

Sunday, August 13, 2023 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Service Theme

THE CHRISTIAN ANSWERS DOUBT WITH FAITH

Our lessons for today show how God remains in control - even in times of trouble. When all looks lost for the Church, we can be assured that God is still guiding history, accomplishing his will. He will never let his Church fall. When we personally seem at wit's end, Jesus is there to comfort us with his presence and promises through the Gospel. Though our lives are filled with dark clouds, know that the Son of God is on the other side, ready to pierce through those clouds with the rays of his wonderful grace. The LORD is in control. Therefore, whenever the devil tempts you to doubt, ask the LORD to help you respond with renewed faith in His promises and power.



Order of Service:

Service of the Word (p.38)

- 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 us strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

Prayer and Praise

- **M:** In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.
- C: (Sing) Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
 Blessed are they who take refuge in him.
 Your Word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.
 Your faithfulness continues forever.
 Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
 Blessed are they who take refuge in him.

Prayer of the Day

M: 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.

C: (sing) Amen.

<u>First Lesson</u>

1 Kings 19:9-18 EHV

The Lord answers Elijah's doubt not with a great show of power but with the gentle whisper of God's gracious promise.

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."

Psalm 73 (p.94) Refrain Sure-ly, is God who saves will trust in him and it me; Ι not be a - fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my will sure de-fense, and he be my Sav - ior. Psalm tone o

I am always with <u>you</u>, O LORD;* you hold me by my <u>right</u> hand.

You guide me with your <u>coun</u>sel,* and afterward you will take me into <u>glory</u>.

Whom have I in heaven but you?*

And earth has nothing I desire besides you.

My flesh and my <u>heart</u> may fail,* but God is the strength of my heart and my portion for<u>ev</u>er.

Glory be to the Father and <u>to</u> the Son*

and to the Holy <u>Spir</u>it, as it was in the be<u>gin</u>ning,* is now, and will be forever. <u>A</u>men.

Refrain

Second Lesson

Romans 8:28-39 EHV

Paul teaches that in all things, good times and bad, we can trust that God is carrying out his perfect plan for his glory and our salvation.

²⁸We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose, ²⁹because those God foreknew, he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he would be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰And those he predestined, he also called. Those he called, he also justified. And those he justified, he also glorified.

³¹What then will we say about these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²Indeed, he who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also graciously give us all things along with him? ³³Who will bring an accusation against God's elect? God is the one who justifies! ³⁴Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus, who died and, more than that, was raised to life, is the one who is at God's right hand and who is also interceding for us! ³⁵What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will trouble or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶Just as it is written:

For your sake we are being put to 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 rulers, neither things present nor things to come, nor powerful forces, ³⁹neither height nor depth, nor anything else in creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Verse of the Day

Alleluia. Alleluia. Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. Alleluia. (Hebrews 11:1)

C: (sing) Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

<u>Gospel</u>

Matthew 14:22-33 EHV

In the account of Peter walking on the water, we see how quickly doubt challenges faith. And we see how graciously Jesus responds to our doubt.

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!"

C: (sing) Praise be to you, O Christ!

Built on the Rock



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Sermon Text & Theme

1 Kings 19:9-18... Feel like giving up?

- 1) Pour your heart out to God in prayer.
- 2) Listen to his gentle voice in the gospel.
- 3) Understand that you are not alone.
- 4) Rejoice in His victory!

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.

Offertory Prayer

Prayer of the Church

(Page 42)

- M: Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after day.
- C: We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.
- M: You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

C: We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.

M: Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.

- C: Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.
- M: Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.
- C: Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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

Silent prayer.

- M: We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.
- C: We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. 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.
- M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

or

Almighty 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.

C: (sing) Amen.

The Blessing

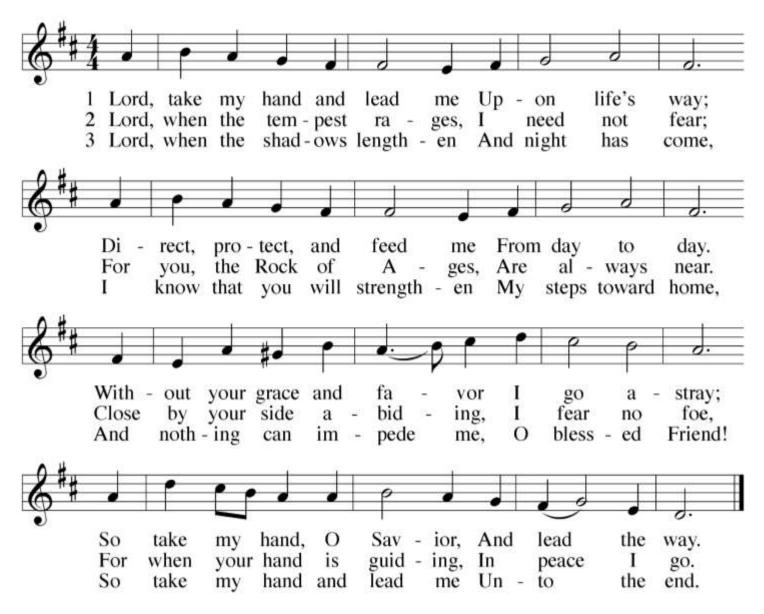
M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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: (sing) Amen. Amen. Amen.

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Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me



Announcements

Church Cleaners:

August 13 - Simon // August 20 - Matthew

	DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR	
Su (13)	9:30 am 10:45 am 11:00 am 4:30 pm	Worship Coffee Hour Bible Class Pastor Justin Digman's Installation (Orleans)
Pastor will be away from August 17-21 to take his children to school.		
Su (20)	9:30 am	Layled-Worship with Communion
Fr (11)	6:00 pm	Friday Fellowship and Bible Class
Su (27)	9:30 am 10:45 am 11:00 am 3:00 pm	Worship with Communion Coffee Hour Bible Class Worship with Holy Communion in Poltimore



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Divine Word

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