

Salem-Sauk Valley Lutheran Parish
Order of Sunday Worship- 7th Sunday after Pentecost– July 7th, 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:

“Lead on O King Eternal”

Praise #460

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: God of the covenant, in our baptism you call us to proclaim the coming of your kingdom. Give us the courage you gave the apostles, that we may faithfully witness to your love and peace in every circumstance of life, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Psalm 123

First Reading- Ezekiel 2:1-5

Second Reading- 2 Corinthians 12:2-10

Gospel Reading- Mark 6:1-13

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.

Children's Message – "Jesus Loves Me"

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:

"I'll go Where You Want Me to Go"

Praise #513

Sermon

Pastor Lexy Carson

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

As I've been preparing for the birth of our third child, it's been a joy going through there little clothes – pulling out the tiny sleepers and onesies and it is just incredible to me how fast those years have gone for my boys and how much they have changed. How did they grow and change so fast? It happened before my own eyes without us really doing anything. Of course we fed them, snuggled them and played with them but we never had to tell their legs to grow, their tummy to grow, we never once had to tell them to crawl, it just happened. Before our eyes without us doing anything.

In our Gospel today, we hear about something happening before our eyes without us doing a thing either. It all begins with Jesus returning to his hometown of Nazareth, it is there that Jesus is teaching and many are amazed but some take offense. It doesn't add up, this Jesus is the child they've known forever - this is his hometown after all. How can this kid from down the road be teaching and doing all of these things? If we follow Christ's track record from the last couple weeks he has cast out demons, stilled the sea, cured illness and death itself. It appears Christ can do anything.

Until he returns home. Suddenly, He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. I think the big question here is why can't Jesus do more? What is stopping him from controlling nature, demons and death here in his hometown?

There's a few tempting options of rabbit holes for us to slip into here. A first tempting thought might be to think this is God's way of punishing the people of Nazareth. Afterall, Jesus had just taught them and then the people took offense, doubting Jesus to be the son of Man. So maybe

God is punishing the people for their sins. The tempting thought is these people didn't deserve God's favor so for their sin they received nothing in return. Except where does that leave you? Have you ever prayed for your own healing or a loved one's healing and failed to receive that physical healing? It leaves you wondering is God punishing me for my sins? Is he withholding healing from me? What have I done wrong? When we slip into this rabbit hole that is where we are left. Feeling like we have a God that does not favor us.

Except that is not what Christ is doing. Throughout the book of Mark, Jesus has been at work bestowing faith not delivering punishment. He didn't come to condemn but to save. Christ did not come to bring God's punishment. That is not why he couldn't do more in Nazareth.

So why can Jesus only do a few small miracles? Another tempting rabbit hole for us to slide into is that it was the lack of people's faith. After all the scripture says that Jesus was amazed at their lack of faith. Maybe Jesus could not heal because the people did not believe. You don't have to stray too far to find language like this. There's plenty of books, movies, ads and stories of religious individuals that remark how they believed and were healed. You just have to believe enough, use this healing blessed water, etc. You just have to have faith. Once again we are left stuck, what does that mean for me if I'm not healed or my loved one isn't? Does that mean I don't have enough faith? You're stuck thinking God is not healing you because you don't have enough faith.

Except Jesus is not dependent on yours or my faith nor anyone in Nazareth's faith for that matter. Jesus did not need theirs or your faith to do miracles, stop nature, or redeem from death. Just as my children didn't need me to tell their arms to grow nor their limbs to start crawling. It was going to happen whether I said it or not. The same is true with Christ. He is the author of creation, able to calm the sea with a word, raise the dead with a word. It is not dependent on you. God, the all-powerful creator, does not need our faith to rule His world.

Faith is always in God's control, it is not something we have to muster up to prove our worth or significance to God. Faith is not like a report card we coming run home with to show God. Faith is fully in God's control, his gift that he gives you. It's like receiving a birthday card or gift, you didn't have to do anything really to earn it – your birth was no in your control, and yet you get showered with love and kindness and gifts freely out of your control. God controls your faith and gives it to you.

But where does that leave the big umbrella question? If Jesus is not judging the people for their lack of faith and if Jesus does not need your faith to perform a miracle, why was Jesus unable to work miracles? **This big question sheds light on what the mission of Christ truly was and still is. Jesus came to give a promise, to forgive sins to save, to give faith where there is none.**

And Jesus is on a mission of grace: Then and now. Jesus has been sent by His Father to bring good news. He fulfills this office. He will bring good news. And even further, Jesus will send His disciples to bring good news, two by two he sends them so they aren't alone and says proclaim repentance and deliver mercy - cast our demons, cure the sick – deliver the good news.

In Christ's death and resurrection he, becomes good news for all. **Regardless of how the world responds to Jesus,** Jesus will respond to the world with grace. Sometimes with miracles,

sometimes without, but always with the self-sacrificial love that brings God's gracious embrace and never-ending life.

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

Hymn:

"I Love to Tell the Story"

Praise #516

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

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**