

SERVICE OF THE WORD

THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Faith Conquers Doubt



Christ Lutheran Church
North St. Paul & Hugo, Minnesota
August 23, 2020

About the Service... The Christian answers doubt with faith. Doubt is the unfortunate companion of faith. Wherever faith clings to the promises of God, doubt is always right there lingering in the back of our mind, constantly asking the serpent's Garden question, "Did God really say?" How striking to think that we must have faith in God before we can doubt him! Today's lessons show us believers who had faith in God and his abilities to save them, but yet doubted when his plans or purpose failed to match theirs. In each case, it is adversity that fights against faith and allows its unfortunate companion to rear its ugly head. And in each case, the true answer to doubt is not found in the great miracle that removes adversity, but in the still small voice of our Savior God whispering in his Word. Today we hear our Savior God ask us, "Why did you doubt?", and we see that the Christian answers doubt with faith. *God bless your hour of worship here!*

ORDER OF SERVICE

OPENING HYMN

Oh, For a Faith that Will Not Shrink
CW # 405:1-3; 6



Oh, for a faith that will not shrink Though
That will not mur - mur nor com - plain Be -
A faith that shines more bright and clear When



pressed by man - y a foe, That will not trem - ble
neath the chas - t'ning rod, But in the hour of
tem - pests rage with - out, That, when in dan - ger,



on the brink Of pov - er - ty or woe,
grief or pain Can lean up - on its God,
knows no fear, In dark - ness feels no doubt,

Lord, give us such a faith as this,
And then, whate'er may come,
We'll taste e'en now the hallowed bliss
Of an eternal home.

INVOCATION

M: The grace of our Lord (†) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The Word

FIRST LESSON

I Kings 19:9-18

After the victorious face-off between the LORD and the prophets of Baal, Elijah flees for his life, dejected and depressed. Through a gentle whisper God penetrated Elijah's heart and encouraged him to continue serving Him.

⁹ There he went into a cave and spent the night. And the word of the LORD came to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁰ He 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." ¹¹ The 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. ¹² After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in

the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. ¹³ When 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?” ¹⁴ He 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.” ¹⁵ The 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. ¹⁶ Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet. ¹⁷ Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu. ¹⁸ Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him.”

ANTHEM (NSP) *Fear Not for Tomorrow*

Soloist

SECOND LESSON

James 1:2-8; 12

James issues a strong call not to doubt God's promises and reminds us of God's blessing for those who, by God's strength, persevere.

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. ⁴ Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. ⁶ But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷ That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does... ¹² Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

THE VERSE OF THE DAY

Hebrews 11:1

Alleluia. Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. Alleluia.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 14:22-33

Jesus calms the wild weather on the sea and the raging turmoil in his disciples' hearts. In our lives that are riddled with fears and doubts, faith cries out to the Almighty Son of God for help.

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

distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. ²⁵ Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear. ²⁷ But 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. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!” ³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?” ³² And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. ³³ Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

HYMN OF THE DAY

When Peace Like A River
CWS #760



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my
2 My sin— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous
3 And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be



way, When sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll— What -
thought— My sin, not in part, but the whole, Is
sight, The clouds be rolled back as a scroll; The



ev - er my lot, thou hast taught me to
nailed to the cross, and I bear it no
trump shall re - sound, and the Lord shall de -



say, It is well, it is well with my soul.
more: Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
scend; E - ven so, it is well with my soul.



Refrain It is well with my
It is well with my soul.



It is well, it is well with my soul.

THE MESSAGE Matthew 14:22-33.

Take Courage! Jesus Is Here!

1. He watches over us and invites us to keep our eyes on Him
2. He rescues us and revives our faith and adoration

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.

OFFERING

The Offering will be received in back as you leave

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Having heard the Word proclaimed, let us pray for ourselves, for all the faithful and for all people as they have need.

For all people, that they may have faith in Christ and heed the voice of God calling by His Word;
For the Church, that the people of God may pursue righteousness with peace and joy in their hearts, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all noble professions, and for the flourishing of the arts and music; for favorable weather and the fruits of the earth; and for those unemployed, the poor, the homeless, the hungry and all people in need, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all families and children, single adults and youth; for those who teach and those who learn, that they may advance in wisdom and grace; and for teachers, students and parents who are preparing to return to school: that you would grant them confidence, peace and faith as the new year begins, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For victims of disaster and for those stricken by illness or infirmity; for the aged and infirm, as well as those in nursing homes and assisted living facilities; for those who grieve the loss of those whom they love; [and especially for those who have requested our prayers _____,] let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Be merciful to us, O Lord, and hear our prayers. Grant to us the grace of Your Holy Spirit, that we may be led into all truth and be steadfast in the confession of Christ; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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

**M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.**

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.

C: Amen.



THE CLOSING HYMN

Precious Lord, Take My Hand
CW #451

1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me
2 When my way grows drear, Pre - cious Lord, lin - ger
3 When the dark - ness ap - pears And the night draws

stand; I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
near, When my life is al - most gone,
near And the day is al - most gone,

Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the
Hear my cry, hear my call; Hold my hand lest I
At the riv - er I stand; Guide my feet, hold my

light. Take my hand, pre - cious Lord; Lead me home.
fall. Take my hand, pre - cious Lord; Lead me home.
hand, Take my hand, pre - cious Lord; Lead me home.

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