

THE 11TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 13, 2023



Christ Lutheran Church of St. Catharines, ON

140 Russell Avenue
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1
Church: 905-685-8294
www.christlutheransc.ca

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon
Bulletin Announcements: Please send to secretary@christlutheransc.ca.
Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

Pastor: Pastor Todd Hoeffs (289-362-0113) pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com
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A recording of Sunday's service will be uploaded to YouTube at:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpING_TKT19c_OIBbMqGwLw

Prayer: Let Your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend Your Church and because it cannot continue in safety without Your help, protect and govern it always by Your goodness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:

Monday: 1 Tim. 2:1-7 Wednesday: 1 Pet. 2: 13-16 Friday: Jer. 18: 1-6
Tuesday: Neh. 4: 1-15 Thursday: Rom. 13: 1-7 Saturday: Rom. 9:1-5

Musician: Mayumi Munoz
Reader: Tom Kuhl
Greeter:

EVENTS THIS WEEK:

Wednesday: 6:00 p.m. – Praise Band Practice
7:00 p.m. – “Canvas for a Cause” Fundraiser for SOUL

August 2023 Worship Schedule:

Today: Aug 13 – Pentecost 11 Creative Worship Holy Communion
Aug 20 – Pentecost 12 Scripture & Song Service [The Band]
Aug 27 – Pentecost 13/ Communion LSB Setting One



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 7 P.M.
“Canvas for a Cause”
in support of our SOUL program

Participants will be guided through painting an 11” x 14” acrylic landscape.
All supplies and light refreshments provided.
\$25 per person.
Bring a friend and find your inner artist!
See Jenn Hoeffs to register.

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION SERVICE FOR JASON GILLARD: August 27th, 4:00 p.m. at Christ Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Grimsby (**updated location**). Saulo Bledoff will preach. Liturgist - Joel Kuhl, Lector - Richard Juritsch. A dinner will follow the service.



FAMILY DAY "MINI GOLF"

at Brock Mini-Golf

Saturday, September 9, 2:00 pm

FRIENDS ARE WELCOME!

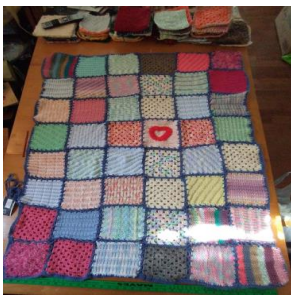
Please sign up in the narthex if you plan to attend !!



LOOKING AHEAD: Watch for details in the Fall for a **WESTERN JAMBOREE** event like we enjoyed before Covid. The Fellowship Committee is planning to do it again on **Saturday, September 30th**, just for fellowship fun. Cost would be only to cover expenses. Fun things like a live band, pulled pork & beans, photo booth, etc. It should be a lot of fun, watch bulletin for more details as it gets closer.



ONTARIO DISTRICT LWML-C FALL RALLY: "Follow the Road Retreat", Ontario District Christ Growth Retreat, Cambridge, Friday, October 13 14. More info to follow. **Registration due September 5TH**.



Granny Squares still needed: This is an ongoing project we will gratefully accept more completed 6 inch knitted or crocheted Granny Squares in any pattern or colour. We would also appreciate any yarn that you may have, leftover yarn or full balls of yarn. In the narthex there is a white cube with yarn and hooks that you are welcome to take (or donate). There is another basket for completed squares. Once there are enough, we will make a Caring Squares blanket for whoever may be in need of a hug. On behalf of the Caring Squares, if you have any questions, call Lorraine at 905 964 5837)

<u>Last Sunday Attendance:</u>		<u>August 6th, 2023</u>		<u>Attn: 10 a.m. – 66</u>	
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Weekly Need</u>	<u>Last Sunday</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>	<u>+ or – (--)</u>
Current	297,841.00	5,840.02	1,623.00	119,978.91	(40,397.91
LCC Missions	17,000.00	333.33	65.00	9,679.50	315.65
Property Improvement:			54.00	3,327.50	

FLOWERS have been placed on the altar this morning to the glory of God by Tim & Elly Reck on the occasion of their Wedding Anniversary.

2023/2024 SUNDAY SCHOOL: The Christian education of our children is important to all of us. We are looking for people to help "team teach" our Sunday school children this year; September - December; January - June. If you are excited to share God's Word with inquisitive minds we invite you to speak with our Parish Education Chairman, Brandon Kemp, or Louise.

GREETERS: A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board and we would ask that anyone who is interested in assisting for the coming year to please sign up. It is a wonderful opportunity to get to know everyone in the congregation.

POWER POINT VOLUNTEERS: – The Worship Committee is urgently seeking two (2) volunteers to assist with the preparation of the weekly PowerPoint projection. Frequency of PowerPoint preparation would be on a rotating basis and dependent upon the number of helpers. PLEASE give prayerful consideration to serving our Lord in this capacity. For more information, please speak to Kathy Kuhl, Judy Slingerland or Pastor Todd.

BREAD OF LIFE CREATIVE LUTHERAN WORSHIP SETTING

The 11th Sunday after Pentecost
August 13, 2023 + 10 AM Worship

OPENING HYMN:

"God Loves Me Dearly"

LSB # 392 VS. 1, 3 & 5

**God loves me dearly, grants me salvation,
God loves me dearly, loves even me.**

*Refrain: Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly, loves even me.*

**He sent forth Jesus, my dear Redeemer,
He sent forth Jesus, and set me free.**

*Refrain: Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly, loves even me.*

**Now I will praise You, O love Eternal;
Now I will praise You, all my life long.**

*Refrain: Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly, loves even me.*

Words: A Rische, 1819-1906; German tune: GOTT IS DI LIEB

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS:

In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

O God our Father, since You have set forth the way of life for us in Your beloved Son, we confess our slowness to learn of Him, our failure to follow Him, our reluctance to bear the cross:

Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.

Forgive our poverty of worship, our neglect of fellowship and the Sacraments of grace, our hesitating witness for Christ, our evasion of responsibility in Your service, our imperfect stewardship of Your gifts:

Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.

Forgive us that so little of Your love has reached others through us, that we have been thoughtless in our judgements, hasty in condemnation, grudging in reconciling, unwilling to help all in need:

Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.

Have mercy on us, O God:

According to Your never-ending love, blot out our sins, wash us through and through from sinful stains, creating clean hearts in us, with new and right spirits. Amen.

With mercy and compassion, our Father in Heaven saves you. The Light of the promised Holy Spirit guides your feet into the way of peace. And so in the place of Jesus Christ and by His Holy Command, I forgive you all of your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SPOKEN KYRIE: Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

HYMN OF PRAISE:

(Tune: Hymn to Joy)



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

We pray: O Almighty God, Everlasting Father, You are always more ready to hear than we are to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve. Pour out upon us the abundance of Your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our consciences is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merit of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE WORD

The Old Testament: *Job 38:4-18*

"Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy? "Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb, when I made clouds its garment and thick darkness its swaddling band, and prescribed limits for it and set bars and doors, and said, 'Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stayed'? "Have you commanded the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place, that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth, and the wicked be shaken out of it? It is changed like clay under the seal, and its features stand out like a garment. From the wicked their light is withheld, and their uplifted arm is broken. "Have you entered into the springs of the sea, or walked in the recesses of the deep? Have the gates of death been revealed to you, or have you seen the gates of deep darkness? Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth? Declare, if you know all this. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle: *Romans 10: 5-17*

[St. Paul writes:] For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them. But the righteousness based on faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) "or 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But 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); because, 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. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How then will they 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? And 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!" But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

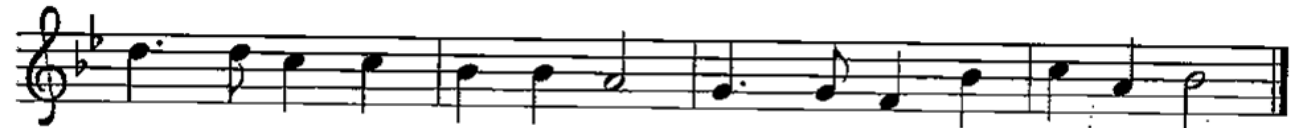
[Tune: "Open Now Thy Gates"]



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

The Holy Gospel: *St. Matthew 14:22-33*

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

Glory to You, O Lord.

Immediately [Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

THE 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 the 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 worshipped 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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL SONG:

"How Can I Keep From Singing?"

www.Hymnary.org



1. My life flows on in end-less song. A -
 2. Through all the tu - mult and the strife I
 3. What though my joys and com-fort die? The
 4. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, A



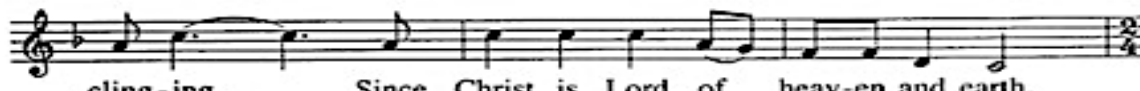
bove earth's lam - en - ta - tion I hear the clear though
 hear that mu - sic ring - ing. It finds an ech - o
 Lord my sav - ior liv - eth. What though the dark - ness
 foun - tain ev - er spring-ing! All things are mine since



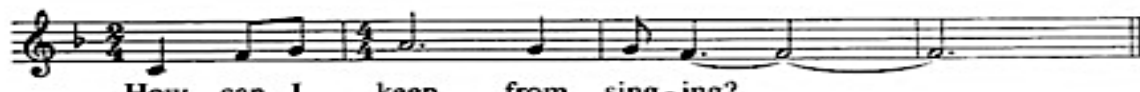
far - off hymn That hails a new cre - a - tion.
 in my soul. How can I keep from sing - ing?
 gath - er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
 I am his! How can I keep from sing - ing?



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, alt.
 Tune: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING, 8 7 8 7 with refrain; Robert Lowry, 1826-1899; harm. by Robert J. Batistoni, S. 1942, © 1988, GIA Publications, Inc.

MESSAGE

THE OFFERINGS *are gathered*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:

Let us pray for the church, the world, and all people according to their need. Holy Father, we bow in adoration before your majesty. We stand in awe of your wisdom, power, and goodness. And we thank you for your strong saving love, made real for us in your dear Son. Send us your Spirit, so we boldly hear His call and live in the light of Christ.

Lord, in your mercy, ***Hear our Prayer.***

Send your Church people into every corner of the world to preach the Gospel of salvation through Christ alone. By your Spirit, give her humility, faith, and courage to proclaim your holy Word with faithful clarity and winsome charity.

Lord, in your mercy, ***Hear our Prayer.***

Protect this congregation from storms of contention, controversy, and confusion. Shelter us, and help us trust you. Help us to say in word and deed, "We love you, O Lord our strength, O Lord our stronghold, our God, our rock in whom we put our trust, our shield, and our refuge; you are worthy of praise!"

Lord, in your mercy, ***Hear our Prayer.***

Look kindly upon those who are overwhelmed by winds and waves of grief and suffering. We know they sometimes feel abandoned by others – and even by you. Help us to encourage, strengthen, and aid them. Help us to take their hand and walk with them across their stormy seas, towards the nail-scarred hands of Jesus, who alone can lift them up and save them.

Lord, in your mercy, ***Hear our Prayer.***

Shield us from natural disasters and from human interferences. Come down, O Lord, on the wings of wind! Speak your word of peace upon the troubled earth and every human heart; and reign undisturbed as King and Lord of all.

Lord, in your mercy, ***Hear our Prayer.***

We lift them before you all who need comfort and shelter, healing and hope – including: {List}. Save them from everything that threatens to undo them. Lead them to a place of new life and strength. Bless everyone who cares for them in any way.

Lord, in your mercy, ***Hear our Prayer.***

Give to us, who still sail life's stormy seas, faith to call upon you in confidence and hope. Give us love to encourage and help our neighbor in distress. And give us hope, that clinging to your Son for dear life, we come safely into your embrace. Grant that we, with all whom you have redeemed, may sing with joy and worship you forever.

Lord, in your mercy, ***Hear our Prayer.***

Hear our prayer, O Father, and grant all that glorifies you and builds up your people.

This we ask for Jesus' sake. **Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts! **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

It is truly good, right and joyful that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Holy Father, Almighty and Everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord: Who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and all the company of Heaven, we praise Your glorious name and join their un-ending hymn:

SANCTUS

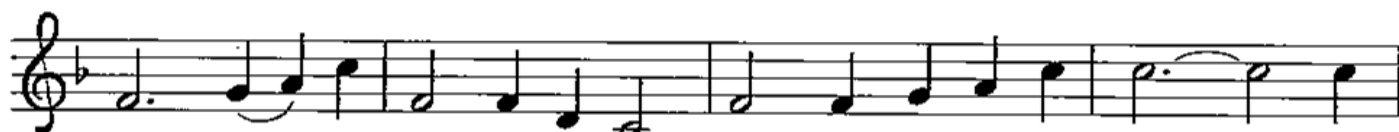
[Jerusalem, My Happy Home tune]



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE LORD'S PRAYER: *"Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name..."*

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

Our Lord, Jesus Christ, on the night in which He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying: "Take, eat; This is My + Body which is given for you, this do, in remembrance of Me. In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying "Drink of it all of you, this cup is the New Testament in My + Blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always:

And also with you.

LAMB OF GOD

(Tune: Twenty-Fourth)
S 208



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMUNION HYMNS:

"Eternal Father, Strong To Save"

Reprinted from www.hymnary.org



1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm has bound the
2 O Sav - ior, whose al - might - y word the winds and waves sub -
3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, who did brood up - on the cha - os
4 O Trin - i - ty of love and power, all trav - elers guard in



rest - less wave, who bade the might - y o - cean deep its
mis - sive heard, who walked up - on the foam - ing deep, and
wild and rude, and bade its an - gry tu - mult cease, and
dan - ger's hour; from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -



own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: O hear us when we
calm a - mid its rage did sleep: O hear us when we
gave, for fierce con - fu - sion, peace: O hear us when we
tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er - more shall



cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
rise to thee glad praise from air and land and sea.

"Meekness & Majesty"

Graham Kendrick © 1986

♩ = 112 C F/C Am Cmaj7 Am7

1. Meek ness and maj - es - ty, man - hood and de - i - ty,
 2. Fa ther's pure ra - di - ance, per - fect in in - no - cence;
 3. Wis dom un - search - a - ble, God, the in - vis - i - ble;

5 C F/C Am D7 G C F/C C/B♭

in per - fect har - mo - ny, the Man who is God. Lord of e - ter - ni - ty,
 Yet learns o - be - di - ence to death on a cross. Suf - f'ring to give us life,
 Love in - de - struct - i - ble in frail - ty ap - pears. Lord of in - fin - i - ty,

11 F B°/F F♯°7 Em Am F C/G G

dwells in hu - man - i - ty; Kneels in hu - mil - i - ty and wash - es our
 con - qu'ring through sac - ri - fice; And as they cru - ci - fy prays, "Fa - ther, for -
 stoop - ing so ten - der - ly; Lifts our hu - man - i - ty to the heights of His

CHORUS

16 C Dm2 Dm Dm7 Dsus/G G E E7 Esus/A Am

feet. O what a mys - ter - y, meek - ness and maj - es - ty;
 give."
 throne.

21 F F♯°7 C/G Am Dm7 G Gsus G B♭9

Bow down and wor - ship, for this is your God,

G A♭ Gm11 C

this is your God.

Ending:

"The Son Of God Proclaim"

[*"For All Your Saints O Lord"* tune --Festal Song]

**The Son of God proclaim, the Lord of time and space;
The God who bade the light break forth now shines in Jesus' face.**

**He, God's creative Word, the church's Lord and Head,
Here bids us gather as his friends, and share His wine and bread.**

**Behold his outstretched hands; though all is in his pow'r,
He took the towel and basin then, and serves us in this hour.**

**The Lord of life and death with wondering praise we sing;
We share the bread at his request, and praise Him God and King.**

**We take His cup in hope; For he, who gladly bore
The shameful cross, is ris'n again and reigns for evermore.**

Text: Basil Bridge, 1927- present <http://ehymnbook.org/CMMS/hymnSong.php?id=pd03599>

"Once In Those Blest Baptismal Waters"



1 Once in those blest bapt - is - mal wat - ers I put on Christ and



made Him mine; now num - bered with God's sons and daugh - ters,



I share His peace and love di - vine; O God, for Je - sus'



sake I pray Your peace may bless me ev - ry - day.

**2 His Body and His Blood I've taken in His blest Supper, feast divine;
Now I shall never be forsaken, for I am His and He is mine;
O God, for Jesus' sake I pray, Your peace may bless me ev'ryday.**

**3 By grace to timid hearts that tremble, in tribulation's furnace tried,
By grace, in spite of fear and trouble, the Father's heart is open wide.
O God, for Jesus' sake I pray, Your peace may bless me ev'ryday.**

**4 And now I live in God contented and die without a thought of fear.
My soul has to God's plans consented, for through His Son my faith is clear.
O God, for Jesus' sake I pray, Your peace may bless me ev'ryday.**

Words: Emilie von Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt, 1637-1706; trans. 1941 © Concordia Publishing House

Music: Cornelius Dretzel, 1697-1775; trans. 1941 © Concordia Publishing House PUBLIC DOMAIN reprinted with limited worship use permission www.hymnary.org LSB

POST COMMUNION HYMN: "O Lord, Now Let" [The Day Of Resurrection tune]

**O Lord, now let Your servant
Depart in heav'nly peace,
For I have seen the glory
Of your redeeming grace:
A light to lead the Gentiles
Unto your holy hill,
The glory of Your people,
Your chosen Israel.**

Words: Henry Smart, public domain:

Tune: "The Day of Resurrection"

https://hymnary.org/text/o_lord_now_let_thy_servant#pagescans

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

Let us pray: Pour out upon us Your blessed Holy Spirit, O Lord, that we who have shared in this Holy Communion feast of Your Body and Blood may find strength in the Fellowship and Confession of the One True Faith which sends us forth to proclaim Your redeeming love to the world and prepare us joyfully to see You face to face in glory; Who with the Father and the Spirit You live and reign as one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION: 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 favour + and give you peace. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN:

"Jesus, Saviour, Pilot Me"

www.hymnary.orgELW



1 Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me o - ver
2 As a moth - er stills her child, thou canst
3 When at last I near the shore, and the



life's tem - pes - tuous sea; un - known waves be - fore me
hush the o - cean wild; bois - t'rous waves o - bey thy
fear - ful break - ers roar twixt me and the peace - ful



roll, hid - ing rock and treach - 'rous shoal; chart and
will when thou say'st to them: "Be still." Won - drous
rest, then, while lean - ing on thy breast, may I



com - pass come from thee. Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me.
sov - 'reign of the sea, Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me.
hear thee say to me: "Fear not, I will pi - lot thee."

WORDS: Edward Hopper, 1871 (Mt. 8:23-27; Mk. 4:35-41; Lk. 8:22-25)
MUSIC: John E. Gould, 1871

PILOT
77.77.77

<https://issuu.com/redeemerat/docs/wednesday23.3.15>

LITURGY NOTE: BREAD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CREATIVE WORSHIP SETTING is adapted from the Lutheran Church of Australia website for worship & Holy Communion setting 10 from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Augsburg Fortress, © 1997, 2006 & 2011: all hymns & music such as Hymn to Joy, Unser Herrscher, Land of Rest, Twenty Fourth & Stephanos have been re-printed with limited permission from www.hymnary.org.

REV. TODD HOEFFS

PENTECOST 11

Scripture: St. Matthew 14:22-33

“Jesus Asleep At The Wheel!”

August 13, 2023

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

Sink or swim. My dad said that a lot. Growing up on a Wisconsin farm, many the time his siblings or friends jumped into a pond or creek learning to swim, or sink.

Some guys he served with in the army got thrown into swimming pools

Forcing them to sink---or swim. Very familiar to fisherman Peter's heart.

Water is his whole life. Navigating boats, mending nets, catching and selling fish.

It's been a busy time. He goes from a miraculous feast to mind-numbing fear.

Peter just passed out bread and fish multiplied by Christ to over 5,000 people in a desolate place. No time to sit and savor. Jesus hurriedly rushes Peter and the others into a boat and literally pushes them out into the Galilean Sea. They reluctantly go.

Can you blame them? Can't get far on dark waters. The Hebrew name for this sea means ROAR. Like a lion. For a small body of water, it kicks up terrible weather.

They know the sea. I'm sure they feel the storm coming. We forget how most ancient people viewed sea as a cosmic threat. As the winds kick up and the waves wash over their little boat, Jesus' disciples are not thinking Biblically here. It's also late.

The 4th watch of the night is between 2:30 and 6 AM. They are headed for danger, Jesus is alone, praying. Unaware, the inner circle of disciples will be fast asleep at the 4th watch when Jesus prays that the cup of suffering pass by in Gethsemane's garden.

Jesus will also vacate the garden tomb at the end of the 4th watch on Easter morning

Sharing His presence with women and disciples. This is preparing them for all that is to come.

But the last reason they're disinterested in sailing Is the OTHER side is Gentile country.

Romans. "Public sinners". Outcasts. Night brings so much unknown.

"The wind is against them." No matter how hard they try, They can't reach shore.

No doubt they're exhausted. This is more than just a story of fear and rescue.

He's teaching them about what really matters. There aren't enough supports in the world to keep a boat afloat On rough waters apart from trusting in God. The darkness and turbulence

and the night time emphasize the demonic world at work to inhibit and be an obstacle before Saviour's work. Jesus goes where no fisherman ever expected anyone to go, He walks on top

of the water. He looks like a ghost to them.

Makes me wonder if they mistake Jesus for a ghost Because His Body is showing a little bit of divinity, some light, glowing, as in a beacon sharing light for them to see?

Like a formidable Maritimes lighthouse? Almost like the glory radiating from His garments like lightning when He stood on the Mount of Transfiguration. Jesus comes to us in both divine ways and human ways. Sometimes we need a more divine jolt;

other times a gentler touch with human help. It's still Jesus rescuing us.

He is the focus. And yet fear is their 1st reaction. We are so used to the predictable.

When things happen apart from what's expected All of us get afraid and anxious and worry.

It's hard to pivot and change course. Peter boldly asks "command me to come, Lord." He

expects in this moment That one word from Jesus and His life power is transferable to him.

Considering all of the fear, That is a huge image of faith in a storm. Jesus' Word back to Peter

is NOT a command. It's a gentle loving invitation, COME the kind of invite where the sender knows the person will come before He asks.

Just on that one word Peter gets out of the boat. A career fisherman trusting Jesus' word COME. If Jesus can walk on the surface of the water, So can Peter.

This means, if Peter can walk on the water, So can we. Eyes are on Jesus.

He is the focus. He is our purpose. He is the person from Whom we draw our identity as God's Children. Peter walks on the water as He looks at Jesus. I know we often use the phrase "walking on water" in a negative way, When we expect too much from another person. Or if someone is so arrogant they feel they're perfect.

That's not this. When we are focused on Jesus, When our life is wrapped up tightly in His, We walk on water. We overcome a problem. We manage pain. We pray more often. We trust more. We walk away with medical tests whatever the result with peace.

When does Peter stop walking on water and immediately sinks? As he looks down.

He remembers his fear. Oh my!? Doesn't that hit so close to our hearts too?!

When we look at ourselves, when we ask why me, or poor me, why am I not good enough or strong enough or perfect enough? When we think we can or have to do like all alone We sink.

We lose faith. Fear is easy to remember. But Peter also remembers courage. SAVE ME LORD. Save us Lord. Jesus is our focus. He always leads us to the edge of our own resources or we never transfer into the Absolute Source, Who is Jesus. He dismantles our need thinking somehow maybe we can generate the energy needed to face each day. That we have the power or know-how or muscle for this.

Jesus is the source Jesus is the focus. Jesus is the way our eyes see and our hearts connect. It is a life of trust. Doubt isn't the opposite of faith. Certainty is the opposite of faith. Wanting a guarantee all will end happily ever after is not faith.

Faith isn't a divine warranty. Faith is a relationship, a bond of trust,

A life washed in water and sealed in Blood. Baptismal water and Jesus' Blood.

This is why we are not filled with certainty but confidence. Confidence is courage in whatever comes your way Because Jesus is your source, your light, your life, your future. Little faith isn't no faith either. Little faith sometimes trusts in the louder voices out there [or ones that play in our minds] Or the boom of troubles – Rather than trusting in the still small voice Or the support which feels non-existent. We have small and great faith. We have trust issues and yet believe with our whole hearts.

That's faith life of any human in this world. Because Jesus lived the good and the bad, And as both divine and human got hit with the most Horrific storm on the cross.

The rush of evil, the waves of human sin, generations of waywardness and rebellion past, present and future. All washing over His Body, beating Him, stripping Him of flesh, blood and dignity. And while this storm killed Him,

At the end At the last watch, He rose back to life. He has gone back to His throne in Heaven, But He is also within each of you.

He is the way you view the world around you.

He is the way you live.

It's not about sink or swim,

It's about walking on all waters

With eyes anchored to Jesus Christ.

Amen.

But Whom Do You Say That I AM?

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

Advocate
 Almighty
 Alpha and Omega
 Amen
 Apostle
 Beloved Son
 Bishop
 Branch
 Bread
 Captain
 Carpenter
 Chosen
 Christ
 Consolation
 Cornerstone
 Counselor
 Day Star
 Deliverer

Door
 Emmanuel
 Everlasting
 Faithful and True
 First and Last
 Forerunner
 Foundation
 Governor
 Head
 High Priest
 Holy and Just One
 Horn of Salvation
 I AM
 Jesus
 Judge
 King
 King of Kings
 Lamb of God

Lawgiver
 Life
 Light
 Lion of Judah
 Lord
 Lord of Lords
 Master
 Master
 Mediator
 Messiah
 Mighty God
 Morning Star
 Nazarene
 Only Begotten Son
 Passover
 Priest
 Prince of Peace
 Prophet

Redeemer
 Resurrection
 Rock
 Savior
 Servant
 Shepherd
 Son of David
 Son of God
 Son of Man
 Vine
 Way
 Wonderful
 Word

