

Fifth Sunday After Pentecost – June 23rd, 2024

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.

Greeting – The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Welcome

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.

Gathering Hymn

“When Peace like a River”

#785 vs. 1,3,4

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.

Reading – Job 38:1-11

¹The LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind:

²“Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

³Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

⁴“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding.

⁵Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it?

⁶On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone

⁷when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

⁸“Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb?—
⁹when I made the clouds its garment, and thick darkness its swaddling band,
¹⁰and prescribed bounds for it, and set bars and doors,
¹¹and said, ‘Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stopped’?”

Children’s Message

Gospel – Mark 4:35-41

³⁵When evening had come, [Jesus said to the disciples,] “Let us go across to the other side.” ³⁶And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. ³⁷A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. ³⁸But 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?” ³⁹He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. ⁴⁰He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” ⁴¹And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

The Gospel of Our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

People of God, grace to you and peace from God, and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. AMEN

Three weeks ago at the Synod Assembly of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin with the them “Water is Life,” Bishop Laurie Skow Anderson led us through an exercise where she had us think of a body of water that brings us peace. And, as she spoke she encouraged us, and with the aid of colored pencils, invited us to sketch that body of water as she spoke.

My mind immediately went to a body of water that I will be on later this week. The Chippewa Flowage. This year is the 20th annual fishing trip that I will be going on with friends from high school. Most of those trips have been on this body of water, and for many of those years, before we wised up, we would camp on an island. We would get ourselves to the boat landing, we would load up whatever boats we had that year, and we would putz around looking for an available island on which we would pitch our tents and set up camp.

Some years, that journey was enjoyable. So enjoyable that I, the smallest of the group, and the one that got to ride on the very front of the boat, wound up with sunburned knees burned red enough to serve as navigational lights at night.

Other years, that journey was an adventure, much like Jesus and the disciples experience here. We would find ourselves making our way through a driving rain, only to get to the island during a break in the rain long enough to make us think that we could set up camp and beat the next round of storms that we were sure would split us. It didn’t.

The camp that we would set up not only included the tents necessary to sleep all 5 of us, but we would also set up a series of tarp to serve as walls around our camp to block the wind making it easier to cook and other things needed to survive a few days on the flowage. Never mind providing the privacy and necessary blockage to any passers by to witness the shenanigans we were surely up to.

And so, it was during the break in the storm that was surely not going to get back to us, that we decided to set up what we called Tarp City. Not long into this process the storm returned and we found ourselves needing three of us, with all of our might, to hold the largest of the tarps in place while the largest of 5 had the most daring of us 5 on his shoulders securing this tarp to the trees. Throughout this process, our refrain was, “Hold the line!” We weren’t the smartest in our youth. We’ve since found joy in one of us 5 purchasing a cabin at one of the resorts.

But, reading this gospel text brought me back to that moment, and really the microcosm that this gospel text, and that story, is for our lives as people of faith.

Anyone that has spent any number of years on earth knows that simply because we are people of faith does not make life all sunshine and rainbows. Anyone who has spent any number of years on this earth knows full well the difficulties that life is going to throw at us, the storms that are going to come our way.

And, often, when that happens we are quick to look to the bow of the boat, astonished that Jesus could be sleeping through it all. We so quickly tell ourselves that amid the storms of life Jesus is nowhere to be seen.

When, in reality, Jesus is the calm we so desperately long for when it seems the storm will never end.

One of the ear-worms in my life right now is a song by the artist Zach Bryan. One of the opening lines sets the singer in the backseat of the car singing, “Hey driver, pull on over, I’m in a fight with God.” The first time, and really every time after, that I listened to the song with my children in the car, one of my boys said, “on man, he’s in trouble. He’s fighting with God. That’s not going to go well.”

I’d imagine that my Jackson is not the only one to have thoughts that if we are upset with, or feeling that we are in a fight with God, that we surely must be doing something wrong.

This Gospel tells us, quite frankly, the exact opposite.

As we go through life there are going to be storms, the seas of life are going to rage, our boat is going to be battered, and through it all Jesus is going to be a calming presence among us. For my friends and I the memories of “hold the line” are ones that we will never forget. The tent city we set up in that monsoon is one of the best we had ever put up. And the tight bond we already shared only strengthened in that experience.

Jesus asks His disciples, “Why are you afraid? Have you no faith? Don’t you know that I am with you?”

We forget that part. In the storms of life it is the easy route to get angry at Jesus. To question his presence. To get mad. To wonder why God would allow any of this to happen. And, yes, even fight with God. And guess what?

God can take it. If God in Jesus Christ can calm the stormy seas, command them and have them listen, God in Jesus Christ can calm our storms too. Because that is what God does.

The beauty of a storm, and that isn’t to say that the wreckage that comes with isn’t painful, is that eventually it ceases. Eventually there is clean-up and, eventually, life picks back up again. Yes, there is much healing that needs to take place. Yes, there is rebuilding. Yes, there is repair.

And, it is in all of those moments of the storms that God shows up. Bring us calm. Reminding us that God can take it.

Thanks be to God. AMEN

Hymn of the Day

“Stay With Us”

#743 WOV

Apostle’s Creed

Prayers

We come before the triune God to pray for our communities, ourselves, and our world.

A brief silence.

Equip your faithful people to approach this world with a sense of wonder. Make your church a safe place to explore big questions, troubling doubts, and honest laments. Humble our hearts to repent of the ways that communities of faith have inflicted pain or trauma. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You spoke creation into order from the chaos of the swirling deep. May your name be praised by rivers and seas, wetlands and waterfalls. Secure clean water for all people and protect water sources from contamination or exploitation. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Amid whirlwinds of division, violence, and conflict, remind us again that you are as steadfast as the foundations of the earth. Rejuvenate peacemakers, advocates, and community organizers when they feel weary in their work (*especially*). Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Deliver your people from their distress, O God. We lift before you all who are sick or struggling (*We pray especially for Matt, Clarice, Steve, Kathy, Val, Cherri, Peggy, John, Judy, Keith and JoJo, Bob and Joanne, Frank and Heather, Bob and Sonja, Bill and Betty, Tom and Kay, Sherm and Mary, Dan and Sharon, Roger and MaryLee, family of Mildred Legge*). Grant consolation and peace to all who live with chronic, terminal, or persistent illness. In times of affliction or hardship, sustain us in faith. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Enfold all travelers with your protection. Bless the comings and goings of this assembly as we travel for leisure or for work. Let all journeys be met with hospitality on the way, and let community members return to us with celebration. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation for all the redeemed of the Lord. Joined together with the great cloud of witnesses, we give thanks for your steadfast love and your wonderful works. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Receive our prayers, O God, and come quickly to our aid, through the power of the Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Peace 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

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Hymns #471 & #483

Lord's Prayer

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.
Come!

Post Communion Prayer

Jesus, Bread of life,
we have received from your table
more than we could ever ask.

As you have nourished us in this meal,
now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.

In your name we pray.

Amen.

Blessing

The blessing of God,
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,

✠ be upon you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

“My Life Overflows On in Endless Song”

#763 vs. 1,4

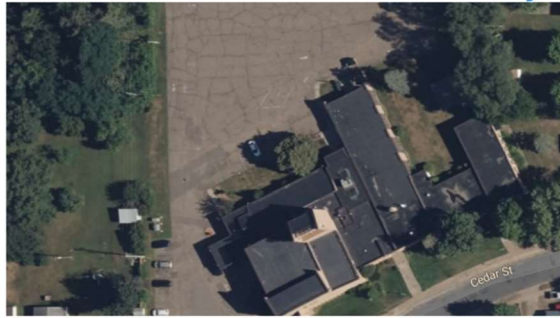
Sending

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ!

Okay! We will! Thanks be to God.

And all of Good Shepherd said, **“AMEN”**

Your Generosity in Action:



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
MATCHING GIFT CHALLENGE
towards the Consultant Fee
\$13,600
Leadership Team Challenge
\$5,350
Congregation Matched

THANK YOU!!

Monthly Financials to date:	Total Revenue	Total Expenses	Difference
	\$15,083	\$8,969	\$6,114
	2023: \$24,886	2023: \$25,439	Checkbook Available thru May \$17,654

**NO CHILD
IN SCHOOL
WITHOUT
NEW
SNEAKERS**



Help us fill
Shepherd's
Closet with
sneakers for
their Aug. 7
Give-Away.



Children's sizes 10-13
Girls/Women and Boys/Men size 1-8



If you would like to make monetary donations, that is welcome as well.



WE provide the
SCHOOL SUPPLIES
YOU provide the
BACKPACKS
TOGETHER we provide
the **LOVE OF JESUS**

Bring backpacks to
any participating
church by August 1st

To donate funds to help
purchase school supplies
go to:

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Praise in the Park!

Uplifting worship for
today's active community!

SUNDAYS this SUMMER

Phoenix Park in Eau Claire | 10am

Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

@praiseintheparkec

Stand In The Light Memory Choir
Where Words Fail, Music Speaks

**NOTED 2022
THE BEST OF THE
Chippewa
Valley
Volume One
2022**

Cathy Reitz, *Artistic/ Musical Director*
Anne Kubiawicz, *Accompanist*

SUMMER SINGS

**People in the early to mid-stages of memory loss,
their care partners, and singing volunteers come together
to share their love of music!**
No musical experience is necessary to participate.

Thursdays, 9:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
July 11, 18, 25, 2024

July 11 – Music of The Beatles
July 18 – Folk Music
July 25 – Music of the 60s & 70s

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
outdoor pavilion – bring your own chair
1120 Cedar Street, Eau Claire

*These sessions will be hybrid with the ability to attend in person
or virtually via ZOOM. Please let us know if you need
assistance getting set up on ZOOM.*

For more information contact 715-210-4165
or standinthelightchoir@gmail.com

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