

11TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



***Welcome to
St. Paul Lutheran Church
Child Development Center and Pre-School***
Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley, D.R.S., Ph.D., Pastor

August 9, 2026

A photograph of Jesus walking on water, with his feet visible above the surface. He is wearing sandals and a robe. The water is dark blue with white foam from his steps.

FAITH OVER FEAR

MATTHEW 14:22-33

St. Paul
Lutheran



Taylor, TX
LCMC

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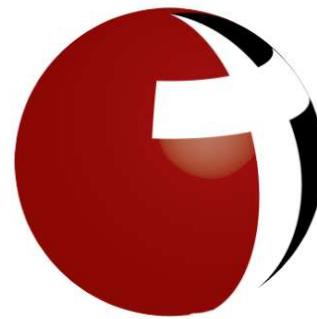
Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley, D.R.S., Ph.D., Pastor

RIGHTEOUSNESS
WILL GO BEFORE
HIM AND WILL
MAKE HIS
FOOTSTEPS INTO A
WAY [IN WHICH TO
WALK].

PSALMS 85:13

WELCOME

WE'RE GLAD YOU JOINED US



lcmmc

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ

Organist Needed



We are looking for an organist to play during our
2nd and 4th service each month.
If interested, please contact Debbie Matthys at
(512)771-3914 · dkmatthys@gmail.com

INTRODUCTION

Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing bread and cup of the eucharist, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God's presence to others.

Gathering Song

“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”

Hymn # 533

**¹ Open now thy gates of beauty,
Zion, let me enter there,
where my soul in joyful duty
waits for God who answers
prayer.**

Hymn # 533

**Oh, how blessed is this place,
filled with solace, light, and
grace!**

Hymn # 533

**³ Here thy praise is gladly
chanted,
here thy seed is duly sown;
let my soul, where it is planted,
bring forth precious sheaves
alone,**

Hymn # 533

**so that all I hear may be
fruitful unto life in me.**

Hymn # 533

**Final Speak, O God, and I will hear
thee,**

**let thy will be done indeed;
may I undisturbed draw near thee
while thou dost thy people feed.**

Hymn # 533

**Here of life the fountain flows;
here is balm for all our woes.**

Hymn # 533

SUFFRAGES

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,

Have mercy on us.

**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.**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the
Father,
and he will come to judge the living and
the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray

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.

WORD

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 19:9-18

On Mount Horeb, where God had appeared to Moses with typical signs of God's presence—earthquake, wind, and fire—Elijah now experienced God in “sheer silence.” God assured Elijah that he is not the only faithful believer. Seven thousand Israelites are still loyal. God instructed Elijah to anoint two men as kings and to anoint Elisha as his own successor.

⁹ At [Horeb, the mount of God,][Elijah] 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?” ¹⁰ 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.”

¹¹ 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, ¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence.

¹³ 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?” ¹⁴ 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.”

¹⁵ 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.

¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill, and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill.

¹⁸ 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.”

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 85:8-13

I will listen to what the LORD God is saying. (Ps. 85:8)

⁸ I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people and
to those who turn their hearts to you.

⁹ **Truly, your salvation is very near to
those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell in our land.**

¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹ **Faithfulness shall spring up from the
earth,
and righteousness shall look down from
heaven.**

¹² The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

¹³ **Righteousness shall go before the LORD
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

SECOND READING: Romans 10:5-15

A right relationship with God is not something we achieve by heroic efforts. It is a gift received in the proclamation whose content is Jesus Christ. This proclaimed word creates our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Hence Christian proclamation is an indispensable component of God's saving actions.

⁵ Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” ⁶ 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) ⁷ “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).

⁸ But what does it say?

“The word is near you,
in your mouth and in your heart”

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim),

⁹ because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation.

¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹² 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. ¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

¹⁴ 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?

¹⁵ 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!”

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to
Matthew 14:22-33

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 14:22-33

Matthew's gospel typically portrays Jesus' disciples as people of "little faith," who fail despite their best intentions. In this story, Matthew shows how Jesus comes to the disciples when they are in trouble and sustains them in their time of fear and doubt.

²² [Jesus] made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee,] while he dismissed the crowds.²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea.

²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

²⁸ Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” ²⁹ He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus.

³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?”
³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased.
³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.



Sermon

Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley

Gospel Matthew 14 22-36

"Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."



Hymn of the Day

“Eternal Father, Strong to Save”

Hymn # 756

**¹ Eternal Father, strong to
save,
whose arm has bound the
restless wave,
who bade the mighty ocean
deep**

Hymn # 756

**its own appointed limits keep:
oh, hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.**

Hymn # 756

**2 O Savior, whose almighty
word
the winds and waves
submissive heard,
who walked upon the foaming
deep,**

Hymn # 756

**and calm amid the storm didst
sleep:
oh, hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.**

Hymn # 756

**³ O Holy Spirit, who didst
brood**

**upon the chaos dark and rude,
and bid its angry tumult cease,**

Hymn # 756

**and give, for wild confusion,
peace:
oh, hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.**

Hymn # 756

**Final O Trinity of love and pow'r,
all trav'lers guard in danger's
hour
from rock and tempest, fire and
foe,**

Hymn # 756

**protect them wheresoe'er they
go;
thus evermore shall rise to thee
glad hymns and praise from
land and sea.**

Hymn # 756

PRAYERS

O Lord, I cry to you for help.

In the morning my prayer comes before you.

Let my mouth be full of your praise
and your glory all the day long.

Every day will I bless you,
and praise your name forever and ever.

Awesome things will you show us in your
righteousness, O God of our salvation,
**O hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the seas that are far away.**

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless God's holy name.

You redeem my life from the grave,
and crown me with mercy and steadfast
love.

Lord, hear my prayer,
and let my cry come before you.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

We pray for the servants of your gospel in every place, that your word may be heard. Where your voice is scorned and your people persecuted, strengthen the church in its faithful witness.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

For this world you have created, that all life may flourish. Preserve biodiversity in all its variety and help ecosystems to survive the extremes of a changing climate. Move our hearts with compassion to join in this work.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

For leaders of towns, states, nations, and organizations, and all who are in positions of authority, that they lead with justice and integrity. Teach us to respond with Christlike mercy to all who are afraid or in danger.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

For all who struggle amid the storms of life, that they find peace and hope in your loving presence. Comfort any who are lonely and grieving and all who suffer and we remember our friends and family members before you.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

For this congregation and its ministries, that they
reflect your love and life amid a turbulent world.
Guide council members, elders, and other church
leaders with your still, calm voice.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray for all our military, especially those deployed. We keep in our prayers all the Wounded Warriors that have returned home to heal. We pray for our missionaries, for Thomas and Nadine in South Asia, serving with the World Mission Prayer League, and for our sister congregation at Grace Lutheran Church in Ridgecrest, California.

We thank you for our network of churches,
Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ and
our Texas District. By the power of your Holy Spirit,
guide our District Council and give them wisdom
as they promote our mission to multiply disciples
and churches. Today we also give you thanks for
Zion Lutheran Church in Sandoval, Texas. Bless
their work for your Kingdom's sake.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We give thanks for the faithful who have gone before us. Guide us in our earthly journey, that we may one day join them in your eternal kingdom.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray.

We give thanks to you, heavenly Father,
through Jesus Christ your dear Son,
that you have protected us through the night from
all harm and danger.

We ask that you would also protect us today from
sin and all evil,
so that our life and actions may please you.
Into your hands we commend ourselves:

our bodies, our souls, and all that is ours.
Let your holy angels be with us,
so that the wicked foe may have no power over us.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Almighty God bless us, defend us from all evil, and
bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

Sending Song

“What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine”

Hymn # 774

**¹ What a fellowship, what a
joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting
arms;**

Hymn # 774

**what a blessedness, what a
peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting
arms.**

[Refrain]

Hymn # 774

[Refrain]

**Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all
alarms;**

Hymn # 774

[Refrain Con't]

**leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting
arms.**

Hymn # 774

**2 Oh, how sweet to walk in
this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting
arms;**

Hymn # 774

**oh, how bright the path grows
from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting
arms.**

Hymn # 774

[Refrain]

**Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all
alarms;**

Hymn # 774

[Refrain Con't]

**leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting
arms.**

Hymn # 774

**Final What have I to dread,
what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting
arms?**

Hymn # 774

**I have blessed peace with my
Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting
arms.**

Hymn # 774

[Refrain]

**Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all
alarms;**

Hymn # 774

[Refrain Con't]

**leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting
arms.**

Hymn # 774

DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

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