

The Lutheran Church of the Covenant
“Reaching Out, Reflecting Christ, Renewing Lives”



Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
June 20, 2021



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



We welcome you to worship here at the Lutheran Church of the Covenant! As long as the weather cooperates, we gather outside in God's Creation so that we may more safely come together and worship with singing and loud shouts of praise.

- Bulletins and Communion (wheat or gluten-free wafers, wine or grape juice options) are available to be picked up at the side driveway. Please keep in mind potential wind that may affect your Communion cups.
- You may stay in your vehicle or setup a chair anywhere you like. Speakers will be set up front by the worship leaders so that everyone can hear and participate from their respective spots.
- It is your choice whether you wear a mask or not, as well as how much distance you wish to keep from others. We are mindful of everyone's varying comfort levels with what we hope to be improving circumstances with COVID-19.
- We encourage you to participate throughout the worship by speaking the **bold** print and singing along with the hymns!
- You will not be asked to stand during the worship, so feel free to remain seated throughout.
- An offering basket is placed up-front by the podium.

Our Worship Leaders & Staff

Ministers
Presiding Minister
Pianist
Lector
Parish Administrator
Custodian

All People
The Rev. Bradley Ross
Robin Crawford
Harry Werner
Jennifer Lasher-Dobush
Vince Besednjak

*The Lutheran Church of the Covenant
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Maple Heights, OH 44137*

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Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation! Now we are in the storm, the boat almost swamped; but Jesus is here now, and when we call him, he will calm the storm. Even the wind and waves listen to him as they would to their creator. We also listen to him and are called to believe in the power of God's word in him, a power greater than all that we fear.

Prelude *Praise! Praise! You Are My Rock* (HANSEN)

Confession & Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at our baptism, remembering our everlasting bond with our Risen Lord.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the God of manna,
the God of miracles,
the God of mercy.

Amen!

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider,

help us.

It is hard to believe there is enough to share.

**We question your ways when they differ
from the ways of the world in which we live.**

**We turn to our own understanding
rather than trusting in you.**

**Share with us the words of eternal life
and feed us for life in the world.**

Amen.

Beloved people of God:
in Jesus, the manna from heaven,
you are fed and nourished.

By Jesus, the worker of miracles,
 there is always more than enough.
 Through Jesus, † the bread of life,
 you are shown God's mercy:
 you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.
Amen!

Gathering Hymn *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

#773

Prayer of the Day

O God of creation, eternal majesty, you preside over land and sea, sunshine and storm.
 By your strength, pilot us, by your power preserve us, by your wisdom instruct us, and by



1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
 2 When my way grows . . drear, pre-cious Lord, lin - ger near,
 3 When the dark - ness ap - pears and the night draws . . near,



I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
 when my life is . . . al - most . . gone,
 and the day is . . . past and . . . gone,



Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.
 hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall.
 at the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand.



Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.

your hand protect us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen!**

First Lesson

Job 38:1-11

At the end of the book of Job, after Job and his companions have argued about the cause of the great suffering Job endures, God finally speaks. These verses begin that speech, which is a grand vision of creation, describing God's ordering of the cosmos and inviting Job to marvel at its beauty.

¹The Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind:

²“Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

³Gird up your loins like a man,

I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

⁴“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?

Tell me, if you have understanding.

⁵Who determined its measurements—surely you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it?

⁶On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone

⁷when the morning stars sang together

and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

⁸“Or who shut in the sea with doors

when it burst out from the womb?—

⁹when I made the clouds its garment,

and thick darkness its swaddling band,

¹⁰and prescribed bounds for it, and set bars and doors,

¹¹and said, ‘Thus far shall you come, and no farther,

and here shall your proud waves be stopped?’”

Word of God, word of life!

Thanks be to God!

Psalm

Psalm 107:1-3,23-32

¹Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good,
for God's mercy endures forever.

**²Let the redeemed of the Lord proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**
³gathering them in from the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.
**²³Some went down to the sea in ships,
plying their trade in deep waters.**
²⁴They beheld the works of the Lord,
God's wonderful works in the deep.
**²⁵Then God spoke, and a stormy wind arose,
which tossed high the waves of the sea.**
²⁶They mounted up to the heavens and descended to the depths;
their souls melted away in their peril.
**²⁷They staggered and reeled like drunkards,
and all their skill was of no avail.**
²⁸Then in their trouble they cried to the Lord,
and you delivered them from their distress.
**²⁹You stilled the storm to a whisper
and silenced the waves of the sea.**
³⁰Then were they glad when it grew calm,
when you guided them to the harbor they desired.
**³¹Let them give thanks to you, Lord, for your steadfast love
and your wonderful works for all people.**
³²Let them exalt you in the assembly of the people;
in the council of the elders, let them sing hallelujah!

Second Lesson

2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Paul and his fellow workers experience great hardships and even rejection while carrying out their missionary work. Nevertheless, Paul continuously proclaims that God has not rejected us but is graciously working for our salvation.

¹As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says,
“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”
See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no

obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

¹¹We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. ¹²There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. ¹³In return—I speak as to children—open wide your hearts also.

Word of God, word of life!

Thanks be to God!

Gospel

Mark 4:35-41

Jesus' calming of the storm on the sea reveals his power over evil, since the sea represents evil and chaos. The boat on the sea is a symbol of the church and invites us to trust God amid life's turbulence.

The Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁵When evening had come, [Jesus said to the disciples,] “Let us go across to the other side.” ³⁶And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. ³⁷A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. ³⁸But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” ³⁹He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. ⁴⁰He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” ⁴¹And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

This is the holy Gospel of our Lord!

Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

Hymn of the Day *Will You Let Me Be Your Servant*

#659



1 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as
2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - 'lers
3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the night - time
4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh I'll
5 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as



Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to
on the road; we are here to help each oth - er
of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you,
laugh with you. I will share your joy and sor - row
Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to



let you be my ser - vant, too.
walk the mile and bear the load.
speak the peace you long to hear.
till we've seen this jour - ney through.
let you be my ser - vant, too.

Text: Richard Gillard, b. 1953
Music: THE SERVANT SONG, Richard Gillard
Text and music © 1977 Scripture In Song (c/o Integrity's Hosanna Music)/ASCAP,
c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Coady Road, Mobile AL 36695.

Prayers of Intercession

We join together in prayer before God, responding to each petition with words from today's psalm, "your mercy endures forever."

A brief silence.

O God of our salvation, we praise you for your continual mercy to the wider church. Hold the ark of the church in your loving hand. Give our leaders endurance through all manner of hardship, and guide us in the way that we should go. O Lord of our life, receive our prayers: **your mercy endures forever.**

At this time of the summer solstice, we praise you for the magnificence of nature. Hold the cosmos in your loving hand. Inspire us to care for your wonderful works seen in ocean deeps, in lakes, in rivers, and in wells. O Star of our night, receive our prayers: **your mercy endures forever.**

We praise you for the good that we receive in this nation. Purge from us prejudice against those who differ from us in any way. On this World Refugee Day, we hope that refugees travel in safety and reach the promise of a better life for their families. O Hope of every nation, receive our prayers: **your mercy endures forever.**

We praise you for the loving support of fathers to their children. Bless fathers, stepfathers, foster fathers, and godfathers. Comfort those who grieve because they cannot father a child. Wherever children are deprived of fathers, provide responsible and affectionate care. Eternal Father, strong to save, receive our prayers: **your mercy endures forever.**

We praise you for the lessening of the pandemic, and we lift up all around the globe who continue to face the coronavirus. Open wide our hearts to all who suffer. Send healing to any who are sick. Rock of ages, receive our prayers: **your mercy endures forever.**

We praise you for all who died in the faith. We ask that at our end you unite us with all saints into your presence. O Harbor in every storm, receive our prayers: **your mercy endures forever.**

We praise you for your steadfast love, and we lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen!**

Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy God,

our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer,
in the harmonious world of your creation,
the plants and animals, the seas and stars
were whole and well in your praise.

When sin had scarred the world,
you sent your Son to heal our ills
and to form us again into one.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, 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.

Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing, his body given up,
and his victory over death,
we await that day when all the peoples of the earth
will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Holy Spirit, bless us through this meal:
as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,
so let your church be gathered from the ends of the earth,
that all may be fed with the Bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
both now and forever. **Amen!**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,**

**on earth as 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.**

Communion

Music Interlude *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* (BEANY)

Prayer after Communion

Jesus, Bread of life,
we have received from your table
more than we could ever ask.
As you have nourished us in this meal,
now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.
In your name we pray.
Amen!

Blessing

The blessing of God,
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
✠ be upon you now and forever!
Amen!



1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,
 2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu-sic ring - ing.
 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.
 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
 It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
 What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899

Music: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING, Robert Lowry, alt.

Dismissal

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ!
Thanks be to God!

Postlude *Precious Lord* (HANSEN)

Praying Together

... for those who are homebound, ill, hospitalized or recuperating: Gayle Agg, Bob Buettner, Joan Clarke, John Crawford, Nicole Crawford, Barbara Fossa, Carolyn Frajter, Ken Frajter, Donna Franz, Nealie Gage, Barb Gaglione, Michelle Garnett, Rosa Garnett, Judy Jones, Matt Jones, Dylan King, Jason Lanese, Andrea Lanzalaca, Heather Lasher, Sara Mendes, Phyllis Nemeth, Bernice Novak, Robert Ridgell, Don Rusher Jr, Arlene Stoltz, Marie Storms, Tom Susanek, Phyllis Treichel, Phyllis Welker, Linda Wright, Wilma Dancy, Bill Helmick, Nancy Helmick, Robert Lambrecht, Kim (Novak) Leonhardt, Laura Mele, Judy Morgan, Kris Sandor, Bill Wilkens, Eugene Winfrey, the Copeland/Lane Family

LAST WEEK

General Fund receipts for week ending 6/13/2021: \$1427

****FREE Drive-Thru Community Meal this Thursday, June 24, 4:30-6pm****

Lectionary Blog: Is God on Vacation?

“Teacher—do you not care that we are perishing?” (Mark 4:38).

The Rev. Elise Scott, associate pastor of Ballard First Lutheran in Seattle, was sitting in her office one Saturday when the LYONS (Lutheran Youth Of North Seattle) director came in seeking help. LYONS was presenting a matinee performance of their dinner theater production, and a somewhat disoriented and possibly high young woman had wandered in and begun disrupting the performance. Pastor Scott went to the fellowship hall and gently guided the barefoot and scantily dressed young woman out of the hall and into the courtyard where the following conversation took place:

Pastor Scott: “I’m Pastor Elise Scott. What’s your name?”

Visitor: “I am the first fairy to ever live and one of God’s special ones.”

Pastor Scott: “Do you have some place safe to go?”

Visitor: “God’s got this, — — — but he’s on vacation.”

Pastor Scott: “Is there anyone I could call to pick you up?”

Visitor: “I’ve got to get out of here.”

And she did, slowly and mysteriously wandering away.

(Personal correspondence from Pastor Scott)

“Teacher—do you not care that we are perishing?”

“God’s got this, — — — but he’s on vacation.”

We've all felt like the young woman Pastor Scott encountered that afternoon—trusting God for the future—*God's got this,*” she said, while, in the same moment, feeling like the Holy One is taking some time away from our case. *“He's on vacation.”*

Job had certainly begun to feel that way. He had, quite literally, lost everything: wife, family, livelihood, property, friends, position in society and, finally, his faith in God. Now, Job had not lost his belief in God, which is often what we mean when we talk about someone “losing their faith.” Job still knew that God existed. But he had lost confidence in God, lost trust in God. He looked back at his life and complained to God, “What have I done to deserve this?” Job makes an impassioned plea to God, saying in very different words the same thing as the young woman in Seattle: *“God's got this, — — — but he's on vacation.”*

Of course, the disciples had a literal experience of the Messiah “asleep at the wheel”—Jesus napping while the ship was sinking. Sometimes we have looked at this story and decided it's about imitating Jesus. We look at the disciples and think, “Well, here they are making things worse by getting upset, allowing their fear and panic to control their actions. Jesus, on the other hand, stays calm in a crisis. And because he keeps himself under control, he is able to exert control over his surroundings. Therefore, we should be like Jesus.” Makes a relative degree of sense, doesn't it? After all, didn't the Bible, or the Catechism, or Martin Luther, say, “If you can keep you head when all about you are losing theirs?” *Oh, wait, that was Rudyard Kipling, but surely that's the point of this story, isn't it?*

Well, actually, no, it's not. Neither the writer of the book of Job nor the evangelist who wrote Mark is interested in our ability to keep our heads and stand on our own two feet and face adversity with calm resolve. As important as all those things might be at times—they are not the message here today.

My Baptist preacher friend, the Rev. Dr. John Fairless, is fond of quoting his Vanderbilt Divinity School professor, Liston Mills. Mills often said that there is really only one important theological question, “Can God be trusted?” That is the question Job is asking: “I have been good. I have done all the things I was supposed to do as a good person. Can I trust that you are really God and that you really love me?”

That is the question the disciples are asking in the Gospel lesson. They have seen demonstrations of Jesus' power to heal and cast out demons. They had left their homes, families and jobs because they thought he was the Messiah. But here they were, in danger

of losing their very lives, and there he was asleep in the stern, literally “asleep at the wheel.” Of course they cried out, “*Do you not care that we are perishing?*”

Both Job and the disciples in the boat believed in God and in God’s power. Like the young woman they could say, “*God’s got this.*” Yet, looking around at their lives, they had a hard time seeing any evidence of God’s reality or God’s goodness. So, with the young woman, they could also say, “*but he’s on vacation.*”

Is God on vacation? Can God be trusted? Has God got this? The Bible says God is not on vacation. God can indeed be trusted. God does most certainly have this situation, and us, well in hand. The hard part is trusting that fact. The writer of Job reminds us that God is the creator of all that is—that before we were, God is. It’s not exactly, “I made everything that ever was and ever will be—how dare you question me?” It is a reminder that to believe is to trust in God’s larger plan for the world and goodwill toward humanity in the midst of our sometimes perilous personal circumstances. As Martin Luther King Jr. said, “The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.”

And Jesus, in our gospel lesson, asks his disciples, “*Why were you afraid? Have you still no faith?*” (Mark 4:40). “Still no faith,” is a call for them to remember what they have seen Jesus do in their time together, to think about the healings, exorcisms and teachings. He asks them, and us, to consider all that when in trouble. With the disciples, we are reminded that God in Christ can indeed be trusted, God in Christ is here with us, God in Christ is neither asleep nor on vacation. God has got this. God has got this, indeed! Amen and amen.

Originally published June 18, 2018, on LivingLutheran.org.

Delmer Chilton is originally from North Carolina and received his education at the University of North Carolina, Duke Divinity School and the Graduate Theological Foundation. He received his Lutheran training at the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, S.C. Ordained in 1977, Delmer has served parishes in North Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee.

Jesus calms a storm

O H Q R Z P T H W N Y C C O S I B Q F O G A Y U
G M L F L U K W U A O R W T V U I M Z I G M I Z
S E O W Z G D V S D U S A S V G U E Z G S X P A
P Z Z K Y Y I M I I Z O H Y A K Z P R R M I W Q
Q R U P K E S E M S B L D F X I K Q A D C F R B
Z E T L M R C F I S S R R Q H M Z J U I I J C H
R N S F Q Z I W N A T A C X G A H S X A W O K E
U S U S E J P X D W I E J I L R T B T Z G C H P
Z P R X Z W L P E D D I I K B I B H M X H R E K
X C T W M T E K G Q G K I U D S T B P T H N A L
F D R L R H S E B Q H E X S Q G K U V O Q Q S F
W L G I Y N N N O W I S Q B P Z X I P O W E R G
R V O S W Q K V Z Q U P U L Z Y O Z I Z Q U M P
L Z G Y M H A E S L M U Q I K X E F D M H S V O
M E F E E V J V F D G W Y V D W D O U E P P B V
D L O U L C F Y E M V U T Q C W D Y Z O Y V J Y
O P C S L E E P W N R Q I C P F T C H H P E H W
D Y V W I O K W F E E X Y Y I F G S S V A R B F
F X T J U R X T J G A M Z U B D L W P W T B Y O
D D U E P V U U E R I T M Q S U K T N D F Z Q E
O V Z E A F H S T O R M H G J K X S O N F D Y Y
T Q J I E H R S F X F D Y E C O R Y R E Z N F U
T G B N Z P T W X U U I L J R J R U O X E S L W
S E A O F G A L I L E E W S N Q M W A B J C M X

trust

weather

power

obeyed

quiet

afraid

awoke

sleep

Jesus

storm

disciples

boats

Sea of Galilee