear the shouts and screams. We knew that the arcades were in there, because the arcades were on our list of bad things, I guess because they were related to the practice of gambling.

But the scariest thing behind that fence was the giant wood-scaffolding roller coaster that dominated the landscape. Long before we ever dared to enter this section of the park, long before we ever stood in the long serpentine line, or begged the attendant for a seat in the middle of the train (not the front or back, those were the scariest), long before we even imagined that we would ever be able to ride it, we knew the stories of the roller-coaster. We knew that just about everyone got sick and threw up the first time they rode it. We knew the story of the railing that broke loose and the train came off the track just before the ride ended. We knew the story of the boy who stood up and fell off and was paralyzed by it. It didn't matter what was true what was not true. These were legends, told for the purpose of intimidation, told for the purpose of keeping youngster off the roller-coaster who did not be

long there, and elevating the thrill of the ride for those who did. I was late into my teenage years before I ever dared to ride it.

There is a good reason that a roller coaster ride is used so often as a metaphor for life. So many times in life we experience the slow, steady climb to the top only to be met at the top by the scary free-fall plunge to a place we have never been before. So often, life seems to take its twists and turns faster than we can take them in, leaving us with a knot in our stomachs and the question on our minds, "What just happened to me."

For several weeks now, we have been reading through the 14th and 15th and 16th chapters of Matthew. It has been a roller coaster ride for Peter and the disciples. Three weeks ago, when the disciples get caught in a boat during a storm, Jesus tells Peter he has "little faith," when Peter tries to walk on the water. Then two weeks ago we heard Jesus call a woman whose child was possessed by a demon a dog. "I can't help you. You are not of Jewish background, you have a different religion than mine." But when she argues back, he says her faith was "great."

Last week, after three years following Jesus, climbing to the top of the faith mountain, Jesus asks his disciples if they have figured it out yet. "Who do you think I am?" Jesus praises Peter when he says, "You are the Messiah." But now, today, Peter gets pushed over the top and comes screaming down in a wild and confusing ride that includes Satan, and suffering, and crucifixion crosses, and stumbling blocks and loss of life.

Following Jesus, it appears, is like riding a roller coaster, it can be a wild and confusing ride.

Jesus' words to Peter are especially meaningful for those of us who have been around for a while. We have taken our faith in God seriously, and applied ourselves to living the Christian life. We have worked hard at self-discipline and self-control. Jesus' words are for the parents who have done the reading, and put in the required time, and think they know how to raise happy, healthy children. They are for those who have made their relationships a priority and know what it takes to create deep, caring friendships and loving marriages. They are for those who have spent time immersed in the ways of the church and think we know what God is doing in the world and how to be a part of it.

We are the ones, like Peter, who have done the time, spent the energy, kindled the passion, and are ready to go to work making this a better world for God.

Jesus thinks we are ready, that Peter is ready, to hear the hard truth about the life we are connected to. Jesus lays out his future for us, "that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes; that he will be killed; and on the third day be raised from the dead." At best, we can only barely understand what that means for us. But Peter pushes back hard, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you."

What Jesus says to Peter, and to all of us who think we have finally figured out the mind and heart of God, is that it is that very thought, at that very moment, when we have it all wrong. We are out of step with the ways and purposes of God. "Get behind me Satan," Jesus says to Peter, and to us. "For you are not speaking of divine things but human things."

And then Jesus goes on to explain once again the way that God works, a way that has baffled the world and human thinking for all of time. A way that is still hard to understand. If you want to be involved in the things of God, Jesus says, the first thing you have to do is die. First you have to put aside whatever it is that you thought things were like. First you have to let go of the most basic understandings about who you are, about how things work, and about what is right. First you have to silence the desires and demands of your own heart. Only then will you be able to hear what God is saying to you and what that means for your life. Only then will you have any hope of leveling off to a steady level ride.

The language that Jesus uses here when he reprimands Peter by saying, “Get behind me” is the same language, the very same words, he used when he spoke to Peter for the very first time. We have translated those words, spoken to Peter on the beach where he was fishing with his father, as “Follow me.” Here we translate those words as, “get behind me.”

“Follow me, Peter!” “Get behind me, Peter!” Peter is getting too far out in front of Jesus. Peter is not ready to go out on his own. Peter still needs to learn more about this man he thinks is the Messiah of God. He needs to be behind Jesus when he marches into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey. He needs to be behind Jesus, watching and listening, when the leaders there question Jesus, torture him, and crucify him on the cross. He needs to be behind Jesus, when Jesus walks away from the grave on Easter morning. For it is by following behind Jesus all the way to and through the cross and grave, that any of us learns what is on the heart and mind of God.

Peter was not miraculously changed by the incident in this Gospel. Peter was always Peter—feisty, practical, impetuous, prone to fits of temper. But Peter does his human best to keep following. It is still a roller coaster ride, but Jesus does go on to build his church on the work and character of this Peter.

And so it is for us as well. Our children find ways to live up to and through the troubles they get into. “How they ever manage?” Those who are tired and worn out, broken by life and the ways of the world, find ways of being renewed. And surprise! We see them living lives with new energy and fresh perspectives and healing.

From our perspective, these little events of everyday life look wild and scary. But from the perspective of those who have gone to and through the cross, following their Lord through life, this is Third Day stuff. This is Resurrection stuff. This is Easter stuff. This is the life of faith.

So get in line. Get in line and hang on. It is going to be a fun ride.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song

Text & Music: Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community

Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey;
I'll tell ev'rybody about you wherever I go:
You alone are our life and our peace and our love.
Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.

Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.
May all of my joy be a faithful reflection of you.
May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.

As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant,
To carry your cross and to share all your burdens and tears.
For you saved me by giving your body and blood.
As long as live, Jesus, make me your servant.

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 and Thanksgiving

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984; Melody: Gaelic tune

Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer
For all things living, you have made good:
Harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,
Hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.

Father, providing food for your children,
By Wisdom's guiding teach us to share
One with another, so that, rejoicing with us,
All others may know your care.

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 heirs 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

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 Earth Ministry and Lutherans Restoring Creation.

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 our school teachers, college and university professors, child care leaders, staff, students, and parents as they prepare for a new academic year. Give them wisdom and creativity, grant them patience and safety, remind them that you are with them in the midst of it all.

+ We pray for all in the wake of natural disasters. We are mindful of those in the wake of raging wildfires in California, and powerful storms in the Gulf of Mexico. Grant strength to those affected as they recover and rebuild.

+ We lift up all in our community who provide emergency services: medical workers, firefighters, 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: those affected by the California wildfires, Nancy, Doyle and his family, Scott, Gwynn and Don, Jeremy, Henrik & Patty, Vern, 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 Dee, Marlene, Nikki, 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

And So, Through All the Length of Days

Text: Henry W. Baker, b. 1821-1877; Music: Irish tune

And so, through all the length of days, thy goodness faileth never.

Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

POSTLUDE

Psalm 19. The Heavens Declare — Benedetto Marcello

Jiyoung Lee

Commemorations for the Week

Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig, bishop, renewer of the church, died 1872

Wednesday, September 2

Grundtvig was, with Søren Kierkegaard, one of the two great Danish theologians of the nineteenth century. As a pastor, he battled the prevalent idea that Christianity was more a philosophy than divine revelation. He wrote over a thousand hymns.

Serving in Worship:

Worship Leader: Pastor Jim Kruse
Assisting Minister: Sue Johnson
Song Leaders: Lori Downey, Marc Montague
Videographers: Elizabeth Waltzer, Leslie Waltzer
Video Editor: Dave Carlson
Banner: Elaine Stamm
Bulletin Cover: Craig Gillin

Readings for Next Sunday: Romans 13:8-14, Matthew 18:15-20

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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*



Additional worship resources:

Readings: Psalm 26: 1-8; Jeremiah 5: 15-21

Suggested Hymn for Listening: *O Jesus, I Have Promised*
Text: John E. Bode, 1816-1874; Tune: Munich

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 office@oslcssaquah.org. All written requests will remain on this list for 4 weeks.

Carmen Saavedra hope with new medication.

(Cheryl Neeb)

California Wildfires firefighters and those affected.

(Marilyn Carlson)

Nancy Anderson comfort and healing. (Cheryl Neeb)

Doyle Watson his caregiver and their families, all

positive for COVID 19. (Marilyn Carlson)

Scott safety, health and help. (Karen Hansen)

Gwynn and Don peace. (Karen Hansen)

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 adjustment to his assisted living

home 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 com-

fort following kidney transplant surgery.

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 chal-

lenges. (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: **Delores "Dee" Bakamus** (Dar Boni); **Marlene Braun** (sister to Cheryl Neeb); **Nikki** (niece to Doug & Dianne Tanner); **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)

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.