

THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 20, 2021

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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.

✝ GATHERING ✝

OPENING HYMN

Lord of All Hopefulness



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
 2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
 3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
 4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
 whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
 your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:
 whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
 be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
 be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
 be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
 your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
 your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
 your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

P. We are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C. Amen.

P. Trusting God's promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P. Loving God,

C. we confess that we have not loved You with our whole hearts; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have failed to worship You with our whole being and to share the abundance of grace You give us. We have acted out of selfish ambition rather than the interests of others; we have nursed grudges rather than seeking reconciliation and peace. Forgive us and renew in us the mind of Christ Jesus, that we may live according to Your will. Amen.

P. Since we are justified by faith . . . the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen.

GREETING

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

C. And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. O God our defender, storms rage about us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue Your people from despair, deliver us from fear, instruct us by Your wisdom and preserve us all from unbelief, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C. Amen.

† WORD †

FIRST READING: Job 38:1–11

At the end of the book of Job, after Job and his companions have argued about the cause of the great suffering Job endures, God finally speaks. These verses begin that speech, which is a grand vision of creation, describing God's ordering of the cosmos and inviting Job to marvel at its beauty.

The 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?’”

L. The Word of the Lord. C. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 130

You stilled the storm and silenced the waves of the sea.

Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,
and His mercy endures forever.

**²Let all those whom the LORD has redeemed proclaim
that He redeemed them from the hand of the foe.**

³He gathered them out of the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

**²³Some went down to the sea in ships
and plied their trade in deep waters;**

²⁴they beheld the works of the LORD
and His wonders in the deep.

**²⁵Then He spoke, and a stormy wind arose,
which tossed high the waves of the sea.**

²⁶They mounted up to the heavens and fell back to the depths;
their hearts melted because of their peril.

**²⁷They reeled and staggered like drunkards
and were at their wits' end.**

²⁸Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and He delivered them from their distress.

**²⁹He stilled the storm to a whisper
and quieted the waves of the sea.**

³⁰Then were they glad because of the calm,
and He brought them to the harbor they were bound for.

³¹Let them give thanks to the LORD for His mercy
and the wonders He does for His children.

³²Let them exalt Him in the congregation of the people
and praise Him in the council of the elders.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 6:1–13

Paul and his fellow workers experience great hardships and even rejection while carrying out their missionary work. Nevertheless, Paul continuously proclaims that God has not rejected us but is graciously working for our salvation.

As we work together with Him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain.

²For He says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

¹¹We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you.

¹²There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. ¹³In return—I speak as to children—open wide your hearts also.

L. The Word of the Lord. C. Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



HOLY GOSPEL: St. Mark 4:35–41

Jesus' calming of the storm on the sea reveals his power over evil, since the sea represents evil and chaos. The boat on the sea is a symbol of the church and invites us to trust God amid life's turbulence.

C. Glory to You, O Lord.

When evening had come, [Jesus said to the disciples,] “Let us go across to the other side,” [of the Sea of Galilee]. 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?”

P. The Gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

My Life Goes On in Endless Song

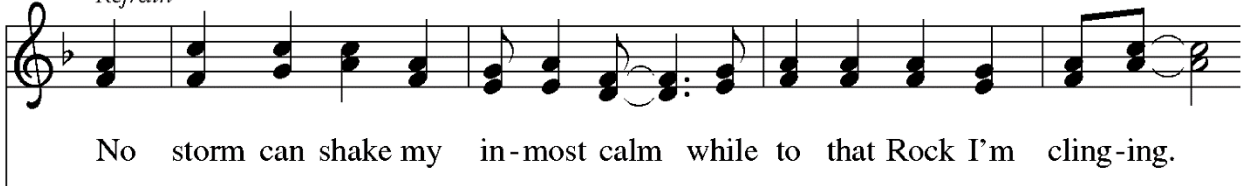


1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,
 2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.
 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev - er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
 It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
 What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son,
 our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the
 Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was
 crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day He rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated
 at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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

SHARING THE PEACE OF THE LORD

ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ PRAYER ✠

OFFERING

OFFERTORY



Re - mem - ber and re - jice, re - newed by floods of grace.
God, bless us by your grace; re - mind us of your care.



We bear the sign of Je - sus Christ, that time can - not e - rase.
Re - new - ing Spir - it, fill us now, in - spire our work, our prayer.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P. Blessed are you,

C. O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through Your goodness You have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to Your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that You have made, for the sake of Him Who gave Himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Trusting the Spirit's power, let us pray for the Church, and the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Holy God, You call Your Church through the waters of baptism. Give courage to those who lead us through word and sacrament, witness, service, and song. Strengthen all the baptized for lives of service in Christ's name. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

You call forth life from the swirling waters of chaos, and You pour out water that nourishes the earth. Send forth ample rain for crops to flourish. Speak peace wherever homes, towns, businesses, and lands are damaged by hurricanes, floods, and tropical storms. We pray for Your blessed creation, that it may continue to flourish and magnify Your glory. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

You keep watch over all nations. We pray for countries experiencing violence, hunger, and unrest. Raise up advocates and peacemakers to speak truth and hope into the world. Lord, in Your mercy,
C. hear our prayer.

You are close to the brokenhearted and near to those in distress. We pray for those who are experiencing oppression. Grant endurance and comfort to all who suffer affliction, hardship, hunger, violence, or sleepless nights of pain or anxiety. Give Your promise of healing to all who long wholeness. We pray especially for Emily, Angie, Shirlee, Bill & Karen, Carol, Norma, Sherri, and Gail. We pray also for the family and friends of Bill Ningen. Strengthen and renew us with Your Spirit. Lord, in Your mercy,
C. hear our prayer.

You call us by name and claim us as your own. We pray for those who prepare for baptism, those who have recently been baptized, and all who are called by baptism into lives of proclamation and service. Lord, in Your mercy,
C. hear our prayer.

Your steadfast love and faithfulness sustains Your people. Bless fathers and all father figures with such love and faithfulness that children flourish and grow in uprightness and joy. Bless those who long to be fathers and those for whom this day is difficult. Lord, in Your mercy,
C. hear our prayer.

Eternal God, we give thanks for all the saints who have commended themselves to You in every way and who have endured in faith, especially Bill. Bring us, together with them, to the acceptable time of salvation for all creation. Lord, in Your mercy,
C. hear our prayer.

By the sure guidance of Your Holy Spirit, O God, we lift up our prayers in trust and thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

✝ SENDING ✝

BENEDICTION

P. Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. May you be rooted and grounded in His love.
Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C. Amen

CLOSING HYMN

Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me



1 Lord, take my hand and lead me up - on life's way;
2 Lord, when the tem - pest ra - ges, I need not fear;
3 Lord, when the shad - ows length - en and night has come,



di - rect, pro - tect, and feed me from day to day.
for you, the Rock of A - ges, are al - ways near.
I know that you will strength - en my steps toward home,



With - out your grace and fa - vor I go a - stray;
Close by your side a - bid - ing, I fear no foe,
then noth - ing can im - pede me, O bless - ed Friend!



so take my hand, O Sav - ior, and lead the way.
for when your hand is guid - ing, in peace I go.
So, take my hand and lead me un - to the end.

DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

