

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Serenity through the Storms of Life

June 17, 20 & 21, 2015

AS WE GATHER

The main difference between God and people is He is God and we are not! As obvious as this may sound, it is much harder to put into practice in our thinking and living. We like to think we are in control of what happens in our lives, but all it takes is getting tossed around in a storm to discover we are not—not even close. Job discovered this when he lost everything and was reduced to scraping his sores and God asked him, “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?” When the apostle Paul acknowledged that he was, among other things, “sorrowful, yet always rejoicing,” he accepted his own sufferings as affirmations of God’s favor. Jesus—with a word—calms a threatening storm on the Sea of Galilee. As suddenly as the storm arose, at the Lord’s command, a sudden peace prevailed. This is the same peace He speaks into our lives today through His Word and Sacraments. Through Jesus we can rest assured that no matter what happens, God is always good, and we are in His hands.

WELCOME

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." Acts 2:42

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #726 “Evening and Morning”

Evening and morning, Sunset and dawning,
Wealth, peace, and gladness, Comfort in sadness:
These are Thy works; all the glory be Thine!
Times without number, Awake or in slumber,
Thine eye observes us, From danger preserves us,
Causing Thy mercy upon us to shine.

Father, O hear me, Pardon and spare me;
Calm all my terrors, Blot out my errors
That by Thine eyes they may no more be scanned.
Order my goings, Direct all my doings;
As it may please Thee, Retain or release me;
All I commit to Thy fatherly hand.

Ills that still greive me Soon are to leave me;
Though billows tower, And winds gain power,
After the storm the fair sun shows its face.
Joys e'er increasing And peace never ceasing;
These shall I treasure And share in full measure
When in His mansions God grants me a place.

To God in heaven All praise be given!
Come, let us offer And gladly proffer
To the Creator the gifts He doth prize.
He well receiveth A heart that believeth;
Hymns that adore Him Are precious before Him
And to His throne like sweet incense arise.

(Rise)

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Based on Psalm 124:1, 4, 5, 8*

Pastor: If it had not been the LORD who was on our side,

People: then the flood would have swept us away.

Pastor: If it had not been the Lord who was on our side,

People: the torrent would have gone over us.

Pastor: If it had not been the Lord who was on our side,

People: then over us would have gone the raging waters.

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the LORD,

People: who made heaven and earth.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Almighty God, merciful Father,

People: By nature, we try to usurp your authority as God. Both knowingly and unknowingly, we plan, plot, scheme, and try to control our own lives independently of you. We confess that you are God and we are not. For Jesus’ sake, have mercy on us and forgive us, and fill us anew with your Holy Spirit that our lives may be cared for by you.

Pastor: "Peace! Be still!" He is a good God, and He loves you! Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

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Pastor: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.

People: (sung)

Lord, God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:
We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God:
You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, with the Word of Jesus you wisely and faithfully sustain all your creation. As our lives are buffeted by the storms and trials of life, send forth Jesus' word of peace that we may find refuge in your presence and tender care; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

☩ WORD ☩

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Job 38:1–11* (The Creator addresses His creature.)

Then the LORD answered Job out of the storm. He said: "Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge? Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone while

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the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy? "Who shut up the sea behind doors when it burst forth from the womb, when I made the clouds its garment and wrapped it in thick darkness, when I fixed limits for it and set its doors and bars in place, when I said, 'This far you may come and no farther; here is where your proud waves halt'?"

EPISTLE *2 Corinthians 6:1–13* (Grace in the midst of suffering)

As God's fellow workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation. We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything. We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians, and opened wide our hearts to you. We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us. As a fair exchange--I speak as to my children--open wide your hearts also.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 4:35–41* (Jesus calms a storm.)

That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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SERMON HYMN #717 "Eternal Father, Strong to Save"

Eternal Father, strong to save, Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep Its own appointed limits keep:
O hear us when we cry to Thee For those in peril on the sea.

O Christ, the Lord of hill and plain, O'er which our traffic runs amain
By mountain pass or valley low; Wherever, Lord, Thy people go,
Protect them by Thy guarding hand From ev'ry peril on the land.

O Spirit, whom the Father sent To spread abroad the firmament;
O Wind of heaven, by Thy might Save all who dare the eagle's flight,
And keep them by Thy watchful care From ev'ry peril in the air.

O Trinity of love and pow'r, Our people shield in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe, Protect them where-soe'er they go;
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee Glad praise from air and land and sea.

SERMON "When the Storms Come" Mark 4:35-41

9:00 RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS/ADULT CONFIRMATION

(Rise)

6:00 & 5:00 APOSTLES' CREED (*found on the inside back cover of the hymnal*)

(Be seated)

OFFERINGS As your offering is collected, ***please sign our attendance book*** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth, so let us pray to the Lord whom even the wind and waves obey. Lord of the Church, we pray for the Holy Christian Church around the world, that she would be preserved from false teachings and divisions.

People: Bless her with faithful leaders, pastors and workers who serve joyfully; and grant all of God's people the desire to gratefully hear the Word, to respect their preachers, and to gladly love all the people you place in our lives.

Pastor: Almighty God, bless us with trust in the midst of troubles, that when the storms of life swirl around us and the events of life fill us with fear, we confidently rely on you, our God.

People: Help us to remember that you are our refuge and strength and to know in every situation that you care for us, for your mercy never fails.

Pastor: Gracious Lord, we pray for forgiveness when we question God's ways and fill us with Your Spirit that we may know that all things work together for good.

People: Bless us with humility, remembering that our God laid the foundations of the world, and that we would be humbled by the knowledge of His great wisdom and our ignorance of His truth.

Pastor: Holy Lord, bless us with faithfulness in receiving your gifts in worship, that in this summer season when it is tempting to stray from our Father's house, we would remain devoted to hearing our Savior's Word and receiving His body and blood.

People: By the leading of the Holy Spirit, bring us regularly to our fellowship among the members of this congregation, and draw back many who are drifting away, that none of us receive the grace of God in vain.

Pastor: Dear heavenly Father, we give you thanks today for all fathers who bless their children with love and discipline. Help them always to cherish your gift of children. We join Brian and Kami Hagel in praising you for the birth of their baby, Mason Ray Hagel.

People: Grant your blessing on this young family and Mason's growth in wisdom and stature. Move them to willingly take responsibility for nurturing their families in the knowledge of Christ, and to reflect our heavenly Father's love as they provide for those entrusted to their care.

Pastor: Lord of healing and hope, we pray for Gladys, Bea, Merle, Helene, Roy, Judy, Ron, Russ, Kathleen, Gretchen, Eleanor, Jack, Marge, Ruth, Sharon, Helen, Shirley, Dennis, Marion, Jack, Gretchen, Lois and Sarah, and all those who are experiencing life's winds and waves in sickness, sorrow, and life's difficulties.

People: Grant them to look in faith to you, our Father, that you may calm their troubled hearts, carry them through their afflictions and grant them your peace.

Pastor: For all those who travel, and especially Ruth Miller who is attending the LWML Convention in Iowa June 25-28.

People: We ask your blessing, protection, and a safe journey.

Pastor: Lord of the nations, bless all those who have been given positions of authority in our country, state and communities, blessing them with wisdom for their work.

People: Lead them to defend the lives of those who are unborn or vulnerable; and use them to bring peace, justice and stability to our neighborhoods and world.

Pastor: Lord of life, we pray for rescue workers who care for us when we endure the storms of life, asking you to grant them protection from harm and diligence in their duties;

People: give them also strength and stamina, and spare them from suffering as a result of the traumas they witness.

Pastor: Comfort all those who grieve the loss of loved ones and who remember them dearly, especially Dave and Diane as they remember their fathers, William and Ralph. We pray for Peter Brant, who grieves at the death of his wife Bernice, asking for the comfort of your eternal Gospel.

People: We rejoice also with those celebrating in these days, especially Manley and Char as they give thanks for 59 years of life together.

Pastor: Lord of our salvation, we pray for all who receive the body and blood of Christ, that this life-giving and sin-forgiving food nourish our faith and bless us with peace. We thank and praise you for the new members joining our church family, praying that we would be a blessing to each other.

People: Grant us a strong faith through all the storms of life and bless us to eagerly care for others when the waves of trouble threaten them.

Pastor: Into Your caring hands, dear Father, we place ourselves and all those for whom we pray, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

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Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

HYMN #752 "Be Still, My Soul"

Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side; Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide; In ev'ry change He faithful will remain.

Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'nly Friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul; your God will undertake To guide the future as He has the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;

All now mysterious shall be bright at last.

Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.

Be still, my soul; though dearest friends depart
And all is darkened in this vale of tears;

Then you will better know His love, His heart,
Who comes to soothe your sorrows and your fears.

Be still, my soul; your Jesus can repay From His own fullness all He takes away.

Be still, my soul; the hour is hast'ning on When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.

Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.

Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

HYMN #743 “Jesus, Priceless Treasure”

Jesus, priceless treasure, Fount of purest pleasure,
Truest friend to me, Ah, how long in anguish
Shall my spirit languish, Yearning, Lord, for Thee?
Thou art mine, O Lamb divine! I will suffer naught to hide Thee;
Naught I ask beside Thee.

In Thine arms I rest me; Foes who would molest me
Cannot reach me here. Though the earth be shaking,
Ev’ry heart be quaking, Jesus calms my fear.
Lightnings flash And thunders crash; Yet, though sin and hell assail me,
Jesus will not fail me.

Satan, I defy thee; Death, I now decry thee;
Fear, I bid thee cease. World, thou shalt not harm me
Nor thy threats alarm me While I sing of peace.
God’s great pow’r Guards ev’ry hour; Earth and all its depths adore Him,
Silent bow before Him.

Hence, all earthly treasure! Jesus is my pleasure,
Jesus is my choice. Hence, all empty glory!
Naught to me thy story Told with tempting voice.
Pain or loss, Or shame or cross, Shall not from my Savior move me
Since He deigns to love me.

Evil world, I leave thee; Thou canst not deceive me,
Thine appeal is vain. Sin that once did blind me,
Get thee far behind me, Come not forth again.
Past thy hour, O pride and pow’r, Sinful life, thy bonds I sever,
Leave thee now forever.

Hence, all fear and sadness! For the Lord of gladness,
Jesus, enters in. Those who love the Father,
Though the storms may gather, Still have peace within.
Yea, whate’er I here must bear, Thou art still my purest pleasure,
Jesus, priceless treasure!

HYMN #722 “Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me”

Lord, take my hand and lead me Upon life’s way:
Direct, protect, and feed my From day to day.
Without Your grace and favor I go astray;
So take my hand , O Savior, And lead the way.

Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear,
For You, the Rock of Ages, Are always near.
Close by Your side abiding, I fear no foe,
For when Your hand is guiding, In peace I go.

Lord, when the shadows lengthen And night has come,
I know that You will strengthen My steps toward home.
Then nothing can impede me, O blessed Friend;
So take my hand and lead me Unto the end.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Thank you, God, for nourishing our storm-swept souls with this food of everlasting life, even the true body and blood of Jesus, our Savior. Fortify us to depart from this place and engage the people in our lives with the love poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, which you have here given us through Word and water, bread and wine. Grant that we may be vessels of your sudden peace in the lives of those who need to experience your love; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #819 “Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good” Stanzas 1-3

Sing Praise to God, the highest good, The author of creation,
The God of love who understood Our need for His salvation.

With healing balm our souls He fills And ev’ry faithless murmur stills:
To God all praise and glory!

What God’s almighty pow’r made, In mercy He is keeping.

By morning glow or evening shade His eye is never sleeping.

Within the kingdom of His might All things are just and good and right:

To God all praise and glory!

We sought the Lord in our distress; O God, in mercy hear us.

Our Savior saw our helplessness And came with peace to cheer us.

For this we thank and praise the Lord, Who is by one and all adored:

To God all praise and glory!

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