



FOCUSED OUTREACH

Worship Folder for August 23, 2020

Christ Lutheran Church

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Cambridge, MN

www.christcambridge.com

Find us on Facebook @ Christ Lutheran Church – Cambridge, MN

Christ Ev. Lutheran Church

Information to help you stay connected and get involved!

CHURCH INFORMATION

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THIS WEEK AT CHRIST | AUGUST 24 — AUGUST 30

SUNDAY 9:00am Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meditations Grab your copy of the new Meditations from the entryway table.

Canvassing Following church today, we will be going out canvassing again for about an hour. Please consider joining us!

Community Service On August 31 from 1-3pm, we are hosting a food drive as well as a school supply drive. There is still some time to donate school supplies towards this. Please try to have them at church by the end of the week. Thank you to everyone who has donated so far!

Challenge Week #7 We have all been blessed with different gifts. While some of us are more outgoing than others, try to step out of your comfort zone this week, if only in a small way. Here are some suggestions:

- What are you afraid of? Talking about your faith? Distancing a friend or family member by talking to them about Jesus? The "wrong" person being elected? A virus? Every time your focus turns to the thing you "fear", turn to God in his word and prayer instead.
- Look for the ways Jesus comes to you using the very thing you are fighting. (Might be an opportunity to share your faith, might be to show your weakness, might be because it is the situation you needed to hear him more clearly.)
- Ask God for the courage to walk on your greatest fear and "get out of the boat." Try addressing your greatest fear head on. Know that even if you start "drowning" he will be there to pick you back up! (Please note there is a fine line between trusting and testing. God tells us to trust, he tells us not to test.)



welcome

"Here am I. Send me!"
Isaiah 6:8

Ushers: Shawn M., Tom, Barry **Counters:** Tom, Rick
Cleaners: Tom & Karen P., Barry & Grace S.

MEDITATION ON THE MINISTRY OF THE KEYS

Opening Hymn – “Precious Lord, Take My Hand” (Christian Worship #451)

(The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism)
In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you:
God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness,
We lie and do not live by the truth.

If we claim to be without sin,
We deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

Confession of Sin

Father, I have sinned against you and am no longer worthy to be called your child. Yet in mercy you sacrificed your only Son to purge away my guilt. For his sake O God, be merciful to me a sinner, and in the joy of your Holy Spirit let me serve you all my days.

Silence for personal examination and confession.

Absolution

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. Upon this, your confession, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Elijah's great victory of faith was followed closely by great adversity. From the heights of Mt. Carmel, Elijah fell into the depths of frustration. Even after such a great display of God's glory, this evil queen issued her death threats. Even after such a powerful display of God's might, a general spiritual renewal did not occur. Elijah had faith in God's power, but he doubted when God's plans and purpose did not match his own. Hadn't the people broken the covenant? Why didn't God come and make things right with earthquake, wind, and the fire of judgment? Elijah went to the site where the covenant had been made, to the mountain of God where God had come once before in fire and wind and earthquake. There Elijah brought his case against the people of Israel. God answered his prophet not with great acts of power, but rather with quiet words of promise. God displayed all of his power, so that his display of grace might be all the more astounding. He would not come in judgment, but in grace for his elect. The still small voice of his message would accomplish all that he desired. It would tear down kingdoms and establish dynasties. It would bring judgment on his enemies and reserve a people for himself. Elijah heard the Word of God and had to wonder, "Why did I doubt?"

First Lesson: 1 Kings 19:9-18

⁹ He came to a cave and spent the night there. Then the word of the LORD suddenly came to him, saying, "Why are you here, Elijah?" ¹⁰ He said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of Armies, but the people of Israel have abandoned your covenant. They have torn down your altars and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking to take my life." ¹¹ Then the LORD said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is passing by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains and shattered rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. ¹² After the earthquake there was a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. After the fire there was a soft, whispering voice. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak, and he went out and stood at the entrance to the cave. Then a voice came to him and said, "Why are you here, Elijah?" ¹⁴ He said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of Armies, but the people of Israel have abandoned your covenant. They have torn down your altars and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking to take my life." ¹⁵ Then the LORD said to him, "Go back the way you came and go to the Wilderness of Damascus. When you get there, you are to anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶ You will also anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel and Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷ Whoever escapes the sword of Hazael, Jehu will kill, and whoever escapes the sword of Jehu, Elisha will kill. ¹⁸ But I have preserved in Israel seven thousand whose knees have not bent to Baal and whose lips have not kissed him."

Paul explains the roots of the Christian Church. He speaks of his brothers, the children of Israel, and asks them, "Why did you doubt? Why did you doubt that salvation is by grace, not by works? Why did you doubt the Messiah long promised was fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth?" The unbroken line of God's acts of grace left Israel no reason to doubt. Yet they did. And God's answer to that doubt? He chose a remnant by grace and spoke to them in the gentle whisper of God made man.

Second Lesson: Romans 9:1-5

I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying—my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit ² that I have great sorrow and continuous pain in my heart. ³ For I almost wish that I myself could be cursed and separated from Christ in place of my brothers, my relatives

according to the flesh, ⁴ those who are Israelites. Theirs are the adoption as sons, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. ⁵ Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, came the Christ, who is God over all, eternally blessed. Amen.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. Alleluia. (Hebrews 11:1)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 14:22-33

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, ^[a] 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!"

Sermon on Matthew 14:22-33

Theme: "Walk On Your Greatest Fears"

[Click Here For Message](#)

[Click Here For Children's Message](#)

Theme: "Walk On Your Greatest Fears"

8-23-2020

What pulls our eyes of faith away from Jesus? What are the things that come up in your life that cause your mind to go blank on Jesus' love and promises for you? Is it disease? Is it unrest in our country or world? Is it your situation in life, relationship problems, addiction, a pet sin? Is it getting ahead? The image you want your friends or the people around you to see? Sadly, these things are often the very things that give us pause when it comes to reaching out to others with the gospel. That is the case because often, these are the things we wrestle with, these are the things we want answers to ourselves from God. They can create fear in our outreach because we don't really know the answers to why they are there and why we struggle with them,

why God allows them to happen and they can make us afraid to do outreach because, well, if they come up, then we might feel alone and without the words to say. What pulls your eyes of faith away from Jesus?

While these doubts or fears are often able to pull our focus off Jesus and on to them, it is always important to hear exactly how Jesus addresses them. It is important even, to SEE, how Jesus addresses them. This is our focus for today as we are directed to the Word of God found in Matthew 14. Through the words of God here may our faith be focused our Savior. From that focus may we be empowered to walk on our greatest fears and see our faith swell, our doubts vanish, gain a crisper focus on our God, and be encouraged to live and share our faith with greater passion. We listen once more to Matthew 14:

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!"

These verses immediately follow Jesus feeding the 5,000. Jesus wanted some alone time in prayer with his Father in heaven. The disciples are urged to get in the boat, go ahead of Jesus and he would catch up. In the middle of the night, we find the disciples frantically battling a storm. They had just seen what Jesus could do. They had seen his compassion. But the waves of the sea that night diverted their attention away from Jesus. As they are frantically working against the storm and trying to keep the boat upright, Jesus comes to them. But note how he comes to them. He comes to them on the very fear that was filling their attention and flooding their thoughts. "In the fourth watch of the night, Jesus came toward them, walking on the sea." Quite literally, on the thing they feared the most, Jesus used to come to them so that they could hear him.

He did not fly or float, he did not simply appear to them like he did in the locked room following the first Easter. No, he walked on water, the very thing they had been fighting not to fall into, the very thing that was threatening their life. And it is in the face of this great fear Jesus simply talks to and encourages them, "Take heart! It is I! Do not be afraid." You can see their faith swell with those encouraging words, you can see it so much so that it manifests itself in Peter asking for the chance to meet Jesus out in the water, to have the ability to do as Jesus was doing.

But it is all too often that doubt is the unfortunate companion of faith. Jesus was standing right there, right in front of Peter but then he lost his focus. Despite seeing Jesus walk out to them. Despite Jesus standing right there in front of him on the water. Despite Jesus telling Peter with his own mouth to come, Peter started looking at the waves crashing. He felt the spray hitting his face and the wind beating against his body, he doubted what he had already been doing and he started sinking. In panic, he cries out, "Lord, Save me!" Without skipping a beat, Jesus takes hold of Peter and as he holds him safe, he says so simply "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" They get back in the boat and the wind lays down. He used their greatest fear at that moment, to come to them so they could clearly hear his Word.

So, what is preventing you from hearing God's calming voice in the face of your fears? Or am I asking the wrong people? After all, we are all here! We are all hearing God's Word. We have logged on to listen to the

online service or we planned to come in person, and we are having devotions. This lesson isn't for me, right? Or is it possible we can be just like the disciples? We can see the great things God has done, we can hear his word and promises to us, we can worship him for his greatness and his love and then, in the next moment, we can feel like we are all alone, face to face with our fears and thinking we are in big trouble. Is it true that we can be filled with awe over our God and the next moment it can seem like fear induced doubt is the thing filling our minds?

It really is not even a question is it? The simple reality is yes. We are exactly like this. We want to be our own problem solvers. We do not want to go to God when we are in trouble. We want to be our own saviors; we want to be the solution to our own problems. We want pride in ourselves in one moment and the very next, when we find ourselves in trouble and we can clearly see we don't have the power to overcome our fears getting the best of us we are filled with doubt.

But isn't it a wonder that Jesus knows this? Isn't it a wonder that he stands right in front of us, often meeting us in the very thing we fear and tells us to come? Isn't it a wonder he watches us doubt him and lose our focus on him? Isn't it a wonder despite all these things, he scoops us up time and time again, saving us from certain doom and draws us closer to him through his calming word? Isn't it a wonder that he does not just turn around and leave us saying well I gave you a chance and you disappointed me yet again?

It is a wonder, a great and mighty wonder, our God acts the way he does! It is a wonder time after time he refocuses us from our doubt to where our trust should have always stayed! But the real lesson here, is seeing how when Jesus is with us, the wind stops. When Jesus remains at our side through his word, fears disappear, all is calm.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, take a moment and think about your greatest fear, being rejected, being ignored, losing your status or losing your life, having your self-righteousness discredited, and feeling small and helpless, whatever it might be. Jesus came to you exactly in that way. He made himself nothing for you. He was scorned on your behalf. He was mocked, ridiculed, and rejected by his own Father in heaven just so he could have the opportunity to come to you in his word, to hold you close to his chest and assure you all is well. Jesus took on all your doubts, he took on all your unanswered questions, he made them his as he himself cried out "WHY?" in agony on the cross suffering for all of the frustration of Sin. He has conquered your greatest fears so there is nothing for you to fear, your sins are forgiven, your life is atoned for, eternity in heaven is yours, why doubt?

That is your truth. May it lead us to worship him. May it lead us to live for him and may it lead us to even more focus in our daily outreach as we refocus on Christ and, by his power, walk on our greatest fears. Amen.

Offering: (Though we are not meeting together at this time please do not forget the opportunity to give back what is rightfully God's with respect to what he has given us. Offerings can be mailed or dropped off at church. You can also make use of online giving through the giveplus app or by going to the church's website (www.christcambridge.com) and selecting the "Donate" tab under "About" in the site menu.)

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, when we reflect on our lives we can come across times when our thoughts and actions showed complete disregard for you and your Word. We know that we deserve your punishment not only for those sins, but all our other transgressions as well. But although you have disciplined us – and perhaps even done so harshly – you have never abandoned us.

Rather, you have forgiven and restored us. Bless us with your Holy Spirit so that we believe your forgiveness and forgive ourselves as well. Restore us. Enable us to rededicate ourselves to be in service to you.

Ruler of nations, we commit to your care those to whom you have given the responsibility to protect and defend us. At this time, we especially pray for those who serve in our police forces. Some are esteemed and honored in the communities in which they serve, but many face difficult and dangerous times. They are attacked by those who want to bring harm and devastation to them and others. They are not supported by those who have asked them to serve. Give them steadfastness of purpose as they carry out their responsibilities. Enable them to continue to perform their duties with fairness and respect. Do not let the challenges they face cause them to become bitter or resentful. Instill in them an awareness of the purpose you are having them serve so that they do their work accordingly.

Private Petitions

Lord Jesus, you have told us to ask and seek and knock as we come to you and through you in prayer to our God. You have promised that, just as earthly fathers give good gifts to their children, so our heavenly Father will do for us. It is because of your promises that we pray as you have 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.

Children's Message

BLESSING:

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.

Closing Hymn: "Amazing Grace – How Sweet the Sound" Christian Worship #379