

Welcome to Worship at
Trinity Lutheran Church, Osceola, WI
Pentecost 9 - July 25, 2021

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 #340 - "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

**Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of his grace!**

**My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad,
The honors of your name.**

**The name of Jesus calms our fears
And bids our sorrows cease.
'Tis music in the sinners ears;
'Tis life and health and peace.**

**He breaks the pow'r of canceled sin;
He sets the pris'ner free.
His blood can make the foulest clean;
His blood avails for me.**

**See all your sins on Jesus laid;
The Lamb of God was slain.
His life was once an off'ring made
That you might live again.**

**Glory to God and praise and love
Be ever, ever giv'n
By saints below and saints above,
The Church in earth and heav'n.**

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: Jeremiah 23:1-6

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! declares the Lord. Therefore, this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says about the shepherds who shepherd my people. You have scattered my flock. You have driven them away. You have not taken care of them, but I will certainly take care of you, because of the evil things you have done, declares the Lord. I will gather what is left of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their pastures. They will be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them. They will no longer be afraid or terrified, nor will any be missing, declares the Lord. Listen, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, who will reign wisely as king and establish justice and righteousness on earth. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will dwell securely. This is his name by which he will be called: The Lord Our Righteousness. (EHV)

Psalm 23

Refrain: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

**The LORD is my ‘shepherd,
I shall not ‘be in want.**

**He makes me lie down in green ‘pastures;
He leads me beside quiet ‘waters.**

**He re’stores my soul;
He guides me in paths of righteousness for his ‘name’s sake.**

**Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will
fear no ‘evil,
For you are with me; your rod and your staff, they ‘comfort me.**

Refrain: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

**You prepare a table before me in the presence of my ‘enemies.
You anoint my head with oil; my cup ‘overflows.**

**Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days ‘of my life,
And I will dwell in the house of the LORD for’ever.**

**Glory be to the Father and ‘to the Son
And to the Holy ‘Spirit,**

**As it was in the be’ginning,
Is now, and will be forever. ‘Amen.**

Refrain: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Second Lesson: Ephesians 2:13-22

But now in Christ Jesus, you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace. He made the two groups one by destroying the wall of hostility that divided them when he abolished the law of commandments and regulations in his flesh. He did this to create in himself one new person out of the two, in this way making peace. And he did this to reconcile both to God in one body through the cross by putting the hostility to death on it. He also came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. So then, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of God’s household. You have been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the Cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you too are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

(EHV)

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. My Word will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. Alleluia.

The Gospel: Mark 6:30-34

The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, “Come away by yourselves to a secluded place and rest a while.” For there were so many people coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat. They went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. But many people saw them leave and knew where they were going. They ran there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. When Jesus stepped out of the boat, he saw a large crowd. His heart went out to them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. He began to teach them many things.

(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 #362 - “*Lord Jesus Christ, My Savior Blest*”

**Lord Jesus Christ,
My Savior blest,
My Hope and my Salvation!
Lord, hear my plea:
Deliver me**

**From misery!
Your Word brings consolation.**

**Lord, as you will,
So lead me still;
Your mercy fails me never.
My God, I pray:
Teach me your way
To my last day;
From evil keep me ever.**

**I have your Word,
Christ Jesus, Lord:
You never will forsake me!
This will I plead
In time of need.
Oh, help with speed
When troubles overtake me!**

**Now henceforth must
I put my trust
In you, O dearest Savior.
Your gracious choice,
Your Word and voice,
Make me rejoice
Though sinful my behavior.**

**Grant, Lord, I pray,
Your grace each day,
That I, your name revering,
Your glory see
And happy be
Eternally,
Before your throne appearing.**

**The Sermon: Mark 6:30-34
 “Come To A Secluded Place, And Rest”**

I'm sure that at one time or another, all of you have experienced a common malady known as **burnout**. Whether you're a homemaker, a teacher, a farmer, a

professional person, or a student still in grade school - burnout strikes! It begins as a general disillusionment with your state in life. People who are **burning out** commonly ask questions like, “What am I **doing** here? **Why** am I doing what I’m doing? Is this **all** there is to life?” As the condition worsens, even the **smallest** things can cause **big** irritations. Counselors and psychologists will tell you that **burnout** can be very **serious** if it’s left untreated. Fortunately, the treatment is easily within reach, and it doesn’t have to be **expensive** either! The solution to burnout is **rest** - not necessarily **complete** rest from **all** laboring, but at least a **change** - a change of **scenery**, a change of **pace**, or some **other** significant change. That’s what **vacations** are all about - **rest** - rest for both **body** and **soul**. In our text today, Jesus shows us that **He also** recognized the **importance** of rest, as He invited His disciples to **Come To A Secluded Place, And Rest**.

Why did the disciples need **rest**? Jesus had just sent out the twelve two-by-two, to preach repentance, to cast out demons, and to anoint the sick. **Now** those disciples had **returned** to make a progress report - and they had a **lot** to talk about. Our text tells us, “*The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to Him **all** they had done and taught.*” They were so **excited** that they gave Jesus a step-by-step account - they literally told Him **everything** that had happened. It was probably similar to what happens when a young child tells his grandmother about his trip to the **zoo**. “Oh, Grandma, it was **so** neat. We saw the **giraffes**, and the **zebras** and the **hippos**. There were lots of **funny monkeys** too! Then we stopped for a while and ate some **hotdogs** and **popcorn**, and then we saw some scary **lions** and **tigers**. There were **otters**, and **seals**, and **polar bears**. And Grandma, one part even had **snakes** and **crocodiles** - but Mom didn’t like that part very much, so she waited on a bench. But the best of all were the **elephants**. Don’t you like the elephants best of all too, Grandma?” When kids are **excited** about something, their **exuberance** can almost be overwhelming. And that’s the way Jesus’ **disciples** felt too. They were so **amazed** at the wonderful things they had **taught**, and at the tremendous **miracles** which they had **performed**, that they couldn’t stop **talking** about it.

Actually, this part of our text is sort of a foreshadowing of the **Judgment Day**. The disciples were giving an **account** to **Jesus**. He had given them a **task** to carry out, and had also given them the strength and the talents to **do** it. Now the time had come to tell Jesus how they had **used** their talents. It was a real **joy** for them to make their report, because they had used their talents **faithfully**. However, on the **Judgment Day**, **all** people - the faithful and the **unfaithful** - must pass before the judgment seat of Christ, to give an account of their **lives**. Not all of **those** reports will be **joyful** ones. I dare say that we will want to be **sure** we have

not **done** or **said** anything in this life, which we would **not** want to relate to our Lord Jesus!

But of course, you realize that's **impossible**. We're going to **sin**, because the devil, the world, and our flesh won't **allow** it to be any other way. Yet, the sobering thought of **repeating** our sinful words or actions to **Jesus**, should make us stop and **think** before we go ahead and enter **into** those sins. In those terrible moments of temptation, we would do well to offer a **prayer** to the Lord - a prayer to give us the strength **not** to break His commandments, but rather to think and act according to **His** will. But then of course if we do end up **giving in** to the temptation, we need to **repent** of our sins, take them to **Jesus**, and **thank Him** for His gracious **forgiveness**.

Now, in carrying out the tasks which Jesus had given to **them**, Jesus' **disciples** had been working at a **fast** and **furious** pace. Our text continues, "*He said to them, 'Come away by yourselves to a **secluded** place and **rest** a while.' For there were so many people coming and going that they did not even have a chance to **eat**.*" That's the kind of employer to **work** for! Jesus recognized that the disciples wouldn't **last** very long if they continued to work at such a **hectic** pace - not even taking time out to **eat**. So, Jesus told them to take a **break** - to get some **rest**.

Jesus Himself had a human body which required **rest** and **relaxation**, so He graciously invited His disciples to come and rest **with Him**. That sounds **nice**, doesn't it! Every Christian **longs** to rest with Jesus in heaven **permanently** for all **eternity**. But of course, the rest of which Jesus spoke in our **text**, would only be **temporary**. It would only last a short while, giving His disciples a little **breathing** room - a few moments when they could be **alone** with their **Savior** once again, and sort out some of their thoughts and priorities. In addition, this **resting** time was to be **uninterrupted**. They were to come **by themselves** - leaving behind all the **crowds**, and their **problems** as well. They were to have the **privacy** which was necessary to tell Jesus **everything** they had on their minds, including their doubts and fears. Jesus would provide them with rest for their **bodies**, for their **minds**, and for their **souls**. All **they** had to do was **come**.

The same invitation goes out to **us**. Jesus says, "***Come to Me**, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you **rest***" - rest for our bodies, minds, and souls. It's **good** for us to spend a little reflective time with Jesus - to partake of His body and blood in the Lord's Supper for the forgiveness of our sins - to remember His suffering and death for our salvation. Let's not **kid** ourselves. If Jesus' chosen

twelve disciples, who were among the **most** active workers in Christ's kingdom - if **they** needed to be alone with Him in order to receive **rest**, then who are **we** to think that we could do **without** it? Jesus has **invited** us to come - to come and **rest** in a quiet place. That quiet place could be right here in **church**. It could also be at a **camp**, or up in Northern Wisconsin or over in Minnesota, or out in New England, or down in Arizona or Florida or Texas, or **wherever** that place **is** where you **always** go, just to get **away**. The location itself isn't nearly as important as remembering to take Jesus **with us** in our thoughts, our words, and our actions.

Also, as nice as it is, don't forget that **wherever** you go to rest, it will only last for a short time. **Any** rest which we find here on the earth is only **temporary**, so make the **most** of it. As it turns out in our text, Jesus' disciples would be resting even **less** than they had **planned**, for Mark goes on to say, "*Many people saw them leave and knew where they were going. They ran there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them.*" Jesus and His disciples **needed** rest, and they tried to **find** that rest, but the people wouldn't **allow** it. They diligently **followed** Jesus and the disciples. It wasn't that they were trying to be inconsiderate, it was more that they just didn't **think** about it. St. Mark explains **why**. "*When Jesus stepped out of the boat, he saw a large crowd. His heart went out to them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. He began to teach them many things.*"

Lost sheep. Wandering sheep. Jesus could have sent those people **away**. It probably would have been better for Himself and for His disciples if He **had**. But those people **needed** Jesus. They were like sheep without a shepherd. They didn't know where to go or what to do, and they were looking to **Jesus** for **guidance**. Sheep which are left alone to fend for themselves will soon **die**, because they are among the most **helpless** animals on earth. Jesus **knew** that. He is the **ultimate** Shepherd - the **Good** Shepherd who even lays down His **life** for the sheep. So, Jesus did **not** send the people away. Instead, putting aside His **own** needs, Jesus **welcomed** the people, and immediately began to **teach** them.

It's **amazing** to think that many of those people **ran ten miles** in order to be waiting on the other shore when Jesus landed. No doubt it took the sick and infirm quite a bit **longer** to arrive - but when they finally **got** there, they were not **disappointed**. Jesus healed them **physically**, and taught them **spiritually**. That crowd couldn't get **enough** of God's Word. Is that also **our** attitude? Do we hunger and thirst for the Word of God, or do we say, "Well, I stocked up on God's Word pretty well **last winter**, so it's not going to hurt me to stay away for a while **this summer**"? Think of the tremendous spiritual blessings which can be ours when we care enough to set aside some special times to be **alone** with our Savior - even

during the summer months. We **need** the rest which Jesus brings through God's Holy Word and Sacraments. Don't stay away from them for too long. It's not **healthy!**

In conclusion, the physical rest which the disciples received in our text didn't last too long - perhaps only as long as it took them to cross the lake by boat. But in His grace and wisdom, Jesus also offered them (and us) a **long-term** rest - an **eternal** rest **with Him** in heaven. That's the crown we receive for fighting the good fight of **faith**. My dear friends, may we never grow weary of the battle, and may we continue to faithfully **use** God's Word and Sacraments - to strengthen our defensive **armor**, to intensify our offensive **weapons**, and to provide us with the physical and spiritual **rest** which is so **important** to us all. Amen.

Prayers:

Most merciful heavenly Father, we come to You in our Savior Jesus' name, truly thankful for the privilege of speaking to You in **prayer**. Teach us to avail ourselves of Your abundant goodness and blessings by **using** that privilege day and night. Our souls are **weary**, and our hearts **ache** from the **sins** that afflict us and the **temptations** that assail us each and every hour. Give us a **courageous** faith which boldly lays all the burdens of our hearts and lives before Your throne of **grace**. Teach us that as afflictions increase in our lives, we are to pray more **often** and more **fervently**. Since prayer is an activity of **faith**, help us in our prayer life by deepening our trust in You. May our prayers ever proceed from **contrite** hearts, truly sorry for our sins, and from **believing** hearts, trusting Your forgiveness through the blood of Jesus. May our prayers always find **acceptance** at Your throne of grace. Make the Bible the treasure of our hearts, and cause us to be guided in our prayers by the counsel and promises that it gives.

Father, we know that our prayers are **acceptable** only because Your **Spirit** is working in our hearts. Therefore, in accord with Jesus' invitation we ask You to bestow on us the **gift** of the Holy Spirit. Cause Him to dwell in us **richly**. May He not only increase our **faith** and teach us to **pray**, but may He also **intercede** for us with groans, which words cannot express.

Father, on behalf of us all, **forgive** our sins for Jesus' sake. **Relieve** the burdened, **cheer** the sorrowful, **strengthen** the weak, **recall** the erring, **heal** the sick, **release** the suffering, and **fulfill** the wants of the needy. **Replenish** our love when it grows cold, and **rekindle** any dying embers of faith. 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 #520 - *"Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of Old"*

**Your hand, O Lord, in days of old
Was strong to heal and save;
It triumphed o'er disease and death,
All darkness and the grave.
To you they came, the blind, the dumb,
The paralyzed and lame,
The lepers in their misery,
The sick with fevered frame.**

**Your touch then, Lord, brought life and health,
Gave speech and strength and sight;
And youth renewed and frenzy calmed
Revealed you, Lord of light.
And now, O Lord, be near to bless,
Almighty as before,
In crowded street, by beds of pain,
As by Gennes' ret's shore.**

**Oh, be our great deliv'rer still,
The Lord of life and death;
Restore and quicken, soothe and bless,
With your life-giving breath.
To hands that work and eyes that see
Give wisdom's healing pow'r**

**That whole and sick and weak and strong
May praise you evermore.**

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 #332 - "Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

**Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river
I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing - You are my own.**

**Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story;
Here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.**

**Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me;
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you;
Here his tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.**

**I the Lord will bless and keep you and give you peace;
I the Lord will smile upon you and give you peace;
I the Lord will be your Father,
Savior, Comforter, and Brother,
Go, my children; I will keep you and give you peace.**