

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 13, 2023

Faith is essential to the Christian life. It comes to us when the Holy Spirit works in our hearts through the hearing of the Gospel. Faith is not a constant. We always seek for faith to grow. It grows as we use and participate in the means of grace—word and sacraments. When you seem to be sinking and drowning in the waves of doubt, reach out to Jesus and grab onto His holy word.

God, Whose Almighty Word

Lutheran Service Book 979, Lutheran Worship 317, The Lutheran Hymnal 508



1 God, whose al - mighty - y word Cha - os and
2 Lord, who once came to bring, On Your re -
3 Spir - it of truth and love, Life - giv - ing,
4 Ho - ly and bless - ed Three, Glo - ri - ous



dark - ness heard And took their flight: Hear us, we
deem - ing wing, Heal - ing and sight, Health to the
ho - ly dove, Speed forth Your flight; Move on the
Trin - i - ty, Wis - dom, love, might! Bound - less as



hum - bly pray, And where the Gos - pel day
sick in mind, Sight to the in - ly blind:
wa - ter's face, Bear - ing the lamp of grace,
o - cean's tide, Roll - ing in full - est pride,



Sheds not its glo - rious ray, Let there be light!
Oh, now to hu - man-kind Let there be light!
And in earth's dark - est place Let there be light!
Through the earth, far and wide, Let there be light!

L In the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

L Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth. (*Psalm 124:8*)

L Who can discern his errors? Forgive my hidden faults.

C Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. (*Psalm 19:12, 13*)

L If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared. (*Psalm 130:3–4*)

L Let us, confess before God that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and as His people let us take refuge in His infinite mercy seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, saying:

C God, be merciful to me, a sinner, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen. (*Luke 18:13*)

L Almighty God, merciful Father, in Your holy Church, You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Introit Psalm 34:4–8; antiphon 34:1

L I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

C I sought the Lord, and he answered me
and delivered me from all my fears.

L Those who look to him are radiant,
and their faces shall never be ashamed.

C This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him
and saved him out of all his troubles.

L The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him,
and delivers them.

C Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!
Blessèd is the man who takes refuge in him!

C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

L I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Kyrie

L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

L O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.

L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

Gloria in Excelsis ~ Glory to God in the Highest

L Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

C Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father: We worship You, we give You thanks, and we praise You for Your glory.

- L** Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, You are Lord and God, You are the Lamb of God:
- C** **Lord Jesus Christ, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**
- L** Lord Jesus Christ, You are seated at the right hand of the Father; and we ask you to graciously receive our prayer.
- C** **For You alone are the Holy One,
You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Collect of the Day

- L** Let us pray: Almighty and most merciful God, preserve us from all harm and danger that we, being ready in both body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish what You want done; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Job 38:4–18

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 sons of God shouted for joy?

⁸“Or who shut in the sea with doors
when it burst out from the womb,
⁹when I made clouds its garment
and thick darkness its swaddling band,
¹⁰and prescribed limits for it
and set bars and doors,
¹¹and said, ‘Thus far shall you come, and no farther,
and here shall your proud waves be stayed’?

¹²“Have you commanded the morning since your days began,
and caused the dawn to know its place,
¹³that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth,
and the wicked be shaken out of it?
¹⁴It is changed like clay under the seal,
and its features stand out like a garment.
¹⁵From the wicked their light is withheld,
and their uplifted arm is broken.

¹⁶“Have you entered into the springs of the sea,
or walked in the recesses of the deep?
¹⁷Have the gates of death been revealed to you,
or have you seen the gates of deep darkness?
¹⁸Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth?
Declare, if you know all this.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.

L Fear the Lord, you his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing!

C Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.

Psalm 18:1– 6

L ¹I love you, O LORD, my strength.

C ²The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,
my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge,
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

L ³I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised,
and I am saved from my enemies.

C ⁴The cords of death encompassed me;
the torrents of destruction assailed me;

L ⁵the cords of Sheol entangled me;
the snares of death confronted me.

C ⁶In my distress I called upon the LORD;
to my God I cried for help.
From his temple he heard my voice,
and my cry to him reached his ears.

Romans 10:5–17

⁵For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them. ⁶But the righteousness based on faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷or “‘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, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ¹¹For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

¹⁴But how are they to call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”

¹⁶But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?”

¹⁷So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse Matthew 14:27

L Alleluia. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying

C “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.” Alleluia.

Matthew 14:22–33

L The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 14th chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²²Immediately [Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. ²⁵And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, “It is a ghost!” and they cried out in fear. ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.”

²⁸And Peter 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 and walked on the water and came to Jesus. ³⁰But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me.” ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” ³²And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

and sits at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living
and the dead.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

How Firm a Foundation

Lutheran Service Book 728, Lutheran Worship 411, The Lutheran Hymnal 427



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
2 “Fear not! I am with you, O be not dis - mayed,
3 “The soul that on Je - sus has leaned for re - pose
4 “When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way will lie,

Is laid for your faith in His ex - cel - lent Word!
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I will not, I will not, de - sert to his foes;
My grace, all - suf - fi - cient, will be your sup - ply.



What more can He say than to you He has said
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
That soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,
The flames will not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign



Who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
Up - held by My righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
I'll nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er, for - sake!
Your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine.

- 5 “Throughout all their lifetime My people will prove
My sov’ reign, eternal, unchangeable love;
And then, when gray hairs will their temples adorn,
Like lambs they will still in My bosom be borne.”

Public domain

Devotional thoughts:

One unfortunate side effect of modern living is an artificial insulation from nature. We live, work, and play in climate-controlled environments. Inside our cars, we are comfortable in everything from blizzards to deserts. As a result, we tend to underestimate the harshness, brutality, and danger that surround us in the natural world.

As contemporary 21st-century people, we are more apt to romanticize nature. We look upon the wild as our friend. People drive their SUVs into secluded places for a “spiritual experience.”

Now and then, we are brought back to our senses. This week a wildfire devastated an area of Maui, Hawaii. It destroyed the historic town of Lahaina. News reports say that it started when a small brush fire quickly became an uncontrollable blaze when heavy winds blew across the drought-stricken island.

Hurricanes, tornadoes, thunderstorms, lightning, blizzards, earthquakes, volcanoes, and droughts are just a few ways to experience the unforgiving reality of the natural world. Disease, pests, poison ivy, and countless other maladies also come to mind. Those wishing to find a “spiritual experience” in the natural world should not forget to take these forms of nature into account.

Our Gospel Lesson finds the disciples having one such “spiritual experience.” They are in a boat a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. There is no motor to power them on their way. There is no lower deck to shield them from the wind and waves. There is no relief in sight.

It is sometime after 3 a.m. They have been battling this storm for a long time. We can imagine that their arms and backs were throbbing. They were wet and cold. Their situation was hopeless.

Were they praying? I would be. Were they afraid? I would be. Nature had a grip on them and was not going to let go.

Have you ever been in a similar situation? Have you experienced a time when everything was against you and there was no help in sight? You wanted to sit down and rest but knew that if you did, you may not survive. Were you on the verge of giving up hope? This is what the disciples must have experienced.

They didn’t need to be dismayed. Jesus hadn’t forgotten them. He would come and bring aid!

It is quite common today to see Jesus as a good man, a moral force, and an able teacher. But He is so much more.

The disciples were in a situation beyond the help of a good man, a moral force, or an able teacher. Their only hope was a miraculous deliverance by God Himself.

That deliverance came in the person of Jesus—God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God! He came to them walking on the water, displaying His divinity. He came to them with comforting words, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.”

Peter’s heart was immediately calmed. He was ready to take a bold step of faith and walk on the water to Jesus. As is so often the case for all of us, his faith was fleeting. He saw the wind and was afraid. And in his fear, he began to sink. He looked to Jesus with a desperate cry, “Lord, save me.”

You, too, may have uttered that same desperate cry. Life is full of twists and turns, unseen dangers, and deadly situations beyond our control. Thanks be to God! Jesus hears our frantic and anxious cries and reaches out His hand and holds us in His comforting grasp.

No doubt that great relief swept across Peter’s heart at Jesus’ touch. Everything would turn out well. The wind ceased and waves stilled. Peace and tranquility were all around. Peter and the disciples had been rescued by the Son of God!

I don’t know your experience of life. Some have troubles and hardships beyond my imagination. Often, these are the very people who bring me words of comfort and hope. Those people who have weathered the hurricanes of life know of God’s abiding presence and comfort.

The ultimate natural disaster is death. In the face of this final tragedy, we do not look to a good man, a moral force, or an able teacher. We cry out, “Lord, save me.” And the Son of God in His mercy reaches out and brings us to Himself. He comes to our aid when nothing else can. From the manger to the cross and empty tomb, the entire story of Jesus’ life is reaching out to save sinners and bring us to paradise with Him.

- 1 I am Jesus’ little lamb,
Ever glad at heart I am;
For my Shepherd gently guides me,
Knows my need and well provides me,
Loves me ev’ry day the same,
Even calls me by my name.
- 2 Day by day, at home, away,
Jesus is my staff and stay.
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me,
Into pleasant pastures leads me;
When I thirst, He bids me go
Where the quiet waters flow.
- 3 Who so happy as I am,
Even now the Shepherd’s lamb?
And when my short life is ended,
By His angel host attended,
He shall fold me to His breast,
There within His arms to rest.

I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb, Public domain

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7).

God’s richest blessings to you in Christ.

Prayers

L Almighty God, You laid the foundation of the earth and set boundaries and limits to all things. Thank You thanks for Your glorious creation, including our own bodies and souls. Because of sin, we face death, and Your creation has been subjected to futility. Yet in Your Son, You grant us forgiveness and eternal life. Help us to live in righteousness through faith in Christ.

C Amen.

L Gracious Lord, Your Word is near to the hearts of Your people. Grant us courage to speak the Gospel faithfully. We pray that those who hear would confess Jesus Christ as Lord and be saved. Remember all who endure persecution for His name, and strengthen them for a bold witness.

C Amen.

L O Lord, help us to trust in You at all times, that we may have no doubt or fear. Grant us confidence in all that You have promised to Your people for the necessities of daily life and our eternity with You.

C Amen.

L Father, daily You bless us with abundance and freedom. Bless those who defend us from our enemies, who serve us in government, and who protect us in our communities. Be with our president, Congress, our governor, and our judges and magistrates, that they may discern the right path and lead us with honor and integrity.

C Amen.

L Heavenly Father, Your Son came to heal the sick and forgive sinners. Hear our prayers for those who suffer in any way. Restore them according to Your gracious will, and strengthen their trust in Your faithfulness and love. Let Your blessings rest upon all medical personnel and first responders who come to our aid in time of need.

C Amen.

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

C 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.

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

L The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

C Amen.

From All That Dwell Below the Skies

Lutheran Service Book 816, Lutheran Worship 440, The Lutheran Hymnal 15



1 From all that dwell be - low the skies Let the Cre - a - tor's
2 E - ter - nal are Thy mer - cies, Lord; E - ter - nal truth at -
3 All praise to God the Fa - ther be, All praise, e - ter - nal



praise a - rise; Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
tends Thy Word. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Son, to Thee. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Let the Re - deem - er's name be sung Through ev - 'ry land by
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore Till suns shall rise and
Whom with the Spir - it we a - dore For - ev - er and for -



ev - 'ry tongue. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
set no more. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
ev - er - more: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Public domain

Service Notes:

One person may serve as Leader or this may be shared with a number of individuals.

Read one or more of the lessons. Hymns may be sung or read. Use as much or little of this service as you would like.

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from are from The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Some liturgical portions are adapted from Lutheran Service Book © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Lutheran Service Book License: 10002731 Christ Lutheran Church, Stevensville, Michigan

Hymns are in the public domain. The remainder of this work including adaptations and the Devotional thoughts © 2023 Philip G. Quardokus. All rights reserved.

Enhancing Your Worship

Meditating on God's Word and Works

I will meditate on your wondrous works. Psalm 119:27
My eyes are awake through the night watches,
That I may meditate on Your word. Psalm 119:148 NKJV

The Week of The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost August 14 - 19, 2023

Introduction

Most modern forms of mediation turn a person inward. Biblical meditation turns a person outward toward what God has said and done especially what He has said and done through Jesus for our salvation.

Each Sunday has its own special theme directing us to meditate on God's word and actions. This theme is found in the Propers of the Day (the parts of the service that change week to week). From Advent through the Easter season these themes focus our attention on the life of Jesus from His birth to His death and resurrection. There is always much more in the propers than can be covered in any Sunday service. God willing, I will use the propers for Sunday to provide you with a devotion each day to help you meditate on what God has done for you.

Monday

- L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Verse Matthew 14:27

- L** Alleluia. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying
C "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." Alleluia.

Introit Psalm 34:4–8; antiphon 34:1

- L** I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
C I sought the Lord, and he answered me
and delivered me from all my fears.
L Those who look to him are radiant,
and their faces shall never be ashamed.
C This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him
and saved him out of all his troubles.
L The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him,
and delivers them.
C Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!
Blessèd is the man who takes refuge in him!
C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
L I will bless the Lord at all times;

his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
make known his deeds among the peoples!

Kyrie

L	O Lord,	C	Have Mercy on us.
L	O Christ,	C	Have Mercy on us.
L	O Lord,	C	Have Mercy on us.

David gives us a glimpse of his soul in the Psalms. Today, we hear him say, “This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him.”

David knows, as we should, that the only people who need God are those who see themselves as poor and weak. The arrogant and self-sufficient have no need for Him. That’s the way it has always been.

Mary echoed David’s sentiment in the Magnificat recorded in Luke 1:46-55.

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

⁵² he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

The humble turn to the Lord. Especially today, with all of our modern conveniences and technology, we are tempted to live with foolish pride. Many people believe that they have outgrown the Lord. Nevertheless, God has a way of bringing down the mighty.

When we recognize that we are “poor miserable sinners” and cry out, the Lord hears us. In His mercy, He delivers us from our fears and troubles. He forgives us for our sins and grants us life and salvation through faith in Jesus.

L Let us pray. O Lord, grant that we would always cry out to You in humility. Help us to taste and see that the Lord is good! Move us to take refuge in You through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God world without end.

C Amen

Tuesday

- L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Verse Matthew 14:27

- L** Alleluia. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying
C “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.” Alleluia.

Kyrie

- L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.
L O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.
L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

- L** Let us pray. Almighty and most merciful God, preserve us from all harm and danger that we, being ready in both body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish what You want done; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

Two of God’s attributes are that He is truly almighty and merciful. These two characteristics of God are a wonderful combination.

If God were almighty but not merciful, we would live in fear and trembling every day. We would be constantly afraid of God’s righteous wrath and punishment.

If God were merciful but not almighty, we would be thankful for His care and concern. However, His compassion would be meaningless if He had no power to help.

In Jesus, we see God’s power and compassion. Sin, death, and the Devil are defeated. This is something only God can do. He did it because of His great love and mercy for you.

This is summarized in the words of John 3:16, “God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

Prayer: Almighty and most merciful God, preserve us from all harm and danger that we, being ready in both body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish what You want done; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Wednesday

- L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Verse Matthew 14:27

- L** Alleluia. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying
C “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.” Alleluia.

Kyrie

- L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.
L O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.
L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

Psalm 18:1– 6

- L** ¹I love you, O LORD, my strength.
- C** ²**The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,
my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge,
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.**
- L** ³I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised,
and I am saved from my enemies.
- C** ⁴**The cords of death encompassed me;
the torrents of destruction assailed me;**
- L** ⁵the cords of Sheol entangled me;
the snares of death confronted me.
- C** ⁶**In my distress I called upon the LORD;
to my God I cried for help.
From his temple he heard my voice,
and my cry to him reached his ears.**

Psalm 18 is 50 verses long. It follows the theme for this week of God's care and protection for the weak and helpless.

We may not talk about it but we all have experienced trouble from enemies. Bullies and tormenters are the bane and curse of almost all school children.

In all types of private and public vocations, people experience intimidation and persecution. Even King David had these experiences. The superscription to Psalm 18 says, "A Psalm of David, the servant of the LORD, who addressed the words of this song to the LORD on the day when the LORD rescued him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul.

During these times of earthly distress, David reminds us that God is always there. He "is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold."

In every time of need, let us turn to the Lord for life and salvation.

Prayer: O Lord, in times of distress and persecution, move us to turn to You with our cries for help. Grant us the peace and calm that only You can give through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Thursday

- L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Verse Matthew 14:27

- L** Alleluia. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying
- C** "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." Alleluia.

Kyrie

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| L O Lord, | C Have Mercy on us. |
| L O Christ, | C Have Mercy on us. |
| L O Lord, | C Have Mercy on us. |

Job 38:4–18

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 sons of God shouted for joy?

⁸“Or who shut in the sea with doors
when it burst out from the womb,

⁹when I made clouds its garment
and thick darkness its swaddling band,

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

¹¹and said, ‘Thus far shall you come, and no farther,
and here shall your proud waves be stayed’?

¹²“Have you commanded the morning since your days began,
and caused the dawn to know its place,

¹³that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth,
and the wicked be shaken out of it?

¹⁴It is changed like clay under the seal,
and its features stand out like a garment.

¹⁵From the wicked their light is withheld,
and their uplifted arm is broken.

¹⁶“Have you entered into the springs of the sea,
or walked in the recesses of the deep?

¹⁷Have the gates of death been revealed to you,
or have you seen the gates of deep darkness?

¹⁸Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth?
Declare, if you know all this.

If anyone ever seemed to have the right to complain, it was Job. However, Job forgot what we also often forget. God is God and we are not!

It seems especially true today that people are bold to be critical of God. You often hear, “If God is so ... (loving, powerful, wise, etc.), He would ...

In Job 38, God reminds Job that he is out of his league when he dares to evaluate God and His actions. This is the height of arrogance and conceit. It is time for Job and all of us to pause and consider who exactly it is that we are criticizing.

Still, it is exceedingly wonderful to pause and consider that the Creator of the Universe and Ruler of All has chosen to make us His own in Christ.

Prayer: O Lord God, thank You for the gift of life and your daily protection of body and soul. Grant that we would in humility trust you and pray, Thy will be done. Amen.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

What does this mean? The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.

How is God's will done? God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die.

This is His good and gracious will.

Friday

L In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Verse Matthew 14:27

L Alleluia. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying

C "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." Alleluia.

Kyrie

L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

L O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.

L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

Romans 10:5–17

⁵For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them. ⁶But the righteousness based on faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷or "'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, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ¹¹For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

¹⁴But how are they to call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

¹⁶But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?"

¹⁷So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

As is so often the case, each week we are provided with so much to consider in God's word. This section of Romans gives us these wonderful words, "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

It has become common today to focus on divisions in America. The media is constantly reporting on differences in race, age, sex, language, culture, wealth, etc.

The Apostle Paul calls us to stop and consider this: In Christ, "there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him."

In Galatians 3:27-28, Paul expands upon this theme when he writes, "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

In Christ, we are all forgiven sinners. This is a breathtaking message. It is one that we cannot stop sharing.

Prayer: O God, thank You that You have made us all one in Christ. Grant us the desire and ability to continue to boldly share the message that “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved” through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Saturday

L In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Verse Matthew 14:27

L Alleluia. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying
C “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.” Alleluia.

Gradual Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.

L Fear the Lord, you his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing!
C Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.

Kyrie

L O Lord,	C Have Mercy on us.
L O Christ,	C Have Mercy on us.
L O Lord,	C Have Mercy on us.

We take a turn this week, the gradual has changed. Since June 11 the gradual has been Romans 11:33, 36
Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

Now through September 24, our gradual will be the words of Psalm 35:9, 19. During these weeks we will be reminded that God provides abundantly for His people. We also will be prompted to recall that God delivers us from every affliction.

These are reminders that we all need. Danger and distress are all around. We often give in to anxiety and fear. But with God at our side, we need not fear. He gives us our daily bread. He forgives our sins and delivers us from evil. He does all of this out of His Divine goodness and mercy for the sake of Christ.

Prayer:

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.

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from are from The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Enhancing Your Worship © 2023 Philip G. Quardokus. All rights reserved.