

CREATED, SAVED AND GIFTED BY GOD,
WE SEEK, SERVE AND SHARE JESUS CHRIST.



ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 13, 2023
10:30 A.M.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
901 EAST STROOP ROAD
KETTERING, OH 45429-4688
(937) 298-0136

ELVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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.

Here and Now

“Lord, save me!” (Matthew 14:30). Right now! Right here! Right away! Peter was desperate. Neither Peter nor Jesus was thinking of heaven. The cry cracking through the storm at sea had nothing to do with a hoped-for future in a realm beyond earth in a time to come when the days of this life, here, are no more. In the tumult, in the deep-water chaos and fright, “Lord, save me!” is an urgent cry for Jesus to reach “here”—not to take me “there.”

Christians can become so bent on “being saved” as an afterlife promise that they go along, living with little discovery of Jesus present in the world, saving the world here and now.

“Lord, save” is a refrain repeated throughout all of scripture from Genesis to Revelation. In the first chapter of Matthew’s gospel is the prophetic “Wow!” that Jesus is Emmanuel, meaning “God is with us” (Matt. 1:23). From the moment he begins his ministry, Jesus makes visible and touchable the kingdom of heaven that “has come near” (Matt. 4:17). He gathers a community of disciples, announces and creates good news, cures, teaches the way of blessedness, does mercy, insists on forgiveness, encourages faith, remembers the forgotten, sees the unseen, chooses the rejected, gives courage, offers hope . . . all to save here and now.

“Lord, save me!” The saving takes place even before Jesus dies on the cross. The reason for his parables: to save. The meaning of the miracles: to save. The purpose of his teaching: to save.

“Lord, save me!” What a courageous appeal those words are, trusting Jesus to be Lord—master not only of a gated spiritual territory, but master on windy seas where we tremble and gasp and sink into the deep waters of a turbulent world that roils our lives. Courageous Peter, with little faith and little doubt, dares us to make his words our own: “Lord, save me!”

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Jamie Vannoy

CALL TO WORSHIP

Eternal Father, Strong To Save

1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm has bound the
2 O Sav - ior, whose al - might - y word the winds and waves sub -
3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, who didst brood up - on the cha - os
4 O Trin - i - ty of love and pow'r, all trav - 'lers guard in

rest - less wave, who bade the might - y o - cean deep its
mis - sive heard, who walked up - on the foam - ing deep, and
dark and rude, and bid its an - gry tu - mult cease, and
dan - ger's hour from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -

own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: oh, hear us when we
calm a - mid the storm didst sleep: oh, hear us when we
give, for wild con - fu - sion, peace: oh, hear us when we
tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er - more shall

cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 rise to thee glad hymns and praise from land and sea.

OPENING LITANY: PSALM 85

Lord, you were favorable to your land;

you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of your people;

you pardoned all their sin.

You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger.

Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us.

Will you be angry with us forever?

Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

Will you not revive us again,

so that your people may rejoice in you?

Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

Let us 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.

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)
Everyone needs compassion,
Love that's never failing;
Let mercy fall on me.
Everyone needs forgiveness,
The kindness of a Saviour,
The hope of nations.

(Refrain - All)
Saviour, he can move the mountains.
My God is mighty to save,
He is mighty to save.
Forever, Author of salvation,
He rose and conquered the grave,
Jesus conquered the grave.

(Verse 2 - All)
So take me as you find me,
All my fears and failures.
Fill my life again.
I give my life to follow
Everything I believe in.
Now I surrender.

(Refrain - All)
Saviour, he can move the mountains.
My God is mighty to save,
He is mighty to save.
Forever, Author of salvation,
He rose and conquered the grave,
Jesus conquered the grave.

(Bridge - Music Ministers / All)
Shine your light, and let the whole world see.
We're singing
For the glory of the risen King:
Jesus.
Shine your light and let the whole world see.
We're singing
For the glory of the risen King.

(Refrain - All)


**Saviour, he can move the mountains.
My God is mighty to save,
He is mighty to save.
Forever, Author of salvation,
He rose and conquered the grave,
Jesus conquered the grave.**

**Saviour, he can move the mountains.
My God is mighty to save,
He is mighty to save.
Forever, Author of salvation,
He rose and conquered the grave,
Jesus conquered the grave.**


(All)

**Shine your light, and let the whole world see.
We're singing
For the glory of the risen King:
Jesus.
Shine your light and let the whole world see.
We're singing
For the glory of the risen King.**


Shout to the Lord



My Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Lord, there is none like you.



All of my days I want to praise the won - ders of your might - y love.




My com - fort, my shel - ter, tow - er of ref - uge and strength;



let ev - ry breath, all that I am nev - er cease to wor - ship you.



Shout to the Lord, all the earth; let us sing pow - er and maj - es - ty, praise



to the King. Moun - tains bow down and the seas will roar at the



sound of your name. I sing for joy at the work of your hands;



for - ev - er I'll love you, for - ev - er I'll stand.



Noth - ing com - pares to the prom - ise I have in you.

Cornerstone

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers / **All**)
My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly trust in Jesus' name.

**My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly trust in Jesus' name.**

(Refrain - **All**)
**Christ alone. Cornerstone.
Weak made strong in the Savior's love.
Through the storm, he is Lord, Lord of all.**

(Verse 2 - **All**)
When darkness seems to hide his face,
I rest on his unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.

(Refrain - **All**)
**Christ alone. Cornerstone.
Weak made strong in the Savior's love.
Through the storm, he is Lord, Lord of all.
He is Lord, Lord of all.**

**Christ alone. Cornerstone.
Weak made strong in the Savior's love.
Through the storm, he is Lord, Lord of all.**

(Verse 3 - **All**)
When he shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh may I then in him be found,
Dressed in his righteousness alone,
Faultless stand before the throne.

CONFESSION

Almighty and most merciful father, we are thankful that your mercy is higher than the heavens, wider than our wanderings, deeper than all our sin.

Forgive us for living only for ourselves, for our callousness indifference to suffering, for our envy of those who have more than we have, for our blindness to the treasures of your grace, and for our neglect of your wise and gracious law.

Help us to change our way of life so that we may desire what is good, love what you love, and do what you command, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FORGIVENESS

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

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.**

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

WORD

*Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets,
Jesus interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.*

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.

A reading from the book of Kings.

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?” 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.”

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 85:8-13

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

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.

Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,

that your glory may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;

righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,

and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,

and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness shall go before the LORD

and shall prepare for God a pathway.

** GOSPEL READING

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.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee], 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 toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, 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 toward 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 worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

YOUTH MESSAGE

MESSAGE

Pastor Jamie Vannoy

**** APOSTLES' CREED**

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 power of the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
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,
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.

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

GATHERING OF GIFTS

OFFERTORY

OFFERING PRAYER

God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Lift up your heads; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your voices; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your hearts; **we lift them up to God.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

And so we gather at the table. We come from many different places in life. And as we come together around the table we discover that our differences are not something we just tolerate, but that our differences are indeed a blessing. So come, children of God, just as you are. Wherever you are on this journey of life and faith, you are welcome here - here in this place, here in this community, here at this table. Come, children of God, come and remember. Remember the stories that Jesus' friends tell: Stories of bread broken and shared to feed a multitude; stories of gathering both enemy and friend together around a common table; stories of unlikely guests revealing the face of the sacred.

On a night of both celebration and betrayal Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it; gave it to his disciples and said, "Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Then Jesus took the cup, blessed it, and gave it to his disciples saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so we pray: Lord, bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking that our eyes might be open, and that we might recognize the risen Christ in our midst, indeed in one another.

**** LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat what is good.

HOLY COMMUNION - *Receiving the Lord's tangible presence.*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Each person may respond: **Amen.**

Communion Statement ~ *If you believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is your Savior and Redeemer and would like to receive Holy Communion, then come forward to receive the elements. If you would just like to come forward and receive a blessing, then you may do that also.*

NOTE: We invite everyone to come forward for Holy Communion. If you have a gluten allergy, gluten-free wafers are available upon request when receiving Communion. Also, if you prefer not to receive wine at Communion, apple juice is available upon request.

REFLECTION DURING COMMUNION

*As we prepare to receive the sacrament today, may we quietly take this time to center ourselves on Christ, and the amazing gifts of grace and forgiveness that we have been given. As we receive the body and the blood of our Lord, let us reflect upon His sacrifice. Finally, may we take this time to ask the Holy Spirit to enter our hearts, and then to work **in** us and **through** us in the coming days.*

**** TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and always keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

** BLESSING

The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Only a God Like You

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)

For the praises of man
I will never ever stand;
For the kingdoms of this world
I'll never give my heart away
Or shout my praise.
My allegiance and devotion,
My heart's desire and all emotion
Go to serve the Man
Who died upon that tree.

(Refrain - Music Ministers)

Only a God like you
Could be worthy of my praise
And all my hope and faith;
To only a King of all kings
Do I bow my knee and sing,
Give my ev'rything.
Only a God like you
Could be worthy of my praise
And all my hope and faith;
To only a King of all kings
Do I bow my knee and sing,
Give my ev'rything.
To only my Maker, my Father, my Savior,
Redeemer, Restorer, Rebuilder, Rewarder -
To only a God like you
Do I give my praise.

(Verse 2 - All)

**For the praises of man
I will never ever stand;
For the kingdoms of this world
I'll never give my heart away
Or shout my praise.
My allegiance and devotion,
My heart's desire and all emotion
Go to serve the Man
Who died upon that tree.**

(Refrain - All)

**Only a God like you
Could be worthy of my praise
And all my hope and faith;
To only a King of all kings
Do I bow my knee and sing,
Give my ev'rything.
Only a God like you
Could be worthy of my praise
And all my hope and faith;
To only a King of all kings
Do I bow my knee and sing,
Give my ev'rything.
To only my Maker, my Father, my Savior,
Redeemer, Restorer, Rebuilder, Rewarder -
To only a God like you
Do I give my praise.**

(Verse 3 - Music Ministers)

**Only the God who left his throne above,
He came to live with us,
Came to be one of us;
To only the One
Who stopped to heal that blind man,
Took the time to save that one lost lamb;
To only the King who wore that crown of thorns
So I could wear the crown of life;
And to only the One who conquered sin and death
So we could be set free,
So we could stand here and sing.**

(Bridge - Music Ministers / **All**)

Only a God like you,
Only a God like you,
Only a God like you.

Only a God like you,
Only a God like you,
Only a God like you.

**Only a God like you,
Only a God like you,
Only a God like you.**

**Only a God like you,
Only a God like you,
Only a God like you.**

(Ending - All)

**To only my Maker, my Father, my Savior,
Redeemer, Restorer, Rebuilder, Rewarder -
To only a God like you
Do I give my praise.**

**** DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

**Created, saved and gifted by God, we seek, serve and share Jesus Christ.
Hallelujah! Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

“W + 2” = Worship Plus Two

**Make a commitment to not only worship each week
but also try to find a way to serve in the congregation
and seek out a way to serve our community.**

YOU ARE NOW ENTERING THE MISSION FIELD

Upcoming Commemorations

Florence Nightingale, died 1910; Clara Maass, died 1901; renewers of society Sunday, August 13, 2023

Nightingale was born in England, and horrified her wealthy family by deciding to become a nurse. She led a group of nurses in ministering in the midst of the Crimean War, and worked for hospital reform. Maass, a native of New Jersey, was also a war nurse, and volunteered as a subject for research on yellow fever. She died of the disease.

Maximilian Kolbe, died 1941; Kaj Munk, died 1944; martyrs Monday, August 14, 2023

Father Kolbe was a Franciscan priest arrested by the Nazis and confined in Auschwitz. Kolbe gave generously of his meager resources, and finally volunteered to be starved to death in place of another man. A Danish Lutheran pastor and playwright, Munk strongly denounced the Nazis who occupied Denmark in the Second World War. His sermons and articles helped to show the anti-Christian nature of the movement.

Mary, Mother of Our Lord Tuesday, August 15, 2023

The church (including Martin Luther) honored Mary with the title theotokos, meaning “God-bearer,” for her role in giving birth to the Son of God. Her song, the Magnificat, speaks eloquently of God’s lifting the lowly and feeding the hungry.

NOTES:

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