

Order of Service
Twelfth Sunday of Pentecost
August 23, 2020

"With one mind and one voice glorify God the Father."

[P = Pastor C = Congregation]

Opening Hymn: ELH 210 *"Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me"*

Lord, take my hand and lead me, Upon life's way;
Direct, protect, and feed me, 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.

The Invocation

P: We worship in the name of our Triune God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

C: (*sung*) Amen.

The Confession and Absolution

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us;

C: But if we confess our sin, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

C: Merciful Father, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name.

P: Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: be assured that what Jesus came to do has been accomplished! He paid for your sins, each and every one of them, by His suffering and death on the cross. Your sins are forgiven! Furthermore, Christ's resurrection from the grave proves that His payment for us was perfect and complete, a sacrifice wholly acceptable to the Father. Because of what Christ Jesus has done, know that peace with God has been restored to you as a gift, and that you will live forever in Paradise. Whoever believes this truth and is baptized shall be saved. Amen.

Congregational Response: ELH 206 vs. 1, 3

**I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus, Trusting only Thee,
Trusting Thee for full salvation, Great and free.**

**I am trusting Thee for cleansing In the crimson flood,
Trusting Thee to make me holy By Thy blood.**

Prayer for the Day

P: O Lord, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour on us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us for the things which make our conscience afraid and giving us the good things we are unworthy to ask except through the work of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (sung) Amen.

The Old Testament Lesson: 1 Kings 19: 9-18

(How few accept God's covenant of grace! After the victorious face-off between the Lord and Baal on Mount Carmel, the prophet was dejected by the thought that he alone followed God. But souls are not converted through mighty acts of judgment (wind, earthquake, or fire). Hearts are converted through the gentle gospel whisper of a prophet. In fact, the "communion of saints" in Israel numbered seven thousand. What a consolation for lonely confessors like Elijah!)

⁹He came to a cave and spent the night there. Then the word of the Lord suddenly came to him saying, "Why are you here, Elijah?"

¹⁰He said, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of Armies, but the people of Israel have abandoned your covenant. They have torn down your altars and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking to take my life."

¹¹Then the Lord said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is passing by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains and shattered rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake.

¹²After the earthquake there was a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. After the fire there was a soft, whispering voice.

¹³When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak, and he went out and stood at the entrance to the cave. Then a voice came to him and said, "Why are you here, Elijah?"

¹⁴He said, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of Armies, but the people of Israel have abandoned your covenant. They have torn down your altars and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking to take my life."

¹⁵Then the Lord said to him, "Go back the way you came and go to the Wilderness of Damascus. When you get there, you are to anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶You will also anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel and Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷Whoever escapes the sword of Hazael, Jehu will kill, and whoever escapes the sword of Jehu, Elisha will kill. ¹⁸But I have preserved in Israel seven thousand whose knees have not bent to Baal and whose lips have not kissed him." *The Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®) copyright © 2017*

Congregational Response: ELH 257 vs. 1-2

**When in the hour of utmost need
We know not where to look for aid;
When days and nights of anxious thought
Nor help nor counsel yet have brought,**

**Then this our comfort is alone,
That we may meet before Thy throne
And cry, O faithful God, to Thee
For rescue from our misery;**

Epistle Lesson: Romans 9:1-5

(St. Paul has a pastor's heart for his own people. Many blood descendants of Abraham rejected their Savior, Jesus Christ. The apostle wishes he could take their place under God's judgment.)

I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying—my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit ²that I have great sorrow and continuous pain in my heart. ³For I almost wish that I myself could be cursed and separated from Christ in place of my brothers, my relatives according to the flesh, ⁴those who are Israelites. Theirs are the adoption as sons, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. ⁵Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, came the Christ, who is God over all, eternally blessed. Amen. (EHV)

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 14:22-33

(The disciples were terrified at the sight of Jesus walking on the water. Their fears were dispelled when He said, "It is I. Don't be afraid." The life of a Christian is often riddled with fears, doubts, and distractions. But even a "little faith" finds strength in the gracious promises of the almighty Son of God. When storms of life pass, we too will worship Jesus with a deeper confidence.)

²²Immediately Jesus urged the disciples to get into the boat and to go ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. ²³After he had dismissed the crowd, he went up onto the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone. ²⁴By then the boat was quite a distance from shore, being pounded by the waves because the wind was against it. ²⁵In the fourth watch of the night, Jesus came toward them, walking on the sea. ²⁶When the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified and cried out in fear, "It's a ghost!" ²⁷But Jesus spoke to them at once, saying, "Take heart! It is I! Do not be afraid."

²⁸Peter answered him and said, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."

²⁹Jesus said, "Come!" Peter stepped down from the boat, walked on the water, and went toward Jesus. ³⁰But when he saw the strong wind, he was afraid. As he began to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"

³¹Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand, took hold of him, and said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³²When they got into the boat, the wind stopped. ³³Those who were in the boat worshipped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God!" (EHV)

The Confession of Faith — The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.
And 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 shall 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.

Hymn: CW 379 *"Amazing Grace"*

**Amazing grace -- how sweet the sound--
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see.**

**The Lord has promised good to me;
His Word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.**

Sermon: 1 Kings 19: 9-18 (see *Old Testament Lesson*)
"God's Therapy For Depression"

Hymn: ELH #252 vs. 1,2,5 *"I Walk in Danger All the Way"*

**I walk in danger all the way;
The thought shall never leave me
That Satan, who has marked his prey,
Is plotting to deceive me. This foe with hidden snares
May seize me unawares If e'er I fail to watch and pray;
I walk in danger all the way.**

**I pass through trials all the way,
With sin and ills contending;
In patience I must bear each day
The cross of God's own sending. Oft in adversity
I know not where to flee,
When storms of woe my soul dismay;
I pass through trials all the way.**

**I walk with Jesus all the way;
His guidance never fails me.
Within His wounds I find a stay
When Satan's pow'r assails me,
And, by His footsteps led, My path I safely tread.
In spite of ills that threaten may,
I walk with Jesus all the way.**

Offering Prayer

Prayer of the Church

P: O Lord, our God, you are wise and powerful, good and gracious. Your mercies are new every morning. Each day you open your hand and provide for the needs of your children on earth.

C: We praise you for every grace and blessing.

P: We pray for our nation for the security of our men and women in the armed forces and for those who maintain safety in our land. Comfort families who have lost loved ones.

C: Protect our nation from riots and terrorism. Help us to live quiet and peaceful lives so that we may continue to spread the Good News of the Gospel throughout our land.

P: Let us pray for those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses, social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.

C: Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.

P: Keep our financial institutions secure and our economy strong. Please give employment to the people who are without work and provide for their needs. Protect all who travel, and care for all whose labor is difficult or dangerous.

C: Bless all who in their daily work seek to do Your will, and give them the assurance that their work is pleasing in Your sight.

P: We praise and thank you for your goodness in giving us our Lutheran elementary school. Bless our teachers and students throughout the upcoming school year. Give patience and discernment to our teachers as they daily interact with their students.

C: Move students to honor and respect their teachers, parents, and their classmates out of love for You.

P: Heavenly Father, as Your holy Word is studied, applied, and committed to memory by our students; cause them to have a greater understanding of You and of your grace won for us through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

C: Establish our school as a blessing to our students and families, to our entire congregation, and to our community.

P: Through Word and Sacrament, strengthen and encourage each of our church families so they grow in faith toward You and in love to one another. Build up the homes of our land. Give fathers and mothers a renewed commitment to Christian parenting and to each other. Give children and young people the wisdom to regard their parents as your representatives.

C: Lead us to love one another as you have loved us.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

P: Hear us Lord, as we bring to you our private petitions.

Silent Prayer

P: Gracious Father, we pray boldly as Jesus taught, with the confidence that you will hear and respond for our welfare.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer: *(by all)*

Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord turn to you in His favor and give you peace.

C: (*sung*) Amen. Amen. Amen.

Closing Hymn: ELH 261 *“Who trusts in God, a strong abode”*

**Who trusts in God, a strong abode
In heav’n and earth possesses;
Who looks in love to Christ above,
No fear his heart oppresses.
In Thee alone, dear Lord, we own
Sweet hope and consolation,
Our Shield from foes, our Balm for woes,
Our great and sure Salvation.**

**In all the strife of mortal life
Our feet shall stand securely;
Temptation’s hour shall lose its pow’r,
For Thou shalt guard us surely.
O God, renew with heav’nly dew
Our body, soul, and spirit
Until we stand at Thy right hand
Through Jesus’ saving merit.**