

***Risen Christ Lutheran Church
Arvada, Colorado***

Family Devotion in Absence

***Fifth Sunday after Trinity - July 12, 2020
Lutheran Service Book (LSB)***

OPENING HYMN *LSB 688* “‘Come, Follow Me,’ the Savior Spoke”

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

INTROIT *Psalm 27:1a, 7, 9b, 11-12, 14*

Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;

be gracious to me and answer me!

O you who have been my help,

forsake me not, O God of my salvation!

The LORD is my light and my salvation;

whom shall I fear?

Teach me your way, O LORD,

and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.

Give me not up to the will of my adversaries;

for false witnesses have risen against me, and they breathe out violence.

Wait for the LORD;

be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

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.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, You have prepared for those who love You good things that surpass all understanding. Pour into our hearts such love toward You that we, loving You above all things, may obtain Your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

OLD TESTAMENT *1 Kings 19:11-21*

¹¹ And he said, “Go out and stand on the mount before the LORD.” And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks 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 the sound of a low whisper. ¹³ And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁴ He said, “I have been very jealous for the LORD,

the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away.”¹⁵ And the LORD said to him, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus. And when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael to be king over Syria.”¹⁶ And Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel, and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place.¹⁷ And the one who escapes from the sword of Hazael shall Jehu put to death, and the one who escapes from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha put to death.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.”¹⁹ So he departed from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen in front of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and cast his cloak upon him.²⁰ And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah and said, “Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you.” And he said to him, “Go back again, for what have I done to you?”²¹ And he returned from following him and took the yoke of oxen and sacrificed them and boiled their flesh with the yokes of the oxen and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and went after Elijah and assisted him. (ESV)

GRADUAL *Psalm 84:9, 8*

Behold our shield, O God;

look on the face of your anointed!

O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer;

give ear, O God of Jacob!

EPISTLE *1 Corinthians 1:18-25*

¹⁸ For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” ²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. (ESV)

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 5:1-11*

¹ On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, ² and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. ³ Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. ⁴ And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.” ⁵ And Simon answered, “Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets.” ⁶ And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. ⁷ They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸ But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.” ⁹ For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that

they had taken, ¹⁰ and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.”
¹¹ And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him. (ESV)

SERMON HYMN LSB 682 “God of the Prophets, Bless the Prophets’ Sons”

SERMON

In all three of the Scripture readings for today, there is a contrast between the power of the world and the power of God.

The Old Testament reading shows that the power of God is not found in strong wind, a great earthquake, or in severe fire. Rather, the power of God is in a soft whisper of his Word. The world considers wind and earthquakes and fires with their destructive power to be impressive. Unbelievers imagine that God works through these things to force people into submission. But that is not how God works to bring about changes in people’s hearts. Instead, the power of God, which brings salvation, comes into people by the Holy Spirit through the gentle message of the Word of God.

In the Gospel reading, Peter and his business partners had been working hard all night. They were exerting human power to try to catch fish. Those of us who like to fish know that sometimes fishing is hard work; it can be physically and emotionally draining ... even with a rod and reel. Peter and company were using nets with which they fished; and that is really hard work with heavy equipment. They used their physical power to try to accomplish their goals (which is good and noble even in God’s sight, especially in a culture such as ours where hard work is often avoided in favor of a handout). But Peter and company accomplished nothing. Only at the simple word of Christ did they catch even more of an abundance of fish than they could haul in. Not even dynamite fishing could produce such results. Only the gentle Word of Christ could render such a haul of fish. Again, God’s power outperformed worldly human power, simply by saying the word.

In the Epistle reading, St. Paul states that the Word of God, especially and specifically the message of the cross of Christ, is viewed as weak and foolish by unbelievers. He says, “the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” Later, the reading states that for us who have been called by God through the Gospel, “Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.” The world thinks that suffering and the moment of death are when people are weakest, and from a human perspective that is true. But the suffering and death of Christ on the cross was the most powerful event in history. It was much more powerful than a trillion atomic bombs. The death of Christ is the powerful means by which our sins were atoned for; and the message of the cross not only changes people physically and temporally, but Spiritually and eternally. That “foolish” word of Christ’s suffering and death in your place to pay for yours sins is the power by which the Holy Spirit comes into you to change you from the inside out and give you eternal life now by faith and hereafter for all eternity through the resurrection of Christ from the dead. As the apostle says, “it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.”

As we live in a world that seems to be sinking further and further into chaos (especially if we watch too much of the news lately), we will do well to pay attention to the powerful Word of God. The Gospel of Christ, as well as the entire Holy Scripture, is not the power that the world recognizes. No one is forced into the Kingdom of God. Rather, God calls us by the Gospel and

draws us to himself through his Spirit and faith. So we can acknowledge, confess, and conclude as Luther did in his explanation to the third article of the creed, “I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church, He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day, He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.” Amen!

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER HYMN *LSB 644 “The Church’s One Foundation”*

COLLECT FOR THE WORD

Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

LORD’S 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.

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless us and keep us.
The Lord make his face shine on us and be gracious to us.
The Lord look upon us with favor and give us peace. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN *LSB 578 “Thy Strong Word”*

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Exodus 20:1-17; Romans 6:1-11;
Matthew 5:17-26.

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