



8th Sunday after Pentecost – July 18, 2021

WELCOME

We welcome everyone to worship this Eighth Sunday after Pentecost. How we love to make a mess of things! First we want to do everything by ourselves; then when we fail, we say God doesn't care. God promises that he will not leave or forsake us even in disaster, even in death. Trust him; he promises his care and proves his love continually. Find him in his saving Word! May the Lord bless your worship!

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Heavenly Father, I have come to worship you. Draw near to me in your gracious Word, and assure me of your loving kindness. Curb my wandering thoughts, that with undivided attention I may hear your voice and sing you praise. Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

OPENING HYMN – CW 441 v. 1,2,6 *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

- 1 O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home,
- 2 Under the shadow of your throne Your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is your arm alone, And our defense is sure.
- 6 O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Still be our guard while troubles last And our eternal home!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, abr., alt.

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C: **Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are they who take refuge in him.
Your Word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faithfulness continues forever.
Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are they who take refuge in him.**

M: Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your Word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy and to bring forth fruits in faith and hope and love. Build us up, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST LESSON – Amos 7:10–15

Our Lutheran Confessions repeatedly assert: No one should preach who has not been properly called. Amos had a direct call from the Lord. Pastors and teachers have a call from the Lord through a congregation. Pastors and teachers do well to remember and cherish the saving function given them by the Lord through the call; hearers do well to listen to the Word of God and give thanks that the Lord sends servants among us.

Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent a message to Jeroboam king of Israel: “Amos is raising a conspiracy against you in the very heart of Israel. The land cannot bear all his words. 11 For this is what Amos is saying: “Jeroboam will die by the sword, and Israel will surely go into exile, away from their native land.” 12 Then Amaziah said to Amos, “Get out, you seer! Go back to the land of Judah. Earn your bread there and do your prophesying there. 13 Don’t prophesy anymore at Bethel, because this is the king’s sanctuary and the temple of the kingdom.” 14 Amos answered Amaziah, “I was neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet, but I was a shepherd, and I also took care of sycamore-fig trees. 15 But the Lord took me from tending the flock and said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’”

PSALM 78 (sung in unison) CW p. 95

Refrain: Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

O my people, hear my teaching;*
listen to the words of my mouth.

I will utter things from of old,*
what we have heard and what our fathers have told us.

We will not hide them from our children;*
we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD.

Refrain: Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

The LORD decreed statutes for Jacob*
and established the law in Israel,

so the next generation would know them,*
and they in turn would tell their children.

Then they would put their trust in God*
and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.

**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.**

Refrain: Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

Refrain Tune: Joyce Schubkegal. © 1993 Joyce Schubkegal (admin. Northwestern Publishing House). All rights reserved. Used by permission.

SECOND LESSON - *Ephesians 1:3-14*

All of God's grace is but a mystery until God reveals it. The apostles, prophets, evangelists and teachers could not have figured out that mystery for themselves, any more than the hearers could have devised it on their own. How priceless is the message, and how grateful we are for the gospel and for the messengers sent from God!

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. 4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace 8 that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, 9 he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, 10 to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. 11 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, 12 in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. 13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

VERSE OF THE DAY – *Deuteronomy 30:14*

M: Alleluia! The Word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it.
Alleluia!

C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! These words are written that we may believe the Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

GOSPEL LESSON - *Mark 6:7-13*

Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. 7 Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits. 8 These were his instructions: "Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. 9 Wear sandals but not an extra shirt. 10 Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. 11 And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, leave that place and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them." 12 They went out and preached that people should repent. 13 They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN – CW 360 *The Lord's My Shepherd; I'll Not Want*

- 1 The Lord's my shepherd; I'll not want. He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; he leadeth me The quiet waters by.
- 2 My soul he doth restore again And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness, E'en for his own name's sake.
- 3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, Yet will I fear no ill;
For thou art with me, and thy rod And staff me comfort still.
- 4 My table thou hast furnished In presence of my foes;
My head thou dost with oil anoint, And my cup overflows.
- 5 Goodness and mercy, all my life, Shall surely follow me,
And in God's house forevermore My dwelling-place shall be.

Text: The Psalms of David in Meeter, Edinburgh, 1650.

SERMON – Mark 4:35-41

On that day, when evening came, Jesus said to them, “Let’s go over to the other side.”³⁶ After leaving the crowd behind, the disciples took him along in the boat, just as he was. Other small boats also followed him.³⁷ A great windstorm arose, and the waves were splashing into the boat, so that the boat was quickly filling up.³⁸ Jesus himself was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. They woke him and said, “Teacher, don’t you care that we are about to drown?”³⁹ Then he got up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” The wind stopped, and there was a great calm.⁴⁰ He said to them, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still lack faith?”⁴¹ They were filled with awe and said to one another, “Who then is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him!”

Big Questions for When Troubles Arise

1. How can you sleep?
2. How can you be afraid?

Fellow believers, who find strength in Christ: This may be too general, but don’t we all have an unflappable friend; someone among our acquaintances who simply doesn’t get upset about anything? At the office, when a major contract is on the brink of falling through, they calmly make a few phone calls and everything’s fine. Or in the factory, one machine goes nuts and starts spewing parts all over the place, they just quietly take charge and everything’s quickly back in line. No matter what happens, nothing fazes that person.

We marvel at that. We wonder how they can always be so calm. And though they may be too polite to say it, they probably wonder how we get so hyper over “little things.”

Of course, sometimes, things aren’t so little. Real problems can keep us awake at night and tense all day. We see in our text the disciples’ reaction to a major problem. In fear, the disciples asked Jesus, “How can you sleep?” Jesus responds, “How can you be afraid?” Those are big questions for when troubles arise.

Some problems, when they first crop up, don’t seem anything to worry about. This storm may have caused the disciples little concern. After all, at least four of the twelve were experienced fishermen. They were trained for this. And, since sudden squalls are a frequent occurrence on the Sea of Galilee, they had probably been through a number of them before. When the clouds first gathered, there was no need to get excited. It didn’t bother anyone that Jesus was in the stern, sleeping. The disciples could handle this one.

As the storm grew, it became more and more difficult for four fishermen to handle the problem. Perhaps the sheer commotion of the storm aroused the other eight into action; holding lines, trimming sails, rowing oars, whatever they were given to do. Perhaps all of them began to wonder how Jesus could still be sleeping. If nothing else, the tossing of the waves should have woken him up.

As the waves became more and more boisterous, the disciples’ minds entertained panic. There was no way they could handle the situation anymore. In their terror, they even began to accuse God of failing them.

Jesus was God, they knew it! He had demonstrated divine power by healing many people. He had taught the Word of God with authority and cast out many demons. But he wasn’t helping his own disciples. “How can he sleep?” they wondered. “Isn’t he in touch with what’s happening? So, it was with an accusation that they woke him. “Teacher, don’t you care that we are about to drown?”

How could Jesus sleep though all of that, and not even notice? How could Jesus sleep, and not help his friends?

Well, even as he slept, teaching was happening. What led to such a serious situation for them? It was their self-reliance, their assumption that they could handle it, that got them in almost too deep before they sought help.

This “I can do it myself” mentality is inborn. From day one babies begin to do things for themselves. How many times have we heard a four-year-old insist, “I can do it myself,” when we can clearly see

they can't? The thing is: a four-year-old will finally say, "Mommy, help me." It's we adults who forget how to ask. But this reliance on self—our training, our abilities, our experience—can be misplaced trust and sometimes sheer foolishness. Yet how slow we are to give upon it. So, Jesus would let the disciples trust in themselves—until they learned they had more than they could handle.

Is that a lesson we have learned? Let me give you a situation. It's only hypothetical, but I think it's realistic.

Suppose you lose your job. Wouldn't most people figure, "No problem, I can always find another one"? But then you get sick, and no one will hire you. "No problem, I can collect unemployment." Then the government changes the rules, or the system gets overwhelmed, and it takes much longer for those payments. "No problem, I've got savings." Then the landlord raises the rent, or the car needs costly repairs. About then many people would start thinking, "I've got a problem." Then, they remember God.

But even when we think of God, what's our attitude? Isn't it often, "God, I've been doing my part! I've been rowing this boat, but the storm hasn't stopped. I've been looking for a job, but no one has hired me. I've been working at this marriage, but it's still rough. God, don't you care? How can you sleep?"

Many situations begin with us thinking we can handle it. As it worsens, however, we turn to accusing God of not caring, of sleeping on the job. How can God sleep?

Same reason he slept in the boat while the disciples were struggling. He'll let us trust in ourselves—until we realize it doesn't work. He wants us to get away from the "buy now—pray later" plan.

That's the attitude that when a problem arises, we'll buy into almost any solution that comes along. There's the familiar phrase, "When the going gets tough, the tough get going." And a lot of people would say, "I'll buy that." The disciples bought into that idea. They nearly drowned. They remembered to pray later. When an advice columnist, blogger or self-help book offers a solution to a particular problem, a lot of people respond, "I'll buy that", and try it, and it doesn't work. Then they remember to pray.

How many people buy the services of a fortune teller or astrologer to tell them how to solve their problems? Only the solutions don't work. Then they remember to pray. God wants to overturn this "buy now—pray later" syndrome!

By letting our human ingenuity and powers run their course without accomplishing anything, by letting our solutions be insufficient, God may be reminding us to lean on him from the start. The classic passage from I Peter does not read: "Keep your little anxieties for yourself to handle and give your big problems to God." The passage really reads: "Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you," (I Peter 5:7).

Even when it seems he's sleeping. Because all the while he's really teaching—teaching us to trust him first, not last; to pray first, not last. But usually, we wait until we're ready to panic. And when we finally rouse the Lord in prayer, he asks the simple question: "How can you be afraid?"

The disciples came to Jesus with the terror-stricken question: "Teacher, don't you care that we are about to drown?" Our text shows that he responded. "He got up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace! Be still!' The wind stopped, and there was a great calm. He said to them, 'Why are you so afraid?'"

"How can you be afraid", asks the Lord, "when the Almighty is near?" Jesus was right there in the boat with them. How much closer could he have been when the storm arose? He was right there, ready to deal with any situation.

Jesus was not disappointed that they woke him. He was disappointed at their panic. Help was so easy to find. He offers sincerely: "Call on me in the day of distress. I will deliver you," (Psalm 50:15). But they didn't recognize their source of help until almost too late. "Why are you so afraid? I was right here all along."

The same question can be directed to each of us. Jesus promises all disciples, "Surely I am with you always until the end of the age," (Matthew 28:20). How much closer could he be? He'll never be

disappointed that we come to him for help. He's disappointed when we don't realize how easy it is to get it. How could we be afraid?

God is faster than Google, nearer than the phone. Instant messaging is slow compared to our connection with God! He's there. He's near. He's everywhere we need him to be.

And he's on duty all the time. The human side of Jesus needed sleep and caught some winks at a rather unusual time. The divine side of Jesus, however, never loses touch with what's going on. Psalm 121 promises: "He will not let your foot stumble. He who watches over you will not slumber. Yes, he who watches over Israel will not slumber. He will not sleep," (vv 3,4).

Nothing catches God off-guard. In fact, Psalm 121 goes on to say, "The Lord watches over you.... The sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night," (vv 5,6). Our Lord is a 24/7/365 kind of God. The psalm continues: "The Lord will watch over your going and your coming...," (v. 8). Wherever you might be, or wherever you might be headed, God is already there.

If you lose your job, God does not say, "Oh, I wasn't expecting that." Storms that arose on the Sea of Galilee did not catch God unawares. You suddenly discover cancer? God already knows about it and has already prepared to help you deal with it. Troubles may sneak up on us, but God never says, "Whoops, I missed that one!" And if God knows what's happening to us, we can also be sure that he is planning the way to help us. How can you be afraid?

I guess Jesus' other question is important to ask. "Do you still lack faith?" "Don't you understand who it is, who is with you?"

In their response, the disciples betrayed their ignorance. When Jesus stilled the waves, "They were filled with awe and said to one another, 'Who then is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him!'"

The disciples truly believed that Jesus was God. But I don't believe they fully understood what that meant. You see, limited human beings cannot completely grasp the unlimited God. They could comprehend Jesus' ability to heal the sick, one at a time, as he laid his hands on them. But the forces of nature—those are so awesome, so huge! They didn't quite believe the greatness of God—that he was bigger than the forces of nature, forces which he himself created! But now they knew!

And the reason these events were recorded was that we might begin to grasp the power of God. People have said, "I know that God puts the food on my table, but I don't think he can help with my marriage problems." Or "I know God heals scrapes and bruises, but leukemia, that's different." Watch him calm a raging storm! There's a bumper sticker I have long appreciated: "My God is bigger than any problems I have."

What are we afraid of? God is near. God does care. He can help. Another psalm, psalm 27 states: "The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid? ... If an army lines up against me, my heart will not fear. If war rises against me, even then I will keep trusting," (vv. 1,3). AMEN

APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe 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 and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Savior of all, and our great Provider and Protector, we confess that we have so little faith.

C: You have demonstrated great power over all things: illness; forces of nature; demons and death. Help us to be confident that your power is worked for our sakes.

M: You have even shown power over our sinful nature and our resistance to God by bringing us to faith through your Word.

C: Increase our understanding that you are our personal Savior, and that if you have claimed us by your blood, there is nothing else that you cannot do for us.

M: Now in our lives of service, you have given us power to move mountains and we despair at the hill. You have promised to protect us and we hide behind walls of our own making.

C: Forgive us for our unbelief and make us firm in faith.

M: Where our various needs in life exceed our human abilities to meet them, grant us the help that will sustain our lives and our faith.

C: Remind us that you fed a hungry crowd and that you stopped a storm. Our hunger and our fear is less than the power you bring to bear on our troubles.

M: Even when we do have your encouragement and your strength to work at our jobs, our family commitments, our community and church efforts, remind us still to pray.

C: Keep us mindful of our humble dependence on you for all good things.

M: Move us to place all our meager resources in your hands. Our dreams for our church and our expectations for your kingdom are often less than what you are eager to accomplish.

C: Open our eyes to the possibilities we can attain with you at our side.

M: Rally us to do your will and to make your kingdom come through our offerings and our prayers.

C: O Lord Christ, worker of miracles, provide for the needs of these people for whom we now pray.

Special intercessions or personal prayer and reflection.

M: Supply all our needs and grant us grace to see your power in our lives. Hear us also, as we pray...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

HYMN – CW 416

How Firm a Foundation

- 1 How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said
Who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?
- 2 In ev'ry condition, in sickness, in health,
In poverty's vale, or abounding in wealth,
At home and abroad, on the land, on the sea—
The Lord, the Almighty, your strength e'er shall be.
- 3 "Fear not, I am with you. Oh, be not dismayed,
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

- 4 “When through the deep waters I call you to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow,
For I will be with you your troubles to bless
And sanctify to you your deepest distress.
- 5 “Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove
My sov’rign, eternal, unchangeable love,
And then, when gray hair shall their temples adorn,
Like lambs they shall still on my shoulders be borne.”

Text: *A Selection of Hymns*, London, 1787, abr., alt.

CLOSING PRAYER & BLESSING

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen. Amen. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN – CW 446 v. 1,4,5,6 *I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus*

1. I am trusting you, Lord Jesus, Trusting only you,
Trusting you for full salvation, Free and true.
4. I am trusting you to guide me; You alone shall lead,
Ev’ry day and hour supplying All my need.
5. I am trusting you for power; You can never fail.
Words which you yourself shall give me Must prevail.
6. I am trusting you, Lord Jesus; Never let me fall.
I am trusting you forever And for all.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79, alt.

Thank you for worshipping with us!

Voter’s Meeting Today The 2021-22 suggested budget was presented to the congregation last Sunday. Our Savior’s voters will meet today, Sunday, July 18 at 10:00 AM to vote on the budget. Please plan to attend.

Pastoral News Pastor Suckow has announced his retirement. He will conduct his last service at Our Savior’s on Sunday, August 22. We are grateful for his service to us during these challenging times and pray that God will richly bless his retirement years.

This Week's Opportunities for Growing in Christ

Today (7/18)	9:00 AM 10:00 AM	Worship / <i>WELS Connection</i> Voter's Meeting
Thursday	6:30 PM	Worship with Communion
Saturday		OS Day at Dime & Dollar
Sunday 7/25	9:00 AM	Worship with Communion

Worship Adjustments The Council has decided that beginning with the July 22/25 worship services, we will resume 1) passing the offering plates, 2) using Friendship Registers, and 3) we'll remove the remaining seating barriers. Also, beginning on July 29/Aug 1, we will return to our former practice of serving Holy Communion by tables (groups standing together) instead of the current practice of continuous distribution.

Dime & Dollar Needs Volunteers Your Dime & Dollar thrift store is in desperate need of volunteers, both men and women. Over the years the store has given Northland Lutheran High School over 2 million dollars, a little more than \$100,000 a year. If we are to continue supporting NLHS in this way, we need volunteers to keep the store open six days a week. You will find the work most enjoyable and very meaningful. You will be a part of a great Christian ministry, serving the Lord and helping Northland Lutheran High School. You can work six hours a day or three hours a day, one day a week or five days a week, whatever works best for you. For more information or to volunteer you can call Dime and Dollar at 715- 849-4168.

Fair Time! Our Savior's School has been offered the opportunity to work at the Noon Optimist's Elephant Ear stand. In past years this has been a fantastic fundraiser for our school. It can be hot at times, but the fellowship makes it a fun experience. And the elephant ears are delicious!

- **We need volunteers!** If you are willing to help us on August 6 or 7, please contact Beth Krohn at 715.216.9350. If you can't help, please stop by, say hello, and support us through your purchase. Spread the word!

Ladies' Aid Luncheon – August 12 Time for fellowship! Our Ladies' Aid invites the ladies of our congregation (a couple husbands have also tagged along in the past) to join them for their annual summer luncheon on Thursday, Aug. 12 at an area restaurant. Watch the bulletin for time and place.

Our Stewardship of God's Gifts: July 11, 2021

<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Vision</u>	<u>Debt Red</u>	<u>Plate</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>NLHS Op</u>	<u>LWMS</u>	<u>IROW (Magic Paper Box)</u>
\$3,952.00	\$135.00	\$205.00	\$50.00	\$75.00	\$5.00	\$50.00	\$19.71

Attendance: July 8 & 11: 23 & 60, online – 16 Total = 99



Our Savior's Ev. Lutheran Church & School

703 Flieth St, Wausau WI 54401

715-845-3253

Email: OSInfo@oursaviorswausau.org

Website: www.oursaviorswausau.org

Facebook: Our Savior's Lutheran Church and School

Pastor Joel Suckow

Cell: 715-302-4736

Email: jsuckow3@gmail.com

