

Welcome to Worship at
Trinity Lutheran Church, Osceola, WI
Pentecost 11 - August 16, 2020

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer. Amen.

Hymn #528 - "Christ Is Our Cornerstone"

**Christ is our cornerstone;
On him alone we build.
With his true saints alone
The courts of heav'n are filled.
On his great love our hopes we place
Of present grace and joys above.**

**Oh, then, with hymns of praise
These hallowed courts shall ring!
Our voices we will raise
The Three in One to sing
And thus proclaim in joyful song,
Both loud and long, that glorious name.**

**Here, gracious God, do now
And evermore draw near;
Accept each faithful vow
And all your children hear,
And more and more on those who pray
Each holy day your blessing pour.**

**Here may we gain from heav'n
The grace which we implore,
And may that grace, once giv'n,
Be with us evermore
Until that day when all the blest
To endless rest are called away!**

Confession of Sins:

P: Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

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 in our thoughts, words, and actions. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace and forgiveness for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. O Lord, have mercy on us!**

P: Upon this your confession, I as a called servant of Christ and His Word announce to you the grace of God, and in the place of and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

First Lesson: Isaiah 55:1-5

Hey, all of you who are thirsty, come to the water, even if you have no money! Come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why do you spend money on something that is not bread? Why do you waste your labor on something that does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good. Satisfy your appetite with rich food. Turn your ear toward me, and come to me. Listen, so that you may continue to live. Yes, I will make an everlasting covenant with you, the faithful mercies promised to David. Look, I appointed him as a witness for peoples, a leader and commander of peoples. Look, you will call out to a nation you do not know, and a nation that does not know you will run to you, on account of the Lord your God, because of the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. (EHV)

Psalm 42-43:

Refrain: Blessed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.

**As the deer pants for streams of 'water,
So my soul pants for 'you, O God.**

**My soul thirsts for God, for the 'living God.
Where can I go and 'meet with God?**

**Put your ‘hope in God,
For I will yet praise him, my Savior ‘and my God.**

Refrain: Blessed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.

**Send forth your light and your truth, let them ‘guide me;
Let them bring me to the place ‘where you dwell.**

**Then will I go to the altar of God, my joy and ‘my delight.
I will praise you with the harp, O ‘God , my God.**

**Glory be to the Father and ‘to the Son
And to the Holy ‘Spirit,
As it was in the be’gining,
Is now, and will be forever. ‘Amen.**

Refrain: Blessed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.

Second Lesson: Romans 8:35-39

What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will trouble or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? Just as it is written: For your sake we are being put to death all day long. We are considered as sheep to be slaughtered. No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor rulers, neither things present nor things to come, nor powerful forces, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (EHV)

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. Jesus replied, “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.” Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21

When Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place to be alone. When the crowds heard this, they followed him on foot from the towns. When Jesus got out of the boat, he saw a large crowd. He had compassion on them and healed their sick. When evening came, his disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place and the hour is already late. Send the crowds away, so that they can go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” But Jesus said to them, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.” They told

him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish." "Bring them here to me," he replied. Then he instructed the people to sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves and the two fish. After looking up to heaven, he blessed them. He broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples. The disciples gave the food to the people. They all ate and were filled. They picked up twelve basketfuls of what was left over from the broken pieces. Those who ate were about five thousand men, not even counting women and children. (EHV)

The 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.

Hymn #337 - "*Delay Not! Delay Not!*"

**Delay not! Delay not! O sinner, draw near!
The waters of life are now flowing for you.
No price is demanded; the Savior is here.
Redemption is purchased; God's promise is true.**

**Delay not! Delay not, O sinner, to come,
For mercy still lingers and calls you today.
Its voice is not heard in the vale of the tomb;
Its message, unheeded, will soon pass away.**

**Delay not! Delay not! The Spirit of grace,
Long grieved and resisted, may take his sad flight
And leave you in darkness to finish your race,
To sink in the gloom of eternity's night.**

**Delay not! Delay not! The hour is at hand;
The earth will dissolve, and the heavens will fade.
The dead, small and great, in the Judgment must stand -
What pow'r, then, O sinner, can lend you its aid?**

**Delay not! Delay not! Why longer abuse
The love and compassion of Jesus, your God?
A fountain is opened - how can you refuse?
Come, wash and be cleansed in his pardoning blood.**

**The Sermon: Isaiah 55:1-5
 “Come To The WELS”**

As I read the words of our text today, the first thing I thought of was the **song** entitled, Come To The Wells. This is a song which, at least for a while, our Synod had unofficially **adopted** as its theme-song. You used to hear a **portion** of it every time we watched a segment of the WELS Connection **video**. For those of you who have never heard the **entire** song before, I'd like to take a moment and **share** those words with you. They read, *“Come to the wells, and be filled with **living water**. Come to the wells for **new life** in the living **Word**. Come as you **are**, let your **spirit** be restored. Walk in the new life of **Jesus Christ** our Lord. Come as you **are**; lay your **burdens** down. He calls you by **name** to a **love** that knows no bounds. In a world that knows Him **not**, His voice can still be **heard**, ‘Come and learn of **Me**, I am the **living Word**.’ Come to the wells for the **living water**, and the **living Word**.”* It's a **beautiful** song, with a beautiful **message** - a message which is based on the words of our text for today, Isaiah 55:1-5.

Our sermon today presents three main thoughts. There is an invitation to **come**, the instructions to **follow** once we **get** there, and the **benefits** we will receive as a **result**. Our text begins with the **invitation**. *“Hey, all of you who are thirsty, **come** to the water.”* Bear in mind that **God** is the one who is taking the **initiative** here. **He** is the one who is sending out this invitation - and what an invitation it is! In order to realize the full **impact** of these words, we must remember how important **water** is. Water is one of the **life sustaining** elements. We all **need** water in order to **live** - we can't get by **without** it. That in **itself** makes water **extremely** valuable. However, when you add the fact that good, drinkable water is a very **scarce** resource in the Holy Land, that makes it even **more** valuable. In Isaiah's day, water was sold by **vendors**. We might compare such a person to the **ice cream** vendors who drive around in their ice cream trucks playing **music** to attract all the children in the neighborhood. When you hear the **music**, if

you're hungry for **ice cream**, all you have to do is **come** and **buy** it. Although the sales methods are tactics were considerably **different**, the **concept** was virtually the **same** for the **water** vendors in Isaiah's day. They would have been happy to sell you **water** - if you were **thirsty**, and if you had the **money** to pay the **price**.

That would have been a pretty **normal** situation in many towns and villages at the time of our text. But now let's **change** the picture a bit. Instead of picturing someone bringing their bottled water to **town** in order to sell it, let's move out into the **desert**. Picture a man crawling through the desert with tattered clothes and a parched throat **gasping** for water. Just by **coincidence**, along comes a **water vendor** offering his life sustaining water at a cost of only **\$20.00/bottle**. Now **you** might think that \$20.00 is a **ridiculous** price to pay for a bottle of **water** - but it's **not** ridiculous to a man who's **dying** of **thirst**. He would gladly pay **\$200** or even **\$2,000** for a bottle of water, in order to save his **life**. Unfortunately, the man in our scenario doesn't have **a cent** to his name - so it doesn't matter if the water is priced at \$20.00, or \$2.00, or even a **penny** a bottle. He **still** couldn't **buy** it and quench his **thirst**. The only way he could get that water, was if the vendor was **giving** it away for **free**.

That's exactly the **spiritual** situation in which we find **ourselves**. Our souls are **thirsty** for spiritual **water** and spiritual **blessings**. But you and I are spiritually **bankrupt**, and unable to **purchase** the water of life which we need. What will we **do**? How will we **survive**? Thanks be to **God**, **He** has the perfect solution to our problem. In our text He says, "*Even if you have **no money, come, buy, and eat!** Come, buy wine and milk **without** money and **without** cost.*" What we **need** - the forgiveness of our sins and eternal life in heaven - is offered to us **free of charge** through our Savior Jesus Christ. All we have to do is **come** and **get** them.

Isn't it **amazing** that so many people who already **know** this still don't come and feed their souls with God's precious **Word**? The Bible is available to us **daily** in our homes. The Bible is also available to us **weekly** right here in our worship services. Online Bible Classes are available too. We even have **regular opportunities** to come and receive God's Word and His forgiveness as it is offered to us in the Sacrament of **Holy Communion**. With all these opportunities to feed our souls and **more**, there should certainly be **no reason** - **no excuse** - for allowing our souls and our faith to **waste away** because of a lack of spiritual food and water.

I thank God that even though the world around us is trying to keep us from gathering together for worship, **you** are **here** today or are **tuning in** today to hear God's Word and to grow **stronger** from it. There is **no substitute** for God's Word, even though many people **think** they can get by **without** it. Somehow they think they can gain strength by **praying** for it, or by helping **others** who are in need. But that won't **work**. Such things take great **effort** on our part, and actually **drain** our spiritual strength. In order to continue to **have** the strength to carry out such **fruits** of faith, we must see to it that our faith receives **regular** spiritual **food** and **water**. As you well know, a fruit tree which doesn't continue to receive water and nourishment will soon stop **producing** fruit, and in **time**, it may even become **diseased** and **die**. Our **faith** is no different. It needs **continual** feeding and strengthening, and that comes **only** from our Lord. Jesus Himself says, "*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest ... If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink!*" It is through **Jesus alone** that God freely gives us **all** we need for our physical **and** spiritual life. So, why would we even **attempt** to find our strength anywhere **else**?

Yet, there are many people who are still desperately struggling to find peace and satisfaction in the **riches** of this world. Very few people would argue with you if you said that the riches of this world include **money** and the things that it can **buy**. Most of us, if not **all** of us, would like to make **more** money than we do now. Perhaps we would like to drive a newer **car**, or have a nicer **home**, or work on a faster **computer**. We aren't really **greedy** - we just want a **little** more. But that's **exactly** where the **deception** lies. While there is really nothing **wrong** with having more of the things of this world, they just can't **satisfy** us. Money can buy **medicine** - but it can't buy **health**. Money can buy a **bed** - but it can't buy **rest**.

The **point** of all this is found in the **question** which **Isaiah** asks us in our text when he says, "*Why do you spend money on something that is not bread? Why do you waste your labor on something that does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good. Satisfy your appetite with rich food.*" Isaiah wants to know why we **waste** so much time, effort, and hard-earned money on a bunch of **things** which only leave us feeling **empty** or wanting **more**. Why **bother** with costly things which don't **satisfy**, when we can have **total satisfaction** for **free**? That's a good **question**, isn't it?

But Isaiah doesn't stop with just **asking** this piercing question. He also gives us an **answer** for it. He says, "*Listen. Listen carefully to me and eat what is good. Satisfy your appetite with rich food. Turn your ear toward me, and come to me. Listen, so that you may continue to live.*" **Turning our ears** toward the LORD

means paying **close attention** to what He says. The LORD doesn't use any **gimmicks** or **strong arm** tactics with us. He leaves the choice to **us**. **We** are to listen - **we** are to come to Him - and **we** are to **hear** Him, so that our souls may **live**. God doesn't **drag** us along by the ears, but rather, He **encourages** us to **listen** to Him, because He gives us **good, solid** advice.

And what is God telling us to **do**? Our text concludes, "*Look, you will **call out** to a **nation** you know not, and a nation that does not know you will run to you, on account of the **Lord** your God, because of the **Holy One** of Israel, for he has **glorified** you.*" God says we should **call out** to **nations** - **invite** people to **come** - to come and see the **glory** which He has **given** to us. Maybe you're thinking that sounds pretty **boastful**, and it **would** be if we were talking about the mere **human** glory of our church building, or even the **people** of our congregation. But we're **not**. The **real** glory which we want them to see - the glory which has been **given** to us - is **Jesus** - **our** Savior, and **their** Savior.

In conclusion, our text makes it very clear what the **results** of doing this will be, because Isaiah writes, "*Satisfy your appetite with **rich** food ... You may continue to **live** ... I will make an **everlasting covenant** with you ... And there will be **faithful mercies**.*" A lack of **time** will prohibit me from going into **detail** on each of these blessings, so I will concentrate only on the **first** - "*Satisfy your appetite with **rich** food.*" A more **literal** translation of that first sentence would be, "*Satisfy your appetite with **fatness**.*" There is probably no other society in all of history which is as **preoccupied** with physical **weight** as **ours** is. Just think about all the ads and commercials which deal with diets, exercise, and fitness. But God isn't **worried** about fatness at all. In fact, He is **proud** to be an **abundant** or **fat** God - and He invites us to **share** in His fatness - the fatness of His **blessings** - the fatness of His **goodness** - the fatness of His **love**.

It's like the song says, "*Come to the wells, and be **filled** with living water. Come to the wells for **new life** in the living Word.*" **Come!** To those who follow God's invitation, He offers eternal life and an everlasting covenant. Why waste our time on **things** which don't **satisfy**? **Come To The WELS, And Listen To the LORD. Come** to the Lord Jesus - **listen** to Him - receive real **satisfaction** in your life **through** Him - and by all means, **share** Him with others. Amen.

Prayers:

Gracious God our heavenly Father, how wonderful it is that we who were conceived and born in **sin** - who by our sins were Your **enemies** and objects of Your **wrath** - that we should be called Your **children** through **faith** in Jesus. We

certainly do not **deserve** this great privilege and honor. We pray that You would work **repentance** in our hearts each day, and move us to continually trust in Your **mercy**. You **loved** us, and sent Your **Son** to save us, so we ask You to set us free from all **guilt**, and spare us from all **punishment**, for **His** sake. We **trust** You to deliver us from all **temptation**, and to help us through every time of **trouble** and **peril**.

Dear Savior, we **thank** You that You willingly came here to take away our **sins**, and make us **right** in God's sight. Help us to **crucify** our sinful flesh with its lusts and desires, and lead us to **set our hearts on things above** - particularly on the wonderful **rest** that awaits us in **heaven**. You are the **reason** we can hope and plan for heaven, because it is through **You** that God **forgives** our sins and declares us **righteous**. Keep us from hardening our hearts **against** You, and from turning to **unbelief**. Help us **resist** the devil and his temptations, to **quell** the lusts of our flesh, and to **turn away** from the idols of this world. By Your Spirit, enable us always to take You at Your **Word**, and to trust **all** that You promise.

Lord Jesus, while we live in this world, constantly remind us that our treasure is **not** here, but rather, it's in **heaven** with You. Keep us watchful, and waiting for the time of Your return, when You will take us to be with You forever in that heavenly home. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name;
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
 as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
But deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.
Amen.**

Hymn #349 - "Jesus, Priceless Treasure"

**Jesus, priceless Treasure, Fount of purest pleasure,
Truest Friend to me.
Ah, how long in anguish shall my spirit languish,**

**Yearning, Lord, for thee?
Thou art mine, O Lamb divine!
I will suffer naught to hide thee,
Naught I ask beside thee.**

**In thine arms I rest me; foes who would molest me
Cannot reach me here.
Though the earth be shaking, ev'ry heart be quaking,
Jesus calms my fear.
Lightnings flash and thunders crash;
Yet, tho' sin and hell assail me,
Jesus will not fail me.**

**Satan, I defy thee; Death, I now decry thee;
Fear, I bid thee cease.
World, thou shalt not harm me
Nor thy threats alarm me while I sing of peace.
God's great pow'r guards ev'y hour;
Earth and all its depths adore him,
Silent bow before him.**

**Hence, all earthly treasure! Jesus is my pleasure;
Jesus is my choice.
Hence, all empty glory! Naught to me thy story
Told with tempting voice.
Pain or loss or shame or cross
Shall not from my Savior move me
Since he deigns to love me.**

**Hence, all fear and sadness! For the Lord of gladness,
Jesus, enters in.
Those who love the Father, though the storms may gather,
Still have peace within.
Yea, whate'er I here must bear,
Thou art still my purest pleasure,
Jesus, priceless treasure!**

P: Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your Word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel.

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.

The Blessing:

P: 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.

Hymn #353 - "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"

**Praise the one who breaks the darkness
With a liberating light;
Praise the one who frees the pris'ners,
Turning blindness into sight.
Praise the one who preached the gospel,
Healing ev'ry dread disease,
Calming storms and feeding thousands
With the Father's word of peace.**

**Praise the one who blessed the children
With a strong, yet gentle, word;
Praise the one who drove out demons
With the piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the one who brings cool water
To the desert's burning sand;
From this well comes living water,
Quenching thirst in ev'ry land.**

**Let us praise the Word incarnate,
Christ, who suffered in our place;
Jesus died and rose victorious
That we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness,
Seeing what our God has done;
Let us praise the true Redeemer,
Praise the one who makes us one.**