

June 20, 2021 – Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

### Introduction to the Day

Now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation! Now we are in the storm, the boat almost swamped; but Jesus is here now, and when we call him, he will calm the storm. Even the wind and waves listen to him as they would to their creator. We also listen to him and are called to believe in the power of God's word in him, a power greater than all that we fear.

### Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the God of manna,  
the God of miracles,  
the God of mercy.

**Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,  
let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God, our provider,

**help us.**

**It is hard to believe there is enough to share.**

**We question your ways when they differ from  
the ways**

**of the world in which we live.**

**We turn to our own understanding  
rather than trusting in you.**

**We take offense at your teachings and your  
ways.**

**Turn us again to you.**

**Where else can we turn?**

**Share with us the words of eternal life  
and feed us for life in the world.**

**Amen.**

Beloved people of God:

in Jesus, the manna from heaven,  
you are fed and nourished.

By Jesus, the worker of miracles,  
there is always more than enough.

Through Jesus, † the bread of life,  
you are shown God's mercy:

you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

**Amen.**

### Prayer of the Day

O God of creation, eternal majesty, you preside over land and sea, sunshine and storm. By your strength pilot us, by your power preserve us, by your wisdom instruct us, and by your hand protect us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32

<sup>1</sup> O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
for his steadfast love endures forever.

<sup>2</sup> Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,  
those he redeemed from trouble

<sup>3</sup> and gathered in from the lands,  
from the east and from the west,  
from the north and from the south.

<sup>23</sup> Some went down to the sea in ships,  
doing business on the mighty waters;

<sup>24</sup> they saw the deeds of the LORD,  
his wondrous works in the deep.

<sup>25</sup> For he commanded and raised the stormy wind,  
which lifted up the waves of the sea.

<sup>26</sup> They mounted up to heaven, they went down to

the depths;

their courage melted away in their calamity;

<sup>27</sup> they reeled and staggered like drunkards,  
and were at their wits' end.

<sup>28</sup> Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,  
and he brought them out from their distress;

<sup>29</sup> he made the storm be still,  
and the waves of the sea were hushed.

<sup>30</sup> Then they were glad because they had quiet,  
and he brought them to their desired haven.

<sup>31</sup> Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,  
for his wonderful works to humankind.

<sup>32</sup> Let them extol him in the congregation of the  
people,

and praise him in the assembly of the elders.

## Children's Message

### Gospel – Mark 4:35-41

<sup>35</sup>When evening had come, [Jesus said to the disciples,] “Let us go across to the other side.” <sup>36</sup>And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. <sup>37</sup>A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. <sup>38</sup>But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” <sup>39</sup>He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. <sup>40</sup>He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” <sup>41</sup>And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

### Message

Grace to you and peace from God, and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. AMEN

We can all relate to this storm experience on some level. You've probably got your own storm story/ies that are readily available in the back of your mind when storms come up.

When I was five a severe storm, maybe a tornado, came across Prairie Lake right into the neighborhood that we lived in. I remember my father grabbing me under one arm and my brother Jake under the other to get us to the basement as the living room windows bowed in and out with the wind. We woke up to downed trees covering our yard.

Every year I go on a fishing trip with a group of friends from high school, and one year as we arrived to the boat landing to head out to our island, it started to sprinkle. We chose to beat the rain to the island and get our camp set up before the hard stuff came down so that we'd remain as dry as possible. We lost that race. As we set up what we called “Tarp City” with a wall of tarps around our tents and eating area, we battled what felt like a category 5 hurricane. It took every ounce of our being to hold the tarps in place as the one monkey in the group scurried up a tree to secure the tarps in place. The refrain in that adventure was, “HOLD THE LINE!”

Jesus and the disciples in our Gospel text for today have their own storm experience. They set out across the sea and along the way a storm kicks up to the point that the boat they are in is becoming swamped. Jesus, asleep in the back of the boat, is dead to the world. They FINALLY wake him up at the point of the boat being nearly swamped, with an accusatory “do you not even care that we are about to die?”

You get a sense that Jesus may have been awake the whole time and was laying there waiting for them to call on him, at the very least to help scoop out some water. But they didn't. He's like a parent when kids are playing and playtime either goes to ways. 1) It either gets progressively quieter until you know they're up to something, or 2) The tensions get progressively higher until one of them is crying and the stomping feet come down the hallway to wake mom or dad up. You get the sense that Jesus wasn't necessarily clueless to all that was happening in the boat. Perhaps even waiting for the disciples to ask him to grab a bucket.

Instead, they accuse him of not even caring.

Notice when Jesus wakes up he doesn't address the disciples? He first addresses the storm that has them worried. To the storm he speaks, “Peace. Be still.”

And the storm listens. It is calmed. Eerily quiet.

They are astonished that even the winds and the sea would listen to this man Jesus.

There are two kinds of Gospel texts that we encounter. The first is like our Gospel text from last week, where Jesus speaks to us in parables. He uses words and imagery that the hearers of the would could relate to, but doesn't explicitly state who/what each of the characters in the parable represents. Parables allow us to assign parts, essentially, and the beauty is that there isn't a wrong answer.

The second kind of Gospel story that we encounter is the lived experiences of Jesus and the disciples. We hear stories of events that Jesus and His followers experienced.

It's a lot easier for us, I think, to make Gospel sense of parables, as confusing as they are. It is more difficult to give meaning to the lived experience Gospel stories that we encounter. Sure, we all have our own weather related storm stories.

But, the truth is, we've all got other storms that we go through in life.

When I was in 8<sup>th</sup> grade my father suffered a massive heart attack. I was at home on an Early Release Day from school and I was passing the time before Confirmation with my friend Rick. I remember getting the phone call from the Secretary at Luther Park telling me that my dad was at the hospital in Barron, where he was about to get on a helicopter and head to the hospital in Eau Claire. My mom was leaving the hospital in Barron and she was going to pick me up. I sat on the top step going down to our basement and wept. Rick sat by my side, silently, being the "Peace, be still" that I needed in that moment.

Our Psalmist for today implores us to "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever."

We don't know the storms that life is going to throw at us.

But, we do know that the storm is calmed. And the question becomes, we know *who* calms the storm but, do we know *who* calms the storm?

I had a college share the following thought: If the Gospel doesn't challenge and convict you, then it isn't the Gospel."

Which is true, but also false. The Gospel is the Good News of God's love for God's people, after all. The Gospel is a comfort for us, but it is also a challenge.

The challenging conviction of this Gospel text is the call to be that "Peace, be still" for others in the midst of their storms. The challenging conviction of this Gospel text is to live out the call to be present in the midst of others storms. To let them hear the words of God's love that endures forever, "peace, be still."

All will be well.

Thanks be to God. AMEN

## **Apostle's Creed**

### **Prayers**

Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

*A brief silence.*

Holy God, you gather your people from east and west, north and south. We pray for the mission of the church throughout the world, that your steadfast love may be made known to all peoples. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You laid the foundations of the earth and the waters are the womb of creation. The morning stars sing your name and all creation shouts for joy. We pray for your blessed creation, that it may continue to flourish and magnify your glory. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You keep watch over all nations. We pray for countries experiencing violence, hunger, and unrest (*especially*). Guide worldwide and local community organizations in their efforts to establish safety and justice. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You are close to the brokenhearted and near to those in distress. We pray for those who are experiencing oppression. Liberate us from the systems and chains that bind us. Remove the barriers that separate us from one another. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You dwell with us in this faith community. We pray for our leaders, for those who've been here from the beginning, and those who may be visiting for the first time. Grant them knowledge, patience, and kindness, that through their leadership you may be exalted in this assembly. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Your love endures in all situations. On this Father's Day, we pray for those who are fathers or wish to be fathers, for those with broken or strained relationships, for those who are missing their fathers, and for fathers who have lost children. Bless and strengthen them. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.

**Amen.**

**Offering****Offertory Prayer**

Jesus, Bread of life,  
you have set this table with your very self,  
and called us to the feast of plenty.

Gather what has been sown among us,  
and strengthen us in this meal.

Make us to be what we receive here,  
your body for the life of the world.

**Amen.**

**Words of Institution – We invite you to find bread and wine or juice and partake in this Holy Meal.**

(Holding the bread) In the night in which we was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and broke it, gave thanks and gave it for all to eat saying, "This is my body broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

(Holding the cup) Again after supper he took the cup, and after giving thanks he gave it for all to drink saying, "this cup is the new covenant in my blood shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. So often as you do this, remember me."

Once you've taken the elements say, "Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**"

**Lord's Prayer****Blessing**

The blessing of God,  
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,  
✠ be upon you now and forever.

**Amen.**

Go in peace, you are the body of Christ.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS! ANNOUNCEMENTS! ANNOUNCEMENTS! Please note:**

**There WILL NOT be a service here at Good Shepherd on Sunday, June 20 as they will be leading worship at Praise in the Park.**

**Join Good Shepherd friends at Phoenix Park at 10 a.m. Sunday. Bring your own chair and enjoy worship outside. If you want more information or to watch online, click here (this is on FaceBook).**

**Please sign up to attend in-person worship!**

**Join us for worship on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in the pavilion area – bring your own picnic dinner. Or join us at 9 a.m. in the Sanctuary on Sundays or at Phoenix Park at 10 a.m.** Please call DeAnne in the office to get signed up for worship in the sanctuary.

### **News from Good Shepherd Outreach**

This year Good Shepherd Outreach is partnering with other churches in We Care Eau Claire. This organization was created to support the Eau Claire School District staff and students – especially the students in need. This year the distribution of school supplies and backpacks will be held August 16 at Phoenix Park, We are asking Good Shepherd members to help donate towards these school supplies with monetary donations so supplies can be purchased in bulk to stretch the monies as much as possible. If you are interested in donating to Project Backpack, please send your donations to the church marked as such. Or you can give online, selecting Outreach and in the memo add Project Backpack. If you have questions or interest in this event, contact the church office.

### **At Home Mission Trip 2021**

This summer we are doing another At Home Mission Trip for our Good Spirit youth! We will be partnering with local organizations to learn and serve alongside them. Last summer our at Home Mission Trip was a success, so we are doing it again with some new opportunities and activities. Join us for an upcoming fundraiser on June 30 at Spirit Lutheran.

### **Come out and support our Good Spirit Youth Group**

Join us at Spirit Lutheran Church on Wednesday, June 30 from 4 to 7 p.m. The Good Spirit youth will be hosting a drive-thru cookout and all proceeds will be going toward their at home mission trip in July. Brats, hotdogs, and the fixings for a donation.

### **Altar flowers**

If you would like flowers on the altar in honor of a birthday, an anniversary, in memory of someone, or just because, you can call the church office (715-563-2623). The cost is \$22 and you can take them home following worship or pick the up the following week.

### **Re-Connect Opportunities**

We hope you will join us for any, or all, of these Re-Connect Opportunities throughout the week!

Stop in for coffee and conversation at 9 am on Mondays

TUESDAYS be sure to stop by for Bible Study starting at 11, followed by Lunch and Laughter at noon.

Thursdays we will have the sanctuary open for prayer for 8 am to 3 pm.