



*If I take the
wings of the morning...
thy right hand
shall hold me.*

• PSALM 139:9-10 •

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 23rd / August 24th 2020

Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church

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WELS
Christ's Love. Our Calling.

Trinity Ev. Lutheran School

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(Hymn 379 vv. 1-3)

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.

Amazing Grace – How Sweet the Sound

1. Amazing grace!
how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see.
2. The Lord has promised good to me;
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.
3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

Please rise

Confessions of Sins:

P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

C: Amen

Assurance of Forgiveness:

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen

Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Please be seated

Old Testament Lesson

Did you ever wonder what was wrong with the Israelites? They constantly rocked between faith and doubt with alarming regularity. They were excited when Moses told them God would bring them out of Egypt. Then they got angry when their labor increased. Then they were elated when God brought them out of Egypt with a dazzling display of his power. Then, at the Red Sea, they are angry again. They were terrified because the Egyptian army was after them and they were trapped at the edge of the Red Sea.

How could they forget the 10 nation-wide miraculous signs that God had sent into Egypt? How could they doubt God's power and his love?

Because they were people. They could doubt for the same reasons we do. The army chasing them was very visible. God's promised protection was not. Trusting in God in the face of very real danger requires a powerful faith. That kind of faith is God-given and it is strengthened through adversity.

We know that God will part the Red Sea and destroy the army that is after them. It's one of the most well-known and astonishing miracles in history. The Israelites didn't—not yet. The army was still coming, the sea was still blocking them and they were afraid.

We don't have to wonder why they were afraid—we've been there. Maybe it's COVID-19, maybe it's something else. There are a whole lot of scary things in life. They are very real. And our faith isn't always that strong.

God recorded his miracles to teach us to trust him. When we are trapped between our own dangers and our own Red Sea, he is strengthening our faith and training us to focus on him instead of the fear. We don't have to doubt God's power or his love, but we do. We don't have to wonder if he's going to hear and answer our prayers, but we do.

One of the best parts of the parting of the Red Sea is that God took care of the Israelites even when they doubted, even when they were afraid, even when they were angry. God takes care of us too—even when we doubt, or are afraid or angry. Our faith is in our almighty and merciful God, especially when we need him most. Let's not forget.

We read from the history of the ancient world, dictated to Moses by God himself, in the book of Exodus, chapter 14.

Exodus 14:10-31 (EHV)

¹⁰As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians marching after them. The Israelites were terrified and cried out to the LORD. ¹¹They said to Moses, “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you took us to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? ¹²Wasn’t this what we said to you in Egypt, ‘Leave us alone. Let us serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.”

¹³Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm, and see the salvation from the LORD, which he will perform for you today. For the Egyptians you see today, you will never see again. ¹⁴The LORD will fight for you. You must wait quietly.”

¹⁵The LORD said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to set out. ¹⁶As for you, lift up your staff, stretch out your hand over the sea, and divide the sea so that the Israelites can go through the middle of the sea on dry ground. ¹⁷I myself will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go into the sea after them, and I will gain glory through Pharaoh and his entire army, through his chariots and his charioteers. ¹⁸The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD, when I have gained glory through Pharaoh, his chariots, and his charioteers.”

¹⁹Then the Angel of God, who was going in front of the Israelite forces, moved and went behind them. The pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and stood behind them. ²⁰It went between the Egyptian forces and the Israelite forces. The cloud was dark on one side, but it lit up the night on the other. Neither group approached the other all night long.

²¹Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all night long the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned the sea into dry land. The waters were divided. ²²The Israelites went into the middle of the sea on dry ground. The waters were like a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³The Egyptians pursued them, and all of Pharaoh’s horses, his chariots, and his charioteers went after them into the middle of the sea. ²⁴During the last watch of the night, the LORD looked down on the Egyptian forces from the pillar of fire and cloud. Then he confused the Egyptian forces. ²⁵He jammed their chariot wheels, and they had difficulty driving them. The Egyptians said, “We must flee from Israel, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt!”

²⁶Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, and the waters will come back over the Egyptians, over their chariots and their charioteers.” ²⁷So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea returned to its normal place. While the Egyptians were fleeing from it, the LORD threw the Egyptians into the middle of the sea. ²⁸The waters came back and covered the chariots and the charioteers, the entire army of Pharaoh that went into the sea after the Israelites. Not even one of them survived.

²⁹But the Israelites went through the middle of the sea on dry land, and the waters were like a wall for them on their right and on their left. ³⁰On that day the LORD saved Israel from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the

Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹Israel saw the mighty hand which the LORD put into action against the Egyptians, and the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in Moses, his servant.

Gospel Lesson

Jesus was right there!

Peter was afraid. He didn't have to be, but he was. We can understand it; first the boat was being pounded by waves because of a storm. Then, he saw what he thought was a ghost walking on water in the middle of a storm. Then, he was standing incredibly on water, but the wind was so strong. So, Peter was afraid.

Even though Jesus was right there. Even though Jesus was walking on the very water that was threatening to take his life.

We know what the problem was; he took his eyes off Jesus and doubt overshadowed his faith.

What pulls our eyes of faith away from Jesus? What are the waves and wind in our lives that make us doubt him? We never have to be afraid, but sometimes we are anyway.

Peter did two things right: he cried out, "Lord, save me!" and he worshipped Jesus when he did.

Let us keep our eyes on Jesus, the Son of God, our Savior. There will always be storms. There will always be danger. There will always be a reason to be afraid. And Jesus will always be with us.

Matthew 14:22-33 (EHV)

²² Immediately Jesus urged the disciples to get into the boat and to go ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. ²³ After he had dismissed the crowd, he went up onto the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone. ²⁴ By then the boat was quite a distance from shore, being pounded by the waves because the wind was against it. ²⁵ In the fourth watch of the night, Jesus came toward them, walking on the sea. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified and cried out in fear, "It's a ghost!" ²⁷ But Jesus spoke to them at once, saying, "Take heart! It is I! Do not be afraid."

²⁸ Peter answered him and said, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."

²⁹ Jesus said, "Come!"

Peter stepped down from the boat, walked on the water, and went toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the strong wind, he was afraid. As he began to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"

³¹ Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand, took hold of him, and said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³² When they got into the boat, the wind stopped. ³³ Those who were in the boat worshipped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God!"

1. My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare to make no other claim,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.
2. When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
In ev'ry high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil.
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.
3. His oath, his covenant and blood
Support me in the raging flood;
When ev'ry earthly prop gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

Sermon Text –

Christians Trust God Even When It Doesn't Make Sense

We are saints in training. Training is hard. You learn new things (and find out you're not very good at them (yet)). You exercise muscles that have been unused and are, therefore, weak and easily fatigued. You find yourself hurting in places you didn't even know had muscles.

I remember the first week of basketball practice in high school. Almost every member of the team was limping, groaning, complaining—and excited. We knew we were getting into shape. We loved the game and we were looking forward to playing together during the season. We were learning new things: shooting left-handed, new plays, new concepts. We were terrible at them, but we knew we would keep getting better.

Spiritual training is like that. Every spiritual test exercises our faith and makes us stronger. We don't pass every test, but we keep getting better. We want to grow in our faith and become powerful in God's service—not our power, but God's power moving through us.

And we learn new things (and find out that we're not very good at some of them (yet)). So, we ask God to grant us wisdom—and he gives it, without reservation—to every Christian anyone who asks in faith!

Living a life growing in faith is even more exciting than a new sports season. Jesus is on our team. So are our Christian brothers and sisters. And our reward is the crown of life! It's not easy, nothing worthwhile is, but we walk with God and the victory is already won!

We read from the 4th chapter of the letter written by James, inspired word-for-word by the Holy Spirit.

James 1:2-8,12 (EHV)

²Consider it complete joy, my brothers, whenever you fall into various kinds of trials, ³because you know that the testing of your faith produces patient endurance. ⁴And let patient endurance finish its work, so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

⁵If any one of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives it to all without reservation and without finding fault, and it will be given to him. ⁶But let him ask in faith, without doubting, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷In fact, that person should not expect that he will receive anything from the Lord. ⁸He is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

¹²Blessed is the man who endures a trial patiently, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life, which God promised to those who love him.

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 Our family and Friends

The Beaumont Family, Milferd Behnke, Clem Bintz, Ashleigh Bourdelais, Gladys Constine, Geri Garbrecht, Dorothy Johnson, Rose Karr, Noah & Kristin Olson, Dave Schacht, and Lisa Schmitt

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).

Firefighter: Steve Campbell.

Police: Greg Haemker, Raymond Cashaw (Pastor Sonnemann's niece's husband) and **David Peterson** (Jamie Tesch's uncle). 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 405)

Oh, for a Faith that Will Not Shrink

1. Oh, for a faith that will not shrink
Though pressed by many a foe,
That will not tremble on the brink
Of poverty or woe,
2. That will not murmur nor complain
Beneath the chast'ning rod,
But in the hour of grief or pain
Can lean upon its God,
3. A faith that shines more bright and clear
When tempests rage without,
That, when in danger, knows no fear,
In darkness feels no doubt,
4. That bears unmoved the world's dread frown
Nor heeds its scornful smile,
That sin's wild ocean cannot drown
Nor Satan's arts beguile,
5. A faith that keeps the narrow way
Till life's last spark is fled
And with a pure and heav'nly ray
Lights up the dying bed.
6. Lord, give us such a faith as this,
And then, whate'er may come,
We'll taste e'en now the hallowed bliss
Of an eternal home.

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."*