

Welcome to Worship at  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Osceola, WI  
Pentecost 7 - July 19, 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 #336 - "Come Unto Me, Ye Weary"**

**"Come unto me, ye weary,  
And I will give you rest."  
O blessed voice of Jesus,  
Which comes to hearts oppressed!  
It tells of benediction,  
Of pardon, grace, and peace,  
Of joy that has no ending,  
Of love that cannot cease.**

**"Come unto me, ye wand'ers,  
And I will give you light."  
O loving voice of Jesus,  
Which comes to cheer the night!  
Our hearts were filled with sadness,  
And we had lost our way;  
But thou hast brought us gladness  
And songs at break of day.**

**"Come unto me, ye fainting,  
And I will give you life."  
O cheering voice of Jesus,  
Which comes to aid our strife!  
The foe is stern and eager;  
The fight is fierce and long;  
But thou hast made us mighty  
And stronger than the strong.**

**"And whosoever cometh,  
I will not cast him out."**

**O patient love of Jesus,  
Which drives away our doubt,  
Which, though we be unworthy  
Of love so great and free,  
Invites us very sinners  
To come, dear Lord, to thee!**

**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: Exodus 33:12-23**

Moses said to the Lord, "Look, you yourself have been telling me, 'Lead this people up,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' So now if I have found favor in your sight, please show me your ways, so that I may know you, so that I may find favor in your sight. Consider that this nation is your people." The Lord said, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." Moses said to him, "If your Presence is not going to go with me, do not send us up from here. After all, how would people know that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? Isn't it in this way: that you go with us, so that we are distinguished, I and your people, from all the people who are on the face of the earth?" The Lord said to Moses, "I will also do this thing that you have said, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name." Then Moses said, "Please show me your glory." The Lord said, "I will make all my goodness pass in front of you, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord in your presence. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will show mercy to whom I will show

mercy.” He said, “You cannot see my face, for no human may see me and live.” The Lord also said, “Look, there is a place next to me, where you shall stand on the rock. It will happen that, while my glory passes by, I will put you in a crevice in the rock. I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. Then I will take away my hand, and you will see my back. But my face will not be seen.” (EHV)

**Psalm 145:**

**Refrain: Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.**

**Great is the LORD and most wor’thy of praise;  
His greatness no one can ‘fathom.**

**One generation will commend your works to an’other;  
They will tell of your ‘mighty acts.**

**The LORD upholds all ‘those who fall  
And lifts up all who are ‘bowed down.**

**Refrain: Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.**

**The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the ‘proper time.  
You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every ‘living thing.**

**The LORD is near to all who ‘call on him,  
To all who call on ‘him in truth.**

**He fulfills the desires of those who ‘fear him;  
He hears their cry and ‘saves them.**

**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: Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.**

**Second Lesson: Romans 7:15-25a**

For I do not understand what I am doing, because I do not keep doing what I want. Instead, I do what I hate. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. But now it is no longer I who am doing it, but it is sin living in me.

Indeed, I know that good does not live in me, that is, in my sinful flesh. The desire to do good is present with me, but I am not able to carry it out. So I fail to do the good I want to do. Instead, the evil I do not want to do, that is what I keep doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who am doing it, but it is sin living in me. So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is present with me. I certainly delight in God's law according to my inner self, but I see a different law at work in my members, waging war against the law of my mind and taking me captive to the law of sin, which is present in my members. What a miserable wretch I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord! (EHV)

**Verse of the Day:** Alleluia. Happy are they who hear the Word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience. Alleluia.

**Gospel: Matthew 11:25-30**

At that time, Jesus continued, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from clever and learned people and have revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, because this was pleasing to you. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wants to reveal him. Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (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 #338 - *“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”*

I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
“Come unto me and rest;  
Lay down, O weary one, lay down  
Your head upon my breast.”  
I came to Jesus as I was,  
Weary and worn and sad;  
I found in him a resting place,  
And he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
“Behold, I freely give  
The living water, thirsty one;  
Stoop down and drink and live.”  
I came to Jesus, and I drank  
Of that life-giving stream;  
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,  
And now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
“I am this dark world’s light.  
Look unto me; your morn shall rise  
And all your day be bright.”  
I looked to Jesus, and I found  
In him my star, my sun;  
And in that light of life I’ll walk  
Till trav’ling days are done.

The Sermon:      Matthew 11:25-30  
                          “Enjoy God’s Rest”

Are you planning to take a **vacation** this summer? Maybe you’ve taken one **already**. Ellen and I are planning to be gone, for the next 2 weeks. Most of **our** vacations revolve around seeing **family**, and this one is no exception. But what kind of vacations do **you** like to take? **Some** people like to take vacations that are filled with **activity** from start to finish. They get up **early** in the morning and head from one attraction to the next all day long. Then they go to bed for a good night’s sleep, get up the **next** morning, and go through the same process all **over** again. The purpose of **that** kind of vacation is to pack in all the **fun** and **excitement** you

can. But **other** people like their vacations to be much more **laid back** and **easy going**. They might go to a **campground**, or to a **cabin** on a lake. They get up whenever they **feel** like it. Then they spend their time **reading**, or **fishing**, or just doing **nothing** in particular. The purpose of **that** kind of vacation is simply to **relax**. In **either** case, the ultimate **goal** of a vacation is to get **away** from the everyday **routine** of life. And no matter how you look at it, that's not a **bad** goal.

In part, that's the way God **created** us to be. He created us with a need to **take a break** on a regular basis. In fact, in the Old Testament, God even **commanded** His people to take a break for **one whole day** every week. He called it the **Sabbath** day, or the day of **rest**. That **Sabbath** day served a good **purpose** - the purpose of getting people to **slow down** at least once a week, and get some **rest**. It **also** served the purpose of teaching the people a lesson about **God Himself**. Just as He gave them this day of rest for their **bodies**, He was also the one who could give them rest for their **souls**. It's a lesson **we** need to **learn** and take to **heart** as well. Our souls **need** rest. And in our text for today, Jesus tells us how we can **Enjoy God's Rest** for our souls.

What exactly do we **mean** when we use the phrase "rest for the **soul**?" In the verses just **before** our text, Jesus described three groups of people who had **no rest** for their souls. Jesus said, "*Woe to you, **Chorazin!** Woe to you, **Bethsaida!** For if the miracles which were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you. You, **Capernaum**, will you be lifted up to heaven? No, you will go down to hell. For if the miracles performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I tell you that it will be more bearable for the land of Sodom on the day of judgment than for you.*" The people in those 3 cities - Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum - were headed for a terrible **judgment**. Why? Because even though Jesus had **lived** and **walked** among them, and even though Jesus had even performed **miracles** among them, they still refused to **believe** in Him as their **Savior**.

Those people had **deluded** themselves into thinking that they didn't **need** the **rest** which Jesus offered. They thought they could find it on their **own**. So they relied on **their** good works and on **their** traditions to try to give them **comfort** and **rest**. That's what their earthly wisdom **told** them to do, and that's exactly the **point** Jesus is making at the beginning of our text when He said, "*I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have **hidden** these things from **clever** and **learned** people.*" The simple truth of the Gospel is **hidden** to those who think they

are too **wise** or too **learned** for it - people who think they can do just fine on their **own, without** Jesus.

But the **truth** is that without **Jesus**, their souls will **never** be at rest. Their souls will be doomed to **destruction**. That's how every soul comes **into** this world - **doomed** to destruction. Why? It's because of **sin**. By **nature**, people understand that there is a God who demands **perfection** from them, and they also realize that they have **not** been **perfect**. The result is **unrest** for the soul. We **know** what that's like. We've **felt** our conscience telling us that something isn't **right** when we've **said** things we shouldn't **say**, or **done** things we shouldn't **do**. So how do we **deal** with that? How are we going to be able to go to **sleep** at night and not think, "My soul is **doomed**?" How are we going to find **rest** for our souls?

Man, in his wisdom, has tried to come up with many different **solutions** to this problem - different ways to find **rest** for himself. Maybe you've tried some of these solutions **yourself**. Some people will try to **ignore** the situation. They keep telling themselves that nothing is really **wrong**. Over time, they keep **dulling** their conscience to the point where it doesn't even **bother** them anymore. However, eventually they reach a point where they are no longer **able** to just ignore the problem. Maybe that's what's happening **now**. People are faced with a potentially **life-threatening** virus. So, they need to do some **soul** searching to determine how they're going to **react**. They realize that they can't get out of this situation on their **own**, and as a result, there is **no rest** for their soul.

If people aren't able to **ignore** sin they try to find their rest in some **other** way. Some will play the **comparison** game: "Well, I know I'm not **perfect**, but at least I'm not as bad as **that** guy." Still others will play the "I'm doing the **best I can**" game. They think that God can't be **mad** at them, because they're **trying** to be the best people they can be. Those kinds of **games** might ease people's consciences for a **short** time, but **none** of them can bring the **lasting rest** which we all **need**. The **only** way to find rest for a sinful soul is to have the sin removed **completely**, and that's **not** something that **we** can do. But it is exactly what **Jesus** came to do **for** us.

That's why Jesus gives us this simple message, "*Come to **me**.*" If we want to find **rest** for our souls we need to go to **Jesus**. It's so **simple**. Yet so many people don't want to **see** it. Sometimes, you and I get **distracted** and we **forget** that simple truth ourselves. That's why we need to be **reminded**. We need to hear Jesus' words **again** and **again**, "*Come to **me**, all you who are **weary** and **burdened**, and I will give you **rest**.*" Have you felt the **weariness** of trying to make up for

your sins and imperfections on your **own**? Do you have a burden of **guilt** weighing down on your shoulders? Then go to **Jesus**, because that's why He **came**. Jesus will **give** us the rest we so desperately need.

I read a story once about a man who was driving an **oxcart** into a little village. Along the way he met an old man who was carrying a **heavy load** on his shoulders all by himself. The driver had **compassion** on the old man, and he invited him to ride along on the **back** of his cart. A short time later, the driver turned around to see how the old man was **doing**, but he was surprised to see that the man wasn't sitting on his cart. Instead, he had chosen to keep on **straining on his own** under the heavy weight of his burden.

Sometimes that's the way **we** act too. Jesus lived a perfect life, and then freely offered that perfect life to the heavenly Father in order to **remove** all **sin** from our lives - the very **same** sins which caused all of our **weariness** and **burdens**. That selfless sacrifice took place some 2,000 years ago. The **burden** caused by sin has been **carried**, and it's no longer a **burden** for **us** at all. So why do we go around still trying to **carry** that burden in our lives? Take the burden of your sin to the **cross** of **Jesus**. Lay those burdens **down** at the foot of the cross, and realize that **Jesus** has already **carried** them. Jesus has provided us with the **rest** we need, so **Enjoy God's Rest**.

Jesus said, "*Take **my yoke** upon you and **learn** from me, because I am **gentle** and **humble** in heart, and you will find **rest** for your souls.*" The **yoke** that Jesus offers us is our Christian **life** - a life which includes both **joys** and **sadness** - a life which includes both **sickness** and **health** - a life which includes both **life** and **death**. No matter **what** Jesus allows to come into our lives, we need to be **yoked together** with Him, and **humbly** walk along through life with **Him** at our side. When we realize that Jesus has taken away all of our **sins** and their **punishment**, then following God's commands is no longer a heavy **burden**, it's a **delight**. Living our lives for our **Savior** is the way we can express our **thanks** and **love** for everything **He** has done for **us**. Even our **crosses** aren't really a **burden**, but rather they become a **joy** as we learn to **appreciate** what our **Savior** suffered for **us**, and when we **realize** that God will **use** these crosses to **bless** us. All along the way, our Savior will give us the **strength** and **endurance** we need to **carry** whatever yoke He places on us. That's why He can say, "*My yoke is **easy** and my burden is **light**.*"

The **rest** we possess because of **Jesus** completely **replaces** whatever **stresses** and **burdens** we experience in our daily lives. And most important of all, we know that our **biggest** burden - the burden of **sin** - is a burden that **we** don't

have to **carry**, because **Jesus** has already carried it **for** us. **Enjoy God's Rest.** Enjoy it by taking a break every week to worship our **God** and to study His **Word**, to **pray** to Him and to **praise** Him for His goodness. We **need** those breaks on a regular basis, and every time we go to **Jesus**, we will find a little **taste** of **heaven** - that place where we will rest **completely** from all our labors and burdens. That's a rest we will enjoy **forever**, and it's the kind of rest that Jesus offers us **continually** in His Word and Sacraments. **Enjoy God's Rest.** Amen.

### **Prayers:**

Lord Jesus Christ, we can only marvel at Your great **humility** for leaving Your throne in **heaven** to walk the way of the **cross** as our Substitute. We know we could **never** enter heaven on the basis of our **own** merit, because we have all **sinned**, and come far **short** of the glory of God. But we have Your **grace** in abundance, dear Savior. Though You were **rich**, yet for our sakes You became **poor**, so that we through Your **poverty**, might become **rich**. Through **You** we have full **forgiveness**, and perfect **righteousness**. Through You **alone** we are graciously made **fit** for heaven in every way.

May we never fail to **appreciate** and **trust** everything that You did to **redeem** us from our sins, and **reconcile** us to God. By prayerful meditation on Your **cross**, and on Your bitter **sufferings** and **death** for us - may we grow more **mature** in our faith and love for **You**, and at the same time learn to love **all** mankind better as well. Give us hearts that are ready to **believe** whatever You **say**, and to **obey** whatever You **command**. To this end, send Your Holy Spirit with His **grace** to dwell in us **richly**, and to work in us **powerfully**.

We also praise You as our exalted Lord and Savior for winning the **victory** over sin, death, and the devil. As our living and exalted Prophet, **comfort** our hearts with the Gospel of **forgiveness**. Cast away all **doubts**, and draw us continually **closer** to You. As our exalted High Priest, **hear** us when we pray, and **intercede** for us at the Father's throne. And as our exalted King, **watch over** us day by day, **protecting** us from all danger, and **guarding** and **keeping** us from every evil that threatens our bodies and souls. In Your **mercy**, take care of **all** of our needs, both **physical** and **spiritual**. 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 #536 - *“Lord Jesus Christ, the Church’s Head”***

**Lord Jesus Christ, the Church’s head,  
You are her one foundation.  
In you she trusts, before you bows,  
And waits for your salvation.  
Built on this rock secure, your Church shall endure  
Though all the world decay and all things pass away.  
Oh, hear, oh, hear us, Jesus!**

**O Lord, let this your little flock,  
Your name alone confessing,  
Continue in your loving care,  
True unity possessing.  
Your sacraments, O Lord, and your saving Word  
To us e’er pure retain, grant that they may remain  
Our only strength and comfort.**

**Help us to serve you evermore  
With hearts both pure and lowly.  
And may your Word, that light divine,  
Shine on in splendor holy  
That we repentance show, in faith ever grow.  
The pow’r of sin destroy and evils that annoy.  
Oh, make us faithful Christians.**

**And for your gospel let us dare  
To sacrifice all treasure;  
Teach us to bear your blessed cross,  
To find in you all pleasure.  
Oh, grant us steadfastness in joy and distress.  
Lord, for your mercy’s sake, let us by grace partake**

**Of endless joy and glory.**

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 #409 - "Come, My Soul, with Every Care"**

**Come, my soul, with ev'ry care;  
Jesus loves to answer prayer.  
He himself bids you to pray  
And will never turn away.**

**You are coming to a king-  
Large petitions with you bring,  
For his grace and pow'r are such,  
None can ever ask too much.**

**With my burden I begin:  
Lord, remove this load of sin;  
Let your blood, for sinners spilt,  
Set my conscience free from guilt.**

**Lord, your rest to me impart;  
Take possession of my heart.  
There your blood-bought right maintain  
And without a rival reign.**

**While I am a pilgrim here,  
Let your love my spirit cheer;  
As my guide, my guard, my friend,  
Lead me to my journey's end.**

**Show me what I am to do;  
Ev'ry hour my strength renew.  
Let me live a life of faith;  
Let me die your people's death.**