

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH - Saskatoon

Pentecost 10 – August 9, 2020

Augustana and the other Saskatoon ELCIC churches are joining Zion for worship this week

Order of Service

Prelude

Confession and Absolution – *Kyrie 157 Lord, have mercy*

Gathering Song: “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High” – ELW #857

“Lord, I Lift Your Name on High”

Lord, I lift your name on high;

Lord, I love to sing your praises.

I'm so glad you're in my life,

I'm so glad you came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth
to show the way, from the earth

to the cross, my debt to pay,

from the cross to the grave,

from the grave to the sky;

Lord, I lift your name on high.



Prayer of the Day – **O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

First Lesson: 1 King 19:9-18

At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there.

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, ‘What are you doing here, Elijah?’ He answered, ‘I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.’

He said, ‘Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.’ Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, ‘What are you doing here, Elijah?’ He answered, ‘I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.’ Then the LORD said to him, ‘Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.’

Psalm 85:8-13 Refrain: Let us see your kindness, O Lord, grant us your salvation O God.

Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

Second Reading: Romans 10:5-15

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that 'the person who does these things will live by them.' But the righteousness that comes from faith says, 'Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?"' (that is, to bring Christ down) 'or "Who will descend into the abyss?"' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say?

'The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart'

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'

Gospel Acclamation: pg. 171 *Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia*

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'

Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

Homily

Risky Faith for A Dangerous Life

The wind and the waves are howling, screaming with all the animosity that fallen nature can manifest against the frailty of humankind. The water is roiling up in black oily mountains around the little fishing boat, each mountain tossing the little fishing boat up and down and over and around, smashing down around their feet and then draining away taking more and more of their faith, hope, and life. To Jesus it is like a rollercoaster ride at the fair. He seems to hover above it, ghostly, the mariner's certain sign of near-death. The ghostly Jesus speaks and like Elijah on the mountain long ago they hear his voice not over the screaming wind, not through the smashing water, but in their own minds, deep in their hearts, they all hear it: Don't be afraid; its me; be brave." He has come to save them.

What would you have done? We need not speculate: change the picture just enough to put yourself in the same boat. Change the danger they are experiencing to a threat to your own life: going back to school perhaps, or a friend getting COVID-19, or your own frantic trip to a testing centre, or some other danger: a car out of control on an icy road, an airplane caught in a storm, a raging battle between people you love, or one in which you yourself are ensnared, the fears and terror rising in your sleep the night before a major medical procedure, a sudden grief

or excruciating emotional and mental anguish... the world bristles with a thousand storms of a hundred kinds, from a tornado warning for your farm to a hungry bear coming into your campground... What would you do? And for some of us its even worse—those dangers trigger the stresses of horrible traumas, when the earth shook and the skies exploded and the air evaporated... What would you do? What did you do? When the boat seems like its no longer safe, when the cave is no longer a sanctuary, when the house is a death trap: do you cry out like Peter, “Lord call me to come to you on the water!” Peter sees Jesus on the water, he is not a ghost. He is calling, in the midst of the dangers, calling, come to me. What will you do, what will we do? Will we take that fearful step? That step that seems impossible?-- until we take it. The Lord has said come: in that very word of calling, we already know who he is, this is not an identity test. He is not a ghost! He is truly the Lord of the wind and the sea, and from the midst of the dangers to our lives, the Lord is calling! Will we step out onto the water?

While touring Luther sites for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, I eagerly anticipated seeing the Frauenkirche in Dresden. It was a huge disappointment: crowds of people, a long line pushing from behind, pictures snapping in selfie groupings, no time to pray even in front of the commemorative plaques. Only a few smoke-stained stones to remind you of the events that had taken place on that site. In my ministry I had met two people associated with the Frauenkirche in Dresden: the first had been a teenager when Dresden was firebombed. Mother had told the children, “If the bombs start falling, get to the church. I will meet you there.” “I tried so hard, but the fire became too much for me and I jumped into the canal praying, Lord, save me. And he did; I nearly drowned from exhaustion, but here I am! When the fires abated, I went to the church— there was nothing left, and I never saw my mother or my brothers again. But she told me she would meet me at the church, and now I believe she is with me when I am in the church on Sunday, because the Lord is there, my mother is with the Lord too.” The second person had been a sniper in WWII. I tried to imagine him in the bell tower in the church square, women and children in his sights as they came and went across the square. “It was a terrible sin,” he told me. “I beg God to forgive me. But I also knew that an even more terrible sin was about to fall upon them two days hence.” We prayed in confession and begged the Lord to save him from his sins by his own death on the cross. All this was in my soul, and much more, as I was pushed like a sardine through the gate into the centre aisle of the fully restored Frauenkirche in 2017. All I could look at was the altar and the cross, and all I could pray was, “Thank you Jesus that you died on that cross for sinners such as we.”

For a few years I had a little poster pinned over my computer. It pictured a pastor like me, collar, briefcase, car keys. The poster had three panels. In the first, the pastor is standing on the water, looks confident and calm. The caption reads: Jesus and me have everything under control! Onward in ministry! In the second panel, the pastor is up to his knees in water, a determined and slightly frazzled look on his face. “Could use a little help here Lord: the ministry is getting me down!” You’ve probably already guessed what’s in the third panel. The minister is up to his neck in the water, flailing helplessly, the briefcase floating away and the keys sinking to the bottom. The caption is just two words: “Lord, help!” Eventually I took it down because I resented the daily reminder that I was drowning fast...

We never know what the outcome will be when we hear the Lord calling us from the midst of the dangers of life. Will we sink or will we swim? Drowning seems far more likely than walking on the water! But isn’t that what baptism means? We are drowned with Christ—we

meet him on the water, he lets us sink under the waves—and then we are raised by Christ, he reaches down and draws us up into new life, cuts the chains that bind us to weights of fear and doubt dragging us under, and sets us into the boat. That boat is his church, and as soon as he brings us into his boat and stays with us, the storm just stops. Perhaps its just a reprieve, but the storm has stopped long enough at least for today that we together can bow down and worship Jesus, long enough at least today that together we can feel awe in his presence, long enough today that together we can celebrate the wonder of his love, the joy of our salvation.

Let us pray:

Lord, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymn of the Day: “Praise, Praise! You Are My Rock” – ELW #862, vs. 1, 3, 5 & 6

“Praise, Praise! You Are My Rock”

Praise, praise! You are my rock.

The wind, the waves are high.

You hold me when the waves are strong.

You hold me lest I die, I die.

Refrain

Praise, praise! O God, you are my rock.

Praise, praise! You are my rock.

You calm the fear and pain.

One word of faith and I am well,

I rise to praise and walk again

Refrain

Praise, praise! You are my rock.

The Easter grave is sealed;

you roll the stone – you, God, alone -

then sin and death are healed, are healed.

Refrain

Praise, praise! You are my rock.

You stood high on a hill.

A holy cloud: you are on high.

Be still, my heart, be still, be still.

Refrain

Apostles’ Creed

Prayers of Intercession

In Our Prayers at Augustana: for all who grieve especially Mik Bickis and family on the death of Mik’s brother Ugis , and for Bruce, Gloria, Clayton, Logan, William, Marcus, Brody, Karin, Anthony, Robert, Curtis, Linda, Marci, Earl, Janet, Gayle, Evelyn, Lisa, Danielle, Inger, Anne Jane, Deanna, Carol, Wilma, Mary, Marlene, those who feel a sense of isolation during this pandemic; for those who must travel; the Wahid family in Lebanon and the Iqbal family in Thailand; for teachers and students preparing for a new school year.

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Sending Song: "My Life Flows On in Endless Song" – ELW #763

"My Life Flows On in Endless Song"

My life flows on in endless song;
above earth's lamentation,
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation.

Refrain

*No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?*

Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing?

Refrain

What though my joys and comforts die?
The Lord my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round?
Songs in the night he giveth.

Refrain

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his!
How can I keep from singing?

Refrain

Mark your calendar: The **Health Cabinet and Worship committee** will meet by Zoom (who cannot be there in person) and in person (for those who can safely attend) to begin making plans for how we might return to worship in our church. We will be following all recommendations and guidelines that have been put forward by the provincial government and Saskatchewan Synod.

7 pm Tuesday August 11th.

We will continue to have an on-line service so that those who cannot safely attend may still be part of our worshipping community. It is recommended that seniors, young children and those with on-going health conditions or compromised immune systems worship from home. Pastor Marilyn is exploring how to provide sacramental ministry such as baptism and Holy Communion for our community.

Joseph and His Brothers

Jacob loved Joseph more than any of his other children because Joseph had been born to him in his old age. So one day Jacob had a special gift made for Joseph — a beautiful robe. Genesis 37:3 (NLT)

Based on Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 (NIV)



Genesis 37

H O N B O S I L V E R D D R C
 R O P G L A O T M F K M B A W
 W H G I D C Y M L R A O X A T
 J O S E P H G B D D C T C L S
 P O P Z Z D W H N A S C H D T
 I Q E N M R A A J N M A F E U
 P B R G S G L W E M E N L F R
 C O R S Y N R R M E R A O O F
 B R N O A P D A B O C A C D D
 M J B L T L T O Z P H N K S Y
 L O H D I H R D G E A B S K R
 O B W H J F E E O S N P H I F
 V C C K T T H R N O T A D L T
 E Q S Q A U H O S T S M L L X
 D O O H Z E S B D J Y H A Z O

LAND	MERCHANTS	LOVED	JOSEPH	CANAAN
HATED	GRAZE	OLD	BORN	ROBE
SONS	JACOB	BROTHERS	SILVER	CHILDREN
EGYPT	KILL	FLOCKS	FATHER	SOLD