



*Happy
Mother's Day*

A woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.

PROVERBS 31:30

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 10th 2020

Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church

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Welcome to Trinity!

We're glad you're here to worship!

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Tesch (715-587-8521) or Principal Danell (715-732-2956) They will be happy to hear from you.

Hymn: 145 (*Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won*)

vv.1,2,5

Prayer of the Day:

O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament Lesson

About three thousand years ago, the nation of Israel completely abandoned the LORD. They started to worship Baal, the idol of storms and fertility. So, God sent a drought that lasted for three and a half years. No rain, no dew, no water for the plants. God was making a point. The people were trusting in Baal for water and for food, so God cut off the water and the food. He wanted people to repent and he sent the prophet Elijah to tell them that.

Elijah was a great prophet. He walked in the power of God. He worked miracles in the name of the LORD. He was faithful to the LORD when it wasn't popular. He spoke God's word to anybody and

everybody—it didn't matter who they were. Whether it was the King of Israel or a widow in some backwater town, Elijah proclaimed "This is what the LORD says!"

Elijah was faithful.

And he was outnumbered.

Imagine 450 people on one side of the room—and then there's you on the other. 450 is a lot of people! Our sanctuary can hold about 400 people—if you include the balcony—and if they really like each other (think 2 people on a love seat close). 450 would fill the church building to overflowing!

So, there's 450 hostile prophets of Baal. And then there's Elijah—all by himself.

Why does it seem that we're always outnumbered?

I don't think it's God's vote of confidence in how strong we are. It's instruction in putting our confidence in God's power.

Elijah was outnumbered, but the power was still all on his side. We know that. Whenever we read this story, you kinda have to feel sorry for the 450 prophets of Baal. You know they got nothing. You know that the fire is going to come down for Elijah. You know the power of God!

It's good to remember that when we're God's only representative in a room, or in a crowd, or in a confrontation. We have to feel sorry for all those people without God. They need him.

That's why God sent us.

1 Kings 18:17–46 (EHV)

¹⁷When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, “Is that you, the one who brings trouble on Israel?”

¹⁸Elijah said, “It is not I who have brought trouble on Israel, but rather you and your father's house, because you abandoned the LORD's commandments and followed the Baals. ¹⁹But now gather all Israel before me on Mount Carmel, along with the four hundred fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table.” ²⁰So Ahab sent word to all the people of Israel, and he assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel.

²¹Then Elijah said to all the people, “How long will you stagger around on two crutches? If the LORD is God, follow him. If Baal is God, follow him.” But the people did not answer him a single word.

²²Then Elijah said to the people, “I am the only one left of the LORD’s prophets, but the prophets of Baal total four hundred fifty men. ²³Provide two bulls for us. Let them choose one bull for themselves and cut it up and place it on the firewood, but they are not to light the fire. I will prepare the other bull and place it on the firewood, but I will not light the fire. ²⁴Then you will call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD. The god who answers with fire, he is God.”

All the people said, “This proposal is good.”

²⁵Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Choose for yourselves one bull, and you go first because there are so many of you. Call on the name of your god. But do not light the fire.”

²⁶So they took the bull which had been given to them and prepared it. Then they called on the name of Baal from morning until noon, “Baal! Answer us!” But there was not a sound. No one answered. So they staggered around the altar which they had made.

²⁷When noon came, Elijah mocked them: “Shout louder! He is a god, isn’t he? He may be deep in thought or busy or on a journey. Perhaps he is asleep and will wake up!” ²⁸So they cried out with a loud voice, and according to their practice they cut themselves with daggers and spears until their blood flowed. ²⁹After noon, they kept up a prophetic frenzy until the time of the evening sacrifice, but there was no sound. No one answered. There was no response.

³⁰Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come here to me.” So they came to him, and he repaired the altar of the LORD, which had been torn down. ³¹Elijah took twelve stones, one for each of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come and had proclaimed, “Your name shall be Israel.” ³²He built the stones into an altar in the name of the LORD. Around it he made a trench big enough to hold about twenty-five pounds of seed. ³³He arranged the wood, cut up the bull, and placed it on the wood.

Then he said, “Fill four jars with water and pour it on the sacrifice and on the wood.” ³⁴Then he said, “Do it again.” So they did it again. Then he said, “Do it a third time.” So they did it a third time. ³⁵The water flowed all around the altar. It even filled the trench.

³⁶When the time of the evening sacrifice had arrived, Elijah the prophet stood up and said, “O LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and that I have done all these things by your word.

³⁷Answer me, LORD! Answer me so that this people will know that you, O LORD, are God and that you are turning their hearts back to you.”

³⁸Fire from the LORD fell on the sacrifice and on the wood, the stones, and the dirt. It even licked up the water in the trench. ³⁹When all the people saw this, they fell on their knees and said, “The LORD, he is God! The LORD, he is God!”

⁴⁰Elijah said to them, “Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let a single one of them escape!” So they seized them, and Elijah brought them down to the Kishon River and slaughtered them there.

⁴¹Then Elijah said to Ahab, “Go up, eat and drink, for I hear the sound of a heavy rainstorm.” ⁴²So Ahab went to eat and drink, but Elijah went up to the top of Mount Carmel. He bent down to the ground and put his face between his knees. ⁴³He said to his servant, “Go up and look toward the sea.”

So his servant went up and looked, and he said, “There is nothing.”

But seven times Elijah told him, “Go again.”

⁴⁴On the seventh time the servant said, “There is a cloud as small as a man’s hand rising from the sea.”

Then Elijah said to him, “Go up and tell Ahab, ‘Hitch up your chariot and go down so that the rain does not stop you.’”

⁴⁵Meanwhile, the skies got dark with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy rain. So Ahab got into his chariot and went to Jezre’el.

⁴⁶But the hand of the LORD was on Elijah, and he hiked up his garments around his waist and ran ahead of Ahab until he came to Jezre’el.

Epistle Lesson

Church Is Open

Our church is not closed. It can’t be, because we are the church. God describes us as living stones, built as a spiritual house. That means wherever we are, the church is there.

That might not sound all that exciting to most people. After all, who gets excited about church?

I think that depends on what kind of church it is. If it's a self-centered, self-serving church, where people sit around congratulating themselves on how good they are, I suppose there wouldn't be any reason to be excited about that. It would be like having a bunch of Pharisees hanging around making people feel bad about themselves. Who needs that?

But what if it were a church that was more interested in people than it was about itself? That would be like having Jesus live next door. Imagine how awesome that would be, living next door to someone who loves you more than you love yourself—putting your needs above his own. People would love to have a neighbor like that!

That's how God describes us—living stones bringing spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God. We are a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own possession.

Where does God find people like that?

He makes them. He brings us to Jesus, the chosen and precious cornerstone, and builds his church on Him. He brings us out of darkness and into his marvelous light. It's not about us. It's about Jesus. The closer we are to him, the greater a blessing we are.

1 Peter 2:4–10 (EHV)

⁴As you come to him, the Living Stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious, ⁵you also, like living stones, are being built as a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, in order to bring spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

⁶For it says in Scripture:

See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a chosen and precious cornerstone,
and the one who believes in him will certainly not be put to shame.

⁷Therefore, for you who believe, this is an honor. But for those who do not believe:

The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,

⁸and,

a stone over which they stumble

and a rock over which they fall.

Because they continue to disobey the word, they stumble over it. And that is the consequence appointed for them.

⁹But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, the people who are God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰At one time you were not a people, but now you are the people of God. At one time you were not shown mercy, but now you have been shown mercy.

Gospel Lesson

The church is moving.

That may come as a surprise, but the church is moving. It has been for a long time.

First, it's moving to heaven, a little bit at a time. There will come a day when Jesus comes to bring everybody at once, but, for now, individuals move to heaven when God calls them Home.

There's a lot of comfort in knowing that we have a home in heaven. It's good to know that there's more than this sin filled world. There are some things I won't mind leaving behind. I won't miss Covid-19. I won't miss depression or sin or frustration or guilt. I won't miss exhaustion or pain. I won't miss tension or anxiety or disappointment. In fact, when it comes down to it, I won't miss most of it. The only things I would really miss are people—and they're coming to Heaven with me.

They're coming with me because of the second way the church is moving.

The church (that's us) is moving throughout the world, doing the works of God. We're filled with the power of the Spirit and every one of us is bringing light into this sin-darkened world.

That's exciting! God is moving in us—changing us. He fills our dead and selfish hearts with his power and love. And, he is moving through us. God changes lives through the work we do. He brings hope to the despairing and healing to the broken. He brings forgiveness to the guilty and fills empty lives with his love. He brings redemption to people condemned by their own sin.

God saves people. And he moves through us to do it.

The church is moving.

Wherever we move, we bring life and light and peace to people who desperately need it. There are so many people who haven't heard—so many people who don't know. The need has never been greater.

We need to move.

John 14:1–12 (EHV)

¹“Do not let your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to be with me, so that you may also be where I am. ⁴You know where I am going, and you know the way.”

⁵“Lord, we don’t know where you are going,” Thomas replied, “so how can we know the way?”

⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father, except through me. ⁷If you know me, you would also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸“Lord,” said Philip, “show us the Father, and that is enough for us.”

⁹“Have I been with you so long,” Jesus answered, “and you still do not know me, Philip? The one who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I am telling you I am not speaking on my own, but the Father who remains in me is doing his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father is in me. Or else believe because of the works themselves.

¹²“Amen, Amen, I tell you: The one who believes in me will do the works that I am doing. And he will do even greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.

Sermon Text: John 14:1-12

Moving

Offering:

Special Prayer regarding Coronavirus

Jesus Christ, our Great Physician,

We come before you in great need. We ask that you would end this plague on our world. We do not ask because we are worthy, but because you are gracious and merciful. If it is your will, heal those who are afflicted. Comfort those who are suffering. Grant wisdom and success to those who are treating and researching this disease. Teach us to celebrate your blessings and your love. Help us not to take for granted our health or the connections we have among family and friends.

In your name we come to you. Amen.

Prayers for Mothers

Heavenly Father, you are the source of life, wisdom, and all good things. Look with favor on all mothers who have given life to their children and who nurture them with loving concern and faithful instruction. May their children honor them and call them blessed. When they become weary, sustain them with physical, emotional, and spiritual rest. Hear us for the sake of your Son, Jesus, who cared for his earthly mother and in whom you are well pleased.

Prayers for Our family and Friends

Milferd Behnke, Ashleigh Bourdelais, Gladys Constine, Geri Garbrecht, Dorothy Johnson, Lisa Schmitt, and Pastor Martin & Deb Spaude.

Prayers for those called to protect

Military: Jesse Adams (Sue Connor's son), **Greg Carow** (Dennis Carow's godson/nephew), **Aeron Forsberg** (Linda and Gene Erickson's grandson), **Dayton Godfrey** (Dave & Cindy Schacht's great-nephew), **Joshua Jansen** (Isaac Jansen's cousin), **Jesse Johnston** (Jim & Laurie Johnston's son), **Patrick Noppenberg** (Denis & Deb Vieth's son), **Aaron Stocker Jr.** (Martina (Dura) Stocker's husband), **Dylan Vanko**, (Roy and Grace Chmela's grandson), **and Thomas Weirich** (Mary Bush's nephew). **Steve Campbell** (firefighter), **and Greg Haemker** (police). Ask the Lord to bless them, strengthen them, and keep them safe.

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.

The Benediction:

*The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.
Amen.*

Hymn: 152 (I Know that My Redeemer Lives)

vv.1,5,7



This week: *And my God will fully supply your every need, according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.*

~Philippians 4:19

Last week: *For it is from within, out of a person's heart that evil thoughts come.*

~Mark 7:21-22

TRINITY'S CORE MISSION

Shining the Light of the Gospel in our community.

John 8:12 - *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*

Matthew 5:16 - *"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."*