



TWELFTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST

The Christian answers doubt with faith. Doubt is the unfortunate companion of faith. Wherever faith clings to the promises of God, doubt is always right there lingering in the back of our mind, constantly asking the serpent's Garden question, "Did God really say?" How striking to think that we must have faith in God before we can doubt him! Today's lessons show us believers who had faith in God and his abilities to save them, but yet doubted when his plans or purpose failed to match theirs. In each case, it is adversity that fights against faith and allows its unfortunate companion to rear its ugly head. And in each case, the true answer to doubt is not found in the great miracle that removes adversity, but in the still small voice of our Savior God whispering in his Word. Today we hear our Savior God ask us, "Why did you doubt?", and we see that the Christian answers doubt with faith.

6:30PM Wednesday, August 19, 2020

Rev. James Schumann, guest preacher

***We welcome all to our worship service today,
especially our guests.
We respectfully request that all personal electronic devices
be silenced while in the building. Thank you.***

While we rejoice that we are open for worship services, we do need to use a common sense approach to gathering for worship.

The state mandate for masks in a public gathering began August 1. We will follow the guidance of our government unless something we are to do is contrary to Scripture. Wearing a mask is not contrary to Scripture.

If you are a person who cannot wear a mask for some reason, please be sure to distance yourself when you come to church. Masks will be available at church, as is hand sanitizer.

We have returned to the shortened orders of service that we used when the Safer at Home order was in effect to reduce the amount of time we will be in the public worship service.

To maintain a safe distance between worshipers in the sanctuary some pews have been blocked from use, please sit only in the pews without this signage; limited seating in chairs will be available behind the pews and in the choir section; if needed, chairs will be set up in the narthex.

At this time we request that worshipers refrain from using the pew Hymnals and Bibles. The entire service is printed out in the service folder.

After the service, to maintain safety and order, please exit the sanctuary at the direction of our ushers. Take your service folder home to reuse or recycle in order to limit the number of people handling them. You may greet the pastor at the door, but please save chatting with him for later so you do not hold up the line behind you.

**The Wednesday service is being recorded to post to our website.
The Sunday service is being shared on Facebook Live.**

**Today's Order of Service has been printed out in in this service folder.
Printed and recorded under OneLicense.net #A-717066**

Evening Devotion: © 1993 Northwestern Publishing House (NPH),
Milwaukee WI All Rights Reserved. Used with Permission
Confession and Absolution: © 2008 Northwestern Publishing House

All of today's hymns are found in the pew hymnal
"Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal" (CW). © 1993 NPH

*All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the Holy Bible,
New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011
by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan.*

We Thank God with Our Offerings: *No plates will be passed; please place your offering in
the basket by the sanctuary doors. This offering is taken to support our congregation's
work of spreading the message of Jesus Christ, within the congregation, at Shepherd of
the Valley Lutheran School, and by supporting mission work.*
***A freewill offering will also be gathered today for WLCFS, our Mission Festival
emphasis this year. Thank you to all who have previously returned the special
offering envelope provided.***

Preparation for the Worship Service

*It is good to see friends and to visit with them. Please do so in the narthex so that those
wishing to have a quiet place for meditation may do so in the sanctuary.
If you would like the pastor to contact you, fill out one of the welcome cards in the hymnal
rack and place it in the offering basket and, after the service, please sign
the guest register in the narthex.*

A hearing loop has been installed in the sanctuary.
Headphones are available for those without hearing aids
who would like hearing assistance.

Parents with Children

*We are pleased to have your children at the worship service today.
Speakers have been mounted in the narthex; the service can be
heard throughout the building.
Both of the restrooms have a changing station for your child.*

Greeting by the minister

Please Stand

OPENING DIALOGUE:

Minister: Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world,

Congregation: The light no darkness can overcome.

M: Stay with us, for it is evening,

C: And the day is almost over.

M: Let your light scatter the darkness.

C: Let it shine in our hearts and lives. Amen.

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

M: Let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.

C: Almighty God, merciful Father,

I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart.

In what I have done and left undone,

I have pursued my ways instead of your ways.

I have not loved my brothers and sisters as myself.

For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity.

I am truly sorry for my sins.

I repent of them.

I beg for your mercy, O Lord.

Silence for meditation.

M: Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ who suffered and died for us.

C: Cleanse me from my sins.

Release me from my guilt.

Grant me your Holy Spirit to amend my sinful life.

M: The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all.

For his sake, God forgives our sins and calls us from darkness to his marvelous light.

Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

M: Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please Be Seated

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Romans 9:1-5

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.

⁹ I speak the truth in Christ—I am not lying, my conscience confirms it through the Holy Spirit—

² I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart.

³ For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race,

⁴ the people of Israel. theirs is the adoption to sonship; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises.

⁵ theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of the Messiah, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY: CW Hymn 405

"Oh, for a Faith that Will Not Shrink"

405

Oh, for a Faith that Will Not Shrink



1 Oh, for a faith that will not shrink Though
 2 That will not mur - mur nor com - plain Be -
 3 A faith that shines more bright and clear When
 4 That bears un - moved the world's dread frown Nor
 5 A faith that keeps the nar - row way Till



pressed by man - y a foe, That will not trem - ble
 neath the chas - t'ning rod, But in the hour of
 tem - pests rage with - out, That, when in dan - ger,
 heeds its scorn - ful smile, That sin's wild o - cean
 life's last spark is fled And with a pure and



on the brink Of pov - er - ty or woe,
 grief or pain Can lean up - on its God,
 knows no fear, In dark - ness feels no doubt,
 can - not drown Nor Sa - tan's arts be - guile,
 heav'n - ly ray Lights up the dy - ing bed.

6 Lord, give us such a faith as this,
 And then, whate'er may come,
 We'll taste e'en now the hallowed bliss
 Of an eternal home.

Text: William H. Bathurst, 1796-1877.

Tune: ST. PETER (CM) Alexander R. Reinagle, 1799-1877.

SERMON: based on Matthew 14:22-33
“Walk on Water”

²² Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd.

²³ After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray.

Later that night, he was there alone,

²⁴ and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

²⁵ Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake.

²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified.

“It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear.

²⁷ But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”

²⁸ “Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.”

²⁹ “Come,” he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out,

“Lord, save me!”

³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him.

“You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?”

³² And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down.

³³ Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying,

“Truly you are the Son of God.”

Please Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH and THE LORD’S PRAYER:

M: Lord God heavenly Father, we give you hearty thanks that you have called us out of the darkness of spiritual ignorance through the light of your gospel, that you have called us out of the darkness of sin and eternal death to the light of eternal life through Christ, and that you have called us forth from a life of sin to a life of service freely given to you.

C: **Endow us richly with the Holy Spirit, dispelling our doubts and confusion and keeping us faithful and true to your Word.**

M: Do not permit us to stray from your Word in the slightest, and help us through diligent use of the Scriptures to grow in knowledge, to abound in faith, and to be strengthened in our inner man. Enable us both by word and deed to make a good profession of our faith before the world. Direct our footsteps along the path of righteousness.

C: **Help us subdue our sinful flesh and prevent us from being dazzled by the attractions of this world. Restrain the devil and his wicked angels lest they threaten our faith and strike terror in our hearts.**

M: Create in us humble hearts so that we daily make confession of our sins.
For Jesus' sake forgive our sins and put our consciences to rest.

C: Fill our hearts with such gratitude for your salvation that we gladly set about to bring the light of the gospel to those who are without Christ and without hope.

M: Keep us from all thoughts, all speech, all desires, all deeds, which do not glorify the precious name of our Savior. Cause every Christian virtue to flourish in our lives. Teach us to pray without ceasing. Through the Spirit put into our minds and hearts the things we ought to ask of you and the names of those for whom our prayers are needed.

C: Father, be our Strength, our Hope, and our Light. Guide and keep us through the years that remain until by grace in Christ we come to eternal life.

Special Prayers and Intercessions (optional, read by the minister)

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent Prayer

M: Dear heavenly Father, as a new school year begins, we pray for the men and women who have been called to teach your holy Word and to lead others in the way of faith and love. By the power of the Holy Spirit, enable them to understand the teachings of the Bible and to express them in language others can grasp. Give them wisdom to present Jesus as the only Savior of sinners and to teach the commandments by which we are to live as your dear children.

C: Grant that we may be respectful and profitable hearers that we may remember and do what the Bible teaches.

M: Dear Lord, we pray for all children. All have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus, and are therefore precious in your sight. Bring them to the knowledge of the Truth, that they may know their Savior and trust in him. Give them faithful teachers who will instruct them further in the saving truth of the Bible. Warn them against wrongdoing, and teach them by word and example to live as Christians in this wicked world. Fill their hearts with true love of your Word and prompt them to study it thoughtfully. Enable them to honor and obey their parents, teachers, and government, to work and study well, and to develop and use their talents for you.

C: Dear Savior, keep the children close to you, and let none of them perish, but bring them to their eternal home in heaven. 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

PRAYER FOR PEACE:

M: Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies, that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING:

M: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God our Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

C: Amen

Please Be Seated

CLOSING HYMN: CW Hymn 439

“Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me”

TRUST

439

Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me



1 Lord, take my hand and lead me Up - on life's way;
2 Lord, when the tem - pest ra - ges, I need not fear;
3 Lord, when the shad - ows length - en And night has come,



Di - rect, pro - tect, and feed me From day to day.
For you, the Rock of A - ges, Are al - ways near.
I know that you will strength - en My steps toward home,



With - out your grace and fa - vor I go a - stray;
Close by your side a - bid - ing, I fear no foe,
And noth - ing can im - pede me, O bless - ed Friend!



So take my hand, O Sav - ior, And lead the way.
For when your hand is guid - ing, In peace I go.
So take my hand and lead me Un - to the end.

Text: Julie K. von Hausmann, 1825–1901; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, Minneapolis, 1978. © 1978
Lutheran Book of Worship. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission of Augsburg Fortress.
Tune: SO NIMM DENN MEINE HÄNDE (74 74 D) P. Friedrich Silcher, 1789–1860.