



**The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, August 9, 2020**

The following worship service may be used on its own or along with the video found on the Swamp Lutheran YouTube page.

Lord, I seek you and your strength. May I sense your presence in worship today. (Based on Psalm 105:4.)

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.

Hymn "Oh, Worship the King" (Verses 1, 5) ELW 842

- 1 Oh, worship the King, all-glorious above.
Oh, gratefully sing God's power and love;
our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.

- 5 O measureless might, ineffable love,
while angels delight to hymn you above,
the humbler creation, though feeble their lays,
with true adoration shall sing to your praise.

The Apostolic Greeting and Prayer of the Day

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Let us pray:

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.

⁹At [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?" ¹⁰He 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."

¹¹He 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; ¹²and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³When 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?" ¹⁴He 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." ¹⁵Then 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. ¹⁶Also 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. ¹⁷Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading Romans 10:5-15

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.

⁵Moses 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!”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

²²[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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection

In the story, Elijah is in trouble, threatened with death. Peter is in trouble too, drowning in the chaos of the sea. Let the stories reflect our times. We and all our world also know the threat of death and chaos. But then, listen. God comes to Elijah not in wind, earthquake or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence and in a voice that gives him a mission. Those sounds may be little in the world, but they are the very presence of God. And Jesus comes to the storm-tossed disciples with a word of comfort, "Here I AM; do not be afraid." He comes as the very presence of God, the one named "I AM" in the scripture. As Paul says, this life-giving word from God is not far away, but here, now, in this time of prayer, on our lips and in our hearts. With the Psalmist, let us say, "I will listen to what the Lord God is saying." God in Christ is speaking peace to us right now. Then let us undertake the mission to speak that peace also to our neighbors.

Homily The Rev. Kurt Strause

Prayers of Intercession

Each petition ends "Lord, in your mercy," and the response is "**Hear our prayer.**"

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray together

Our Father in heaven,

**hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as is in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace;

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Hymn “Eternal Father, Strong to Save” (Verses 1 & 4) ELW 756

- 1 Eternal Father, strong to save,
 whose arm has bound the restless wave,
 who bade the mighty ocean deep
 its own appointed limits keep:
 oh, hear us when we cry to thee
 for those in peril on the sea.

- 4 O Trinity of love and pow'r,
 all trav'lers guard in danger's hour
 from rock and tempest, fire and foe,
 protect them wheresoe'er they go;
 thus evermore shall rise to thee
 glad hymns and praise from land and sea.

DISMISSAL

Go forth into the world bearing the Good News of Christ in word and deed.
Thanks be to God.

The Sanctuary Candle today is presented in loving memory James Beard, by the congregation.

Calling all talent. Singers, musicians or any talent you want to share. We are putting together a Mid Year Night of Music. This will be a virtual event. You can video yourself or arrange a time to come to church to have us video you. After we get all the videos together we will post a link on Youtube.

Contact us at webmaster@swamplutheran.org with your ideas to let us know what you plan to do or if you need help.



Lori Gockley
Jim and Mary Jane Miller
John Nicholas
Jean Wolf
Doris Kopp
Don Risser
Susan Levan
Barbara Mizdail
Ray Showalter
Nancy Kulp
Moneith Gable – Friend of Linda Beard
Elmo Lorah – Friend of Connie Taylor
Ray Fox – Friend of Connie Taylor
Lisa Buckles – Friend of Sue Knauer
Mary Kring – Aunt of Linda Ream
Chester Peachy – Neighbor of Sue Kreitz
Bill Sweigart – Neighbor of Sue Kreitz
Kyle Lord – Cousin of Kim Houck
Ivy Erb-Willard – Friend of Kim Houck
Christina Ayala – Brain Tumor – Friend of Kim Houck
Sandy Heisey – Sister-in-law of Jenn Weitzel
Kristen Ramsey (kidney transplant) Fiancé of Eric Long
Cheryl Black – Friend of the Gockleys
Judith Esterly – Friend of Janice Kelly

When someone is put on the prayer list, we will keep them on for four weeks. After that time they will be taken off unless you make another request to have them put back on.



Michael Crowther
Clarice Haws
Betty Hornberger
Charles Moyer
Henry Rehlich
Ella Shirk
Alverta Showalter
Clyde Showalter
Mary Ann Weitzel