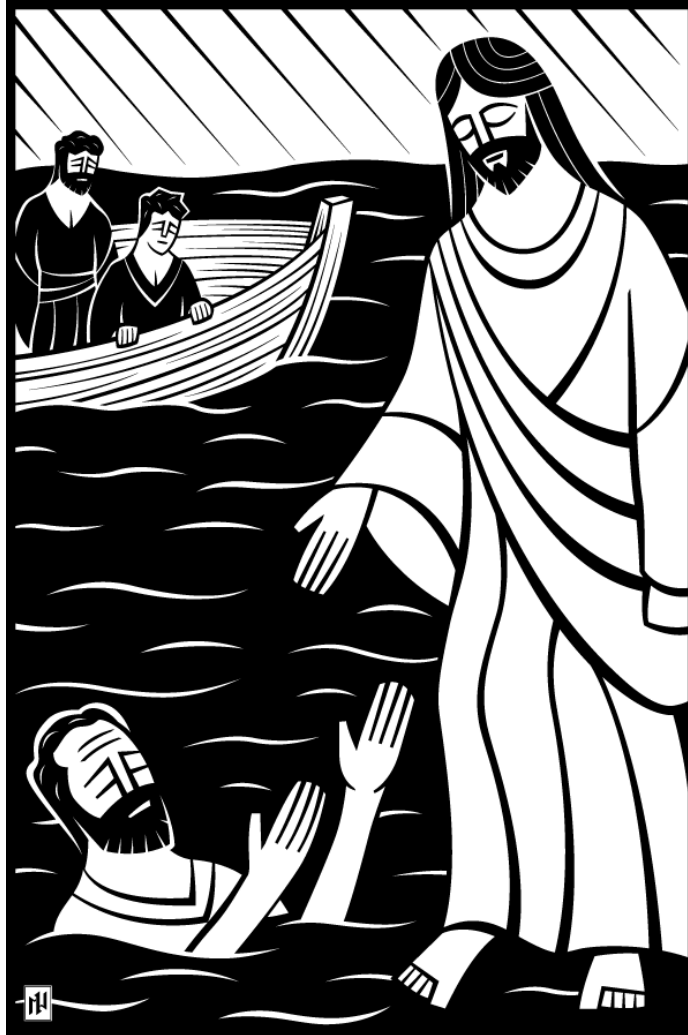


Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 13, 2023



Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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During our pastoral vacancy:

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THE SERVICE – SETTING ONE

THREAD: *The Christian answers doubt with faith.*

Hymn: O God, Our Help in Ages Past

CW 820



- 1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
- 2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
- 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
- 4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

- 5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
soon bears us all away;
we fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.
- 6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home!

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

CW 154

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

The congregation may be seated or kneel.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called 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.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Glory Be to God on High

CW 157

Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,

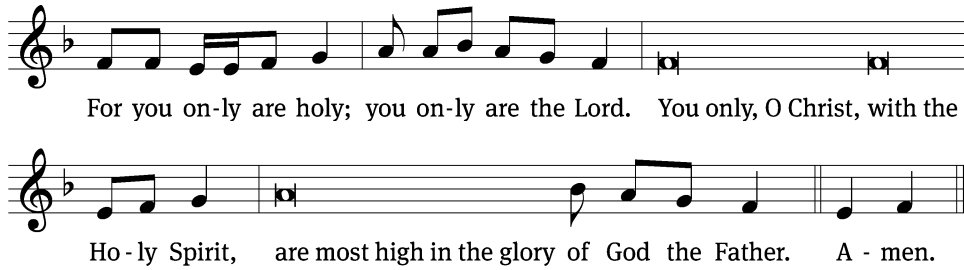
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,

God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;

have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.

You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.



THE WORD

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty and most merciful God, preserve us from all harm and danger that we, being ready in both body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish what you want done; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading

1 Kings 19:9–18

After a great victory, Elijah was terrified by Queen Jezebel. Elijah thought that he was alone. Certainly, he could not stand against the mighty secular forces. He doubted! Little did he know that God had a tremendous plan and people to ultimately and softly share the gospel of salvation. Elijah realized that he didn't need to doubt.

⁹There he went into a cave and spent the night.

And the word of the LORD came to him: “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

¹⁰He replied, “I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.”

¹¹The LORD said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.”

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. ¹²After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. ¹³When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

Then a voice said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

¹⁴He replied, “I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.”

¹⁵The LORD said to him, “Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. ¹⁶Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet. ¹⁷Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu. ¹⁸Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: My Feet Had Almost Slipped

Psalm 73C



1 My feet had al - most slipped; I near - ly lost my hold when
2 My sanc - tu - ar - y sure, my por - tion and my rest, the
3 My flesh and heart may fail but God is still my strength; his



wick - ed lies were on the lips of ar - ro - gant and bold.
LORD re - mains my hope se - cure, the ref - uge of the blest.
prom - is - es will soon pre - vail and o - ver - come at length.



Their un - re - pent - ant mouths caused mis - er - y and fears un -
His pres - ence cheers my soul, his right hand holds me fast; he
Whom have I, LORD, but you? I turn my eyes from earth and



til I en - tered God's own house and wiped a - way my tears.
guides my path with his con - trol, takes me to heav'n at last.
seek those things which, good and true, a - lone have price - less worth.

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Second Reading

Romans 8:28–39

In the midst of life's storms, we can listen and hear God's gentle whisper. "It is I. Don't be afraid." Nothing can separate us from the love of God. God has given us Christ. God is, undoubtedly, for us.

²⁸And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. ³⁰And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

³¹What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Hebrews 11:1

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for

and assurance about what we do not see.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 14:22-33

In this passage we see Peter, full of faith, actually doing the miraculous. Then doubt rose. Jesus saved Peter from drowning and asked Peter, "Why did you doubt?" With Jesus, there is never any need to doubt. He is the Son of God. This passage is the subject of today's sermon.

²²Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. ²³After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, ²⁴and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

²⁵Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. ²⁶When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

²⁷But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

²⁸"Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

²⁹"Come," he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

³¹Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

³²And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. ³³Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day: Be Still, My Soul

CW 847



1 Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side; bear pa-tient-
2 Be still, my soul; your God will un - der - take to guide the
3 Be still, my soul; when dear-est friends de - part and all is
4 Be still, my soul; the hour is has - t'ning on when we shall



ly the cross of grief or pain; leave to your God to or - der
fu - ture as he has the past; your hope, your con - fi - dence, let
dark - ened in the vale of tears, then you will bet - ter know his
be for - ev - er with the Lord, when dis - ap - point - ment, grief, and



and pro - vide; in ev - 'ry change he faith - ful will re -
noth - ing shake; all now mys - te - rious shall be bright at
love, his heart, who comes to soothe your sor - rows and your
fear are gone, sor - row for - got, love's pur - est joys re -



main. Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'n - ly friend
 last. Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
 fears. Be still, my soul; your Je - sus can re - pay
 stored. Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,



through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.
 his voice who ruled them while he lived be - low.
 from his own full - ness all he takes a - way.
 all safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.

Sermon

Matthew 14:22-33

“Take Courage! I’m here”

- A. Faith's courage overcomes our fears
- B. Faith's courage dares whatever our Lord commands

*Sermon by Rev. Gregg Bitter, adapted. Used by permission
 Ministering Elder: Jim Dietz*

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Prayer of the Church

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture.

Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith.

Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

... Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

Amen.

Offering – *The mail at church is being collected. Offerings may be mailed to:*

Peace Ev. Lutheran Church, 200 E. Beidler Road, King of Prussia, PA 19406

Let us pray:

God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours

now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

Amen.

Hymn: Eternal Father, Strong to Save

CW 805



1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm hath bound the
2 O Christ, the Lord of hill and plain o'er which our traf - fic
3 O Spir - it, whom the Fa - ther sent to spread a - broad the
4 O Trin - i - ty of love and pow'r, our peo - ple shield in



rest - less wave, who bidd'st the might - y o - cean deep its
runs a - main, by moun - tain pass or val - ley low, wher -
fir - ma - ment, O Wind of heav - en, by thy might save
dan - ger's hour; from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -



own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: O hear us when we
ev - er, Lord, thy peo - ple go, pro - tect them by thy
all who dare the ea - gle's flight, and keep them by thy
tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er - more shall



cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
guard - ing hand from ev - 'ry per - il on the land.
watch - ful care from ev - 'ry per - il in the air.
rise to thee glad praise from air and land and sea.

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Silent prayer – Announcements

This Sunday concludes a seven week focus on the characteristics of a Christian. From our weekly threads we have examined that the Christian:

- Loves God above all
- Finds rest in Jesus
- Is planted by the Word
- Lives as wheat among weeds
- Seeks spiritual wealth
- Trusts God to provide
- Answers doubt with faith

Next week begins an emphasis on Jesus' church. This will be a five-week focus on the church as taught in the book of Matthew.

Acknowledgments: Setting One from Christian Worship

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