

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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St. John's **celebrates** God's love,
Proclaims the Gospel and
Serves our neighbors.



Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, August 9, 2020

11:00 am Facebook Live

Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing bread and cup of the eucharist, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God's presence to others.

* = Please Stand

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Perry

Welcome First Time Worshipers

***Opening Song** *How Can I Keep from Singing Your Praise*

***Confession and Forgiveness**

P. Jesus comes to walk with us, but sometimes we want Jesus to float about the ground, to be above the storms of this world. But the Father sent the Son into the world to be fully human—facing all the trials and temptations that we experience daily. Let us confess how we sometimes want Jesus to be superman rather than everyman.

(Silence for Reflection)

C. **Almighty God, we admit that we haven't always wanted Jesus to be weak and vulnerable. We want Jesus to swoop in and pull us out of our storms, but you send him into the middle of our lives to join us in our fears and trials. Help us to feel his presence now. Amen.**

P. The good news is that Jesus joins us in the middle of the storms of our lives. He gets wet with us—he dies for us and is raised from the dead. He helps us to be courageous leaders in the midst of terrifying situations. Thank God that Jesus is not above getting wet for us! Amen.

***The Sharing of the Peace**

***Prayer of the Day**

P. Let us pray.

C. O God our defender, 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.

A Reading from the Book of First Kings 19:9-18

⁹ When he got to Horeb, the mountain of God, he crawled into a cave and went to sleep.

Then the word of GOD came to him: “So Elijah, what are you doing here?”

¹⁰ “I’ve been working my heart out for the GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies,” said Elijah. “The people of Israel have abandoned your covenant, destroyed the places of worship, and murdered your prophets. I’m the only one left, and now they’re trying to kill me.”

¹¹⁻¹² Then he was told, “Go, stand on the mountain at attention before GOD. GOD will pass by.”

A hurricane wind ripped through the mountains and shattered the rocks before GOD, but GOD wasn’t to be found in the wind; after the wind an earthquake, but GOD wasn’t in the earthquake; and after the earthquake fire, but GOD wasn’t in the fire; and after the fire a gentle and quiet whisper.

¹³⁻¹⁴ When Elijah heard the quiet voice, he muffled his face with his great cloak, went to the mouth of the cave, and stood there. A quiet voice asked, “So Elijah, now tell me, what are you doing here?” Elijah said it again, “I’ve been working my heart out for GOD, the GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies, because the people of Israel have abandoned your covenant, destroyed your places of worship, and murdered your prophets. I’m the only one left, and now they’re trying to kill me.”

¹⁵⁻¹⁸ GOD said, “Go back the way you came through the desert to Damascus. When you get there anoint Hazael; make him king over Aram. Then anoint Jehu son of Nimshi; make him king over Israel. Finally, anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet. Anyone who escapes death by Hazael will be killed by Jehu; and anyone who escapes death by Jehu will be killed by Elisha. Meanwhile, I’m preserving for myself seven thousand souls: the knees that haven’t bowed to the god Baal, the mouths that haven’t kissed his image.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
Congregation: **Thanks be to God!**

A Reading from Paul’s Letter to the Romans 10:5-15

⁵⁻¹⁰ Moses wrote that anyone who insists on using the law code to live right before God soon discovers it’s not so easy—every detail of life regulated by fine print! But trusting God to shape the right living in us is a different story—no precarious climb up to heaven to recruit the Messiah, no dangerous descent into hell to rescue the Messiah. So what exactly was Moses saying?

The word that saves is right here,

as near as the tongue in your mouth,

as close as the heart in your chest.

It’s the word of faith that welcomes God to go to work and set things right for us. This is the core of our preaching. Say the welcoming word to God—“Jesus is my Master”—embracing, body and soul, God’s work of doing in us what he did in raising Jesus from the dead. That’s it. You’re not “doing” anything; you’re simply calling out to God, trusting him to do it for you. That’s salvation. With your whole being you embrace God setting things right, and then you say it, right out loud: “God has set everything right between him and me!”

¹¹⁻¹³ Scripture reassures us, “No one who trusts God like this—heart and soul—will ever regret it.” It’s exactly the same no matter what a person’s religious background may be: the same God for all of us, acting the same incredibly generous way to everyone who calls out for help. “Everyone who calls, ‘Help, God!’ gets help.”

¹⁴⁻¹⁵ But how can people call for help if they don’t know who to trust? And how can they know who to trust if they haven’t heard of the One who can be trusted? And how can they hear if nobody tells them? And how is anyone going to tell them, unless someone is sent to do it? That’s why Scripture exclaims,

A sight to take your breath away!

Grand processions of people

telling all the good things of God!

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
Congregation: **Thanks be to God!**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 14:22-33

²²⁻²³ As soon as the meal was finished, he insisted that the disciples get in the boat and go on ahead to the other side while

he dismissed the people. With the crowd dispersed, he climbed the mountain so he could be by himself and pray. He stayed there alone, late into the night.

²⁴⁻²⁶ Meanwhile, the boat was far out to sea when the wind came up against them and they were battered by the waves. At about four o'clock in the morning, Jesus came toward them walking on the water. They were scared out of their wits. "A ghost!" they said, crying out in terror.

²⁷ But Jesus was quick to comfort them. "Courage, it's me. Don't be afraid."

²⁸ Peter, suddenly bold, said, "Master, if it's really you, call me to come to you on the water."

²⁹⁻³⁰ He said, "Come ahead."

Jumping out of the boat, Peter walked on the water to Jesus. But when he looked down at the waves churning beneath his feet, he lost his nerve and started to sink. He cried, "Master, save me!"

³¹ Jesus didn't hesitate. He reached down and grabbed his hand. Then he said, "Faint-heart, what got into you?"

³²⁻³³ The two of them climbed into the boat, and the wind died down. The disciples in the boat, having watched the whole thing, worshiped Jesus, saying, "This is it! You are God's Son for sure!"

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.
Congregation: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon Song *Mighty to Save*

Sermon Beautiful Feet Pastor Perry

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the Church

Each petition ends...Lord, in your mercy,

Response: Hear our prayer.

***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.

Tithes and Offerings *10,000 Reasons*

***Offering Prayer**

Prayer of Confidence in Christ

***Blessing**

***Closing Song** *Good News*

August 9, 2020

Worship Leaders

11:00 am

Pastor: Peter Perry
Streaming: Gene Phillips
Lector: Mo Cooper-Wells
PowerPoint: Chris Jacobi
Band: Tracy Williams
Bill Cox
Garry Hudson
Suzanne Darby
Charlie Van

How Can I Keep from Singing by Chris Tomlin. Songwriters: Eithne Ni Bhraonain / Nicky Ryan / Roma Shane Ryan. How Can I Keep From Singing lyrics © Music Services, Inc, Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC. Used by permission CCLI 1898459.

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