

The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Livermore, CA

August 23, 2020

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 Amen

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.

Absolution

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 Let us pray.

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

1 Kings 19:9-18 | *EHV*

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 of the Day

Psalm 73 | page 94, Red Hymnal

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

You guide me with your counsel,*
and afterward you will take me into glory.

Whom have I in heaven but you?*
And earth has nothing I desire besides you.

My flesh and my heart may fail,*
but God is the strength of my heart
and my portion forever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Second Lesson

Romans 9:1-5 | EHV

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.

Verse of the Day

Hebrews 11:1 | NIV84

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

Gospel

Matthew 14:22-33 | EHV

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!”

Sermon

Matthew 14:22-33

Fix Your Eyes on Jesus

I. He lets you walk on the sea of life.

II. He rescues you from the waves of doubt.

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 for the Season of Pentecost

The pastor says the Prayer of the Church.

The Lord's Prayer

Traditional Version

C 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.

Prayer

M 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 Amen

Benediction

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



As We Resume Meeting In-Person, please keep the following in mind:

- The coronavirus did not go away. We are still in the midst of a pandemic. If you are not feeling well, or live with someone not feeling well, please stay home.
- Like with all public activities at this time in California and in Alameda County, facemasks will be required to be worn at all times.
- Social distancing is to be practiced. Seating will be spaced apart by households, and the building is only allowed 25% of capacity at this time.
- If gathering in the building is currently prohibited, we may be meeting outside. Please watch for announcements regarding this, and be aware that outdoor gatherings still have similar guidelines we are to follow. Also, take precautions for things like sun, wind, etc.
- Wash your hands frequently. Hand sanitizer is provided in the church entryway.
- There will not be fellowship coffee hour or Bible Class after church for the time-being. Any socializing before or after the service is to be done outside, with proper social distancing.
- There will be some changes to how Communion is served. See the instructions in the bulletin on those Sundays.

If you are high risk or uncomfortable coming out at this time, be aware that we plan on continuing our online services as we have been. Please take advantage of this. Thank you.

Pastor Natsis is available for spiritual care over the phone or e-mail (or in the case of emergency, in-person). Cell phone: 734-678-4475; parsonage phone: 925-583-5822; e-mail address: mattnatsis@gmail.com

For further updates about our service schedule, see our website at www.goodshepherd-livermore.org.

God bless you during this time.