

11th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, August 13, 2023
Pastor - Rev. Gerald Mansholt
Organist/Music Director - Lori Free

Organ Prelude and Pastor's Greeting

Opening Hymn: **#533 Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty**

Order of Worship: pages 94-96, 147-150

Prayer of the Day - Celebrate

First Reading: 1 Kings 19:9-18

Psalm: Psalm 85:8-13

Second Reading: Romans 10:5-15

Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33

Response after the announcement: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Response after the conclusion: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon:

Hymn of the Day: **#781 Children of the Heavenly Father**

Apostle's Creed: page 105 (see inside back cover of hymnal)

Prayers of Intercession - Celebrate

Offertory: Hymn 186 in Service Music - "Create in me..."

Words of Institution and Communion

Lord's Prayer (see inside back cover of hymnal)

Communion Hymn: **#480 O Bread of Life from Heaven**

Sending Song: **#841 Lift Every Voice and Sing**

Dismissal

WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS
CELEBRATING OUR 141st YEAR
IN HIS SERVICE
1882 - 2023

Pastor Jerry Mansholt has spent the past year serving as Interim Senior Pastor of Calvary Lutheran Church in Green Bay. He also serves on the Strategic Vision Committee for Wartburg Seminary and on the Board of the We Raise Foundation. Formerly known as Wheat Ridge, We Raise partners with Christian ministries to free people from poverty, violence and inequality. Early in his ministry Jerry served as parish pastor in Oklahoma, St. Louis, and Wichita, Kansas. Later he served as bishop, first in the ELCA Central States Synod (Missouri/Kansas) and then in the ELCA East Central Synod of Wisconsin. In 2021-2022 Jerry served as Interim Pastor of Hosanna Lutheran Church, Mandeville, Louisiana. Pastor Jerry and Anita live in Appleton, Wisconsin and are members of First English Lutheran Church.

We welcome all visitors worshipping with us today.
If you spend time in Door County please consider becoming a member of our special ministry. Contact any member for information.

All baptized Christians who celebrate the Real Presence in the Sacrament of Communion are invited to the Lord's Table.

Restrooms are located in the Pioneer School

**Visit us at BethanyEphraim.org,
and follow our worship service live, and archived,
on the web site.**

Prayers of Intercession

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God of grace and faith, your faithfulness is never-ending, and your righteousness becomes ours through Christ Jesus. Send the church to proclaim the gospel both near and far, in church buildings and on street corners, in person and through digital means. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of sky and sea, the plants, animals, mountains, and plains proclaim your glory. Prosper the work of ecologists as they teach us new ways to care for the environment. Bring relief to areas recovering from natural disasters. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of peace and justice, you call us to live as your beloved community throughout the world. Instill in local, regional, national, and global political and civic leaders a desire to work for the well-being of all people. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Preparing for Next Week

Monday (commemoration of Maximilian Kolbe, died 1941; Kaj Munk, died 1944; martyrs) Psalm 18:1-19.
Tuesday (Mary, Mother of Our Lord) Luke 1:46-55. **Wednesday** Matthew 8:23-27. **Thursday** Psalm 67.
Friday Isaiah 63:15-19. **Saturday** Isaiah 56:1-5. **Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost** (commemoration of Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, died 1153) Isaiah 56:1, 6-8; Psalm 67; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28.

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Tracks 1 and 2



Celebrate

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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.

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.**

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.

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?"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 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."



I will listen to what the LORD¹ God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people
and to those who turn their¹ hearts to you.

⁹**Truly, your salvation is very near to¹ those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell¹ in our land. R**

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have¹ met together;
righteousness and peace have¹ kissed each other.

¹¹**Faithfulness shall spring up¹ from the earth,
and righteousness shall look¹ down from heaven.**

¹²The LORD will indeed¹ grant prosperity,
and our land will¹ yield its increase.

¹³**Righteousness shall go be-¹ fore the LORD
and shall prepare for¹ God a pathway. R**

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.

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.”⁶But 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).⁸But what does it say?

“The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart”
(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim);⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is

justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved.¹¹The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.”¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him.¹³For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

¹⁴But 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?¹⁵And 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!”

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.

[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.²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,²⁴but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.²⁵And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea.²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear.²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said,

“Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

²⁸Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.”²⁹He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus.³⁰But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!”³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?”³²When they got into the boat, the wind ceased.³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”