

Salem-Sauk Valley Lutheran Parish
Order of Sunday Worship- 9th Sunday after Pentecost– July 21st, 2024
At Salem Lutheran Church

Prelude

Emily Larson, Musician

Welcome/Announcements

Invocation:

P: We gather in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

Opening Prayer:

P: O Lord, our Maker, Redeemer, and Comforter, we are assembled in Your presence to hear Your holy Word. We pray that You would open our hearts by Your Holy Spirit, that through the preaching of Your Word we may be taught to repent of our sins, to believe on Jesus in life and in death, and grow day by day in grace and holiness. Hear us for Christ's sake. **C: Amen.**

Hymn:

"Day by Day"

Praise #370

Confession of Sin:

P: Let us bow before the Lord and confess our sins.

C: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Therefore, we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Kyrie:

C: O God the Father in heaven, have mercy upon us!
O God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy upon us!
O God the Holy Spirit, true Comforter, have mercy upon us!

Absolution:

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us, and has given his only Son to die for us, and for his sake God forgives all our sins. To those who believe in his name he gives power to become the children of God, and has promised them his Holy Spirit. Those who believe and are baptized shall be saved. Grant this Lord unto us all.

C: Amen.

Gloria:

P: Glory be to God in the highest.

C: And on earth peace, good will toward men.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray together.

C: O God, powerful and compassionate, you shepherd your people, faithfully feeding and protecting us. Heal each us, and make us a whole people, that we may embody the justice and peace of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Psalm 23

First Reading- Jeremiah 23:1-6

Second Reading- Ephesians 2:11-22
Gospel Reading- Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

35 By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. “This is a remote place,” they said, “and it’s already very late. **36** Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.”

37 But he answered, “You give them something to eat.”

They said to him, “That would take more than half a year’s wages[e]! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?”

38 “How many loaves do you have?” he asked. “Go and see.”

When they found out, they said, “Five—and two fish.”

39 Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. **40** So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. **41** Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. **42** They all ate and were satisfied, **43** and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. **44** The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.

45 Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. **46** After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray.

47 Later that night, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and he was alone on land. **48** He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. Shortly before dawn he went out to them, walking on the lake. He was about to pass by them, **49** but when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost. They cried out, **50** because they all saw him and were terrified.

Immediately he spoke to them and said, “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.” **51** Then he climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. They were completely amazed, **52** for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: God be praised for his glad tidings!

Apostles Creed

C: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator 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, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty from whence he shall 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 life everlasting. Amen.

Offering and Offertory: *We give Thee but Thine own, whate'er the gift might be. All that we have is Thine alone, a trust O Lord from Thee.*

Hymn:

“The Lord's My Shepherd”

Praise #366

Sermon

Pastor Lexy Carson

Grace and peace to you from God the Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ.

Sometimes in life we don't want to do something. Whether we are too tired or worn out or just generally not interested, there's times we simply don't want to do something. I know there's some days where my children wake up before I want to, and they say “mama, time to wake up, the sun is up” when I desperately don't want to get up. I bet there's times you have to run an errand or a chore that you desperately don't want to do, like running to the DMV to get your new license or making your tax appointment. It seems like the time we really don't want to do something is at the end of the day, when we're ready to crash after a long day but something has to be done - the cows get out and you have to get them in or your child falls and needs stitches.

Well two thousand years, the disciples may not have had cattle to round up but they certainly felt tired and worn out, generally disengaged from certain things and simply summed up - there were times they simply did not want to do something.

In our Gospel passage for today, they were tired and Jesus even recognized this in them. Jesus said to them, why don't you go to a deserted place to rest for a while. He could sense they needed to rest so they got on a boat to seek this deserted place. But there was just one problem, people were watching them like paparazzi following their every move and they chased them down, on foot following the boat along shore and even beat them to this deserted place.

No rest to be found at this deserted place. The crowds had found them and beat them to where they were going. And Jesus's reaction to this gathered crowd is striking, he doesn't say hey sorry everyone were really just looking to be alone for awhile, we need to rest, come back tomorrow - No. Jesus saw this great crowd and “he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd.”

After Jesus teaches them for awhile, the disciples remind Jesus - hey remember we came to this place because it's remote and deserted to get some alone time, some rest and these people are probably getting hungry, I mean were hungry so I'm guessing this large crowd of five thousand people is also getting hungry. It's probably about time we tell them to go home so they can eat, so we can eat.

I think we can really relate to these disciples in that moment. They were hangry, you've been there, they were tired, you've been there, they were overworked, overstimulated, just looking for some peace and quiet, some sleep and some food and they weren't getting it. And that's the difference between the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ and the disciples, and us.

The law, the weight of this old world it does drain us, it tires us to the core, we find ourselves exhausted in need of a break and rest. We feel the weight of “walking through the valley of the

shadow of death” these disciples, some of which were very close with John the Baptist whom they had just heard had been beheaded and they were scared, grieving and filled with sorrow. Where we absolutely feel drained, angry, sad, defeated and just in need of a break - that’s when Christ, the Good Shepherd is just getting started.

The apostle Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians “My grace is sufficient for you for my power is made perfect in weakness.” When we are as weak as they disciples felt in this moment, Christ does not back down, he doesn’t say you’re right were all tired, let’s go rest.

No, Jesus says - feed them, feed my flock. For he is filled with such deep compassion for these people - who were like sheep without a shepherd - so he does what a shepherd does for his flock. He turns them and has them sit down in groups in the “green pasture.” And you can’t help but notice Mark’s intentional nothing of sitting them in the green pasture, surely connecting us directly to Psalm 23 - when the Lord makes them lie down in green pastures. Jesus does just that - sit in the green pasture and be fed. And our shepherd does just that.

When you are weary, weak, not sure if you want to do something or even able to because of the state you are in - you’re in good company because when you are weak, Christ is strong and just getting to work for you.

When Christ looks at you, he looks at you with the same compassion that filled his eyes when he looked at this crowd gathered, that had chased him down on foot. For when hunger, tiredness and death have defeated us - this Shepherd says come home. When we are done, the shepherd is just getting started. The disciples were all done, ready to end the day but Jesus was just getting started.

The peace of Christ which surpasses all understanding guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Hymn:

“Have No Fear Little Flock”

Insert

Prayer of the Church: Each prayer will end: Lord, in your mercy. ***C: Hear our prayer.***

Holy Communion

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts to the Lord.

C: We lift up our hearts unto the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is meet and right so to do. P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and all places give thanks to you, O Lord, holy Father Through Jesus Christ, your dear son, our Lord and Savior who ascending above the heavens and sitting at your hand, poured out the Holy Spirit as he had promised upon the chosen disciples, causing the whole earth to rejoice. Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company in heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and singing:

C: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth. Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution

Lord’s Prayer

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Invitation/Distribution

Thanksgiving-

P: The Lord be with you. **C: *And also with you.***

P: Let us give thanks and pray: We thank you Lord God almighty that you have refreshed us with these gifts; and we ask you, in your mercy, to strengthen us through these same gifts in faith toward you and in fervent love for one another; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

C: *Amen.*

Benediction

P: Now may the Lord bless us and keep us. May the Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious to us. May the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon us and give us his peace.

C: *Amen, Amen, Amen.*

Doxology

C: *Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him all creatures here below. Praise him above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Dismissal: P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **C: *Thanks be to God! Postlude***