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11th Sunday of Pentecost

WHY JESUS WALKED ON WATER

August 9, 2026

Divine Service 1



PRE-SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS SERVANT PROCESSIONAL

AS WE GATHER

The only way a sinful human being can dare to approach and worship an almighty God is if we also know that He is a God of mercy. God's mighty power is known from the vastness of His creation, the stars and seas, light and darkness, tempests and storms (Job 38). "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom" (Psalm 111:10). Yet we are told, "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Romans 10:13). "Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you, and therefore He exalts Himself to show mercy to you" (Isaiah 30:18). This "almighty and most merciful God"

(Prayer of the Day) showed both His might and mercy when He became aware of His disciples' peril on a storm-tossed sea. Walking on water wasn't the point. It was the Lord's coming to save us in our fear and distress (Matthew 14). As the catechism says of God's commandments, "We should fear and love God." We can trust the God who has harnessed His wrath with His love. Greater love has no one than the God who joined us in our misery, took our sin upon Himself, and died our death but now is risen to save us from every evil that threatens us or makes us afraid.

Confession and Absolution

HYMN OF INVOCATION: 750 IF THOU BUT TRUST IN GOD TO GUIDE THEE

sts. 1–3, 7

1. If thou but trust in God to guide thee
 And hope in Him through all thy ways,
 He'll give thee strength, whate'er betide thee,
 And bear thee through the evil days.
 Who trusts in God's unchanging love
 Builds on the rock that naught can move.

2. What can these anxious cares avail thee,
 These never-ceasing moans and sighs?
 What can it help if thou bewail thee
 O'er each dark moment as it flies?
 Our cross and trials do but press
 The heavier for our bitterness.

3. Be patient and await His leisure
 In cheerful hope, with heart content

To take whate'er thy Father's pleasure
And His discerning love hath sent,
Nor doubt our inmost wants are known
To Him who chose us for His own.

7. Sing, pray, and keep His ways
unswerving,
Perform thy duties faithfully,
And trust His Word; though undeserving,
Thou yet shalt find it true for thee.
God never yet forsook in need
The soul that trusted Him indeed.

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; Georg
Neumark, 1621–81

Text: Public domain

Stand

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of
their Baptism.*

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the
✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

EXHORTATION

LSB 167

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive
ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C But if we confess our sins, God, who is
faithful and just, will forgive our sins
and cleanse us from all
unrighteousness.**

Kneel/Stand

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-
examination.*

CONFESSION OF SINS *LSB 167*

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

ABSOLUTION *LSB 167*

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Stand

Service of the Word

INTROIT

P I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
I sought the LORD, and he answered me
and delivered me from all my fears.

C Those who look to him are radiant,
and their faces shall never be
ashamed.
This poor man cried, and the LORD
heard him
and saved him out of all his troubles.

P The angel of the LORD encamps
around those who fear him, and
delivers them.
Oh, taste and see that the LORD is
good!
Blessèd is the man who takes refuge
in him!

**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.**

C I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my
mouth.

KYRIE *LSB 168*

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace from above and for
our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for
the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all let us pray to
the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS *LSB 170*

P Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.

C Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:

We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God:

You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord,

You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you

P Let us pray.

Almighty and most merciful God, preserve us from all harm and danger that we, being ready in both body

and soul, may cheerfully accomplish what You want done; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Job 38:4–18

⁴[The Lord said to Job:] “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?

Tell me, if you have understanding.

⁵Who determined its measurements—surely you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it?

⁶On what were its bases sunk,
or who laid its cornerstone,

⁷when the morning stars sang together
and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

⁸“Or who shut in the sea with doors
when it burst out from the womb,

⁹when I made clouds its garment
and thick darkness its swaddling band,

¹⁰and prescribed limits for it
and set bars and doors,

¹¹and said, ‘Thus far shall you come,
and no farther,

and here shall your proud waves be stayed’?

¹²“Have you commanded the morning
since your days began,

and caused the dawn to know its
place,

¹³that it might take hold of the skirts of
the earth,

and the wicked be shaken out of it?

¹⁴It is changed like clay under the seal,

and its features stand out like a garment.

¹⁵From the wicked their light is withheld,

and their uplifted arm is broken.

¹⁶“Have you entered into the springs of the sea,

or walked in the recesses of the deep?

¹⁷Have the gates of death been revealed to you,

or have you seen the gates of deep darkness?

¹⁸Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth?

Declare, if you know all this.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

The LORD Is My Rock and My Fortress

L ¹I love you,
O LORD, my strength.

C ²The LORD is my rock and my fortress
and my deliverer,
my God, my rock, in whom I take
refuge,
my shield, and the horn of my
salvation, my stronghold.

L ³I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to
be praised,
and I am saved from my enemies.

C ⁴The cords of death encompassed me;
the torrents of destruction assailed
me;

L ⁵the cords of Sheol entangled me;
the snares of death confronted me.

**☐ ⁶In my distress I called upon the LORD;
to my God I cried for help.
From his temple he heard my voice,
and my cry to him reached his ears.**

EPISTLE

Romans 10:5–17

The Message of Salvation to All

⁵Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them. ⁶But the righteousness based on faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷or “‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ¹¹For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

¹⁴But how are they to call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” ¹⁶But they have not all obeyed

the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” ¹⁷So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA AND VERSE *LSB 173*

C Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 14:22–33*

P The Holy Gospel according to St.
Matthew, the fourteenth chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus Walks on the Water

²²Immediately [Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. ²⁵And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, “It is a ghost!” and they cried out in fear. ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.”

²⁸And Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” ²⁹He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. ³⁰But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me.” ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” ³²And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you O Christ

Sit

KID’S SERMON: God is our Safe Place *From VBS curriculum*

HYMN OF THE DAY: 728 HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION

- 1 How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you
He has said
Who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?
- 2 “Fear not! I am with you, O be not dismayed,
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and
cause you to stand,

Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent
hand.

3 “The soul that on Jesus has leaned for
repose

I will not, I will not, desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should
endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never, forsake!

4 “When through fiery trials your
pathway will lie,

My grace, all-sufficient, will be your
supply.

The flames will not hurt you; I only
design

Your dross to consume and your gold
to refine.

5 “Throughout all their lifetime My
people will prove

My sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable
love;

And then, when gray hairs will their
temples adorn,

Like lambs they will still in My bosom
be borne.”

Text: A Selection of Hymns, 1787, London, alt.

Text: Public domain

SERMON: "WHY JESUS WALKED ON WATER"

Matthew 14:22-33

Stand

APOSTLES' CREED

**☩ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence 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.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Prayer response

P Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

Sit

OFFERING

Stand

OFFERTORY: HE WILL HOLD ME FAST

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold through life's

fearful path;
For my love is often cold; He must hold
me fast.

He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Saviour loves me so, He will hold
me fast.

Those He saves are His delight, Christ will
hold me fast;
Precious in his holy sight, He will hold me
fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost; His promises
shall last;
Bought by Him at such a cost, He will
hold me fast.

He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Saviour loves me so, He will hold
me fast
For my life He bled and died, Christ will
hold me fast;
Justice has been satisfied; He will hold
me fast.
Raised with Him to endless life, He will
hold me fast
'Till our faith is turned to sight, When He
comes at last!

He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Saviour loves me so, He will hold
me fast.

CCLI Song # 7016161

Ada Ruth Habershon | Matthew Merker

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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.

Sit

BENEDICTION *LSB 183*

☩ The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and
✠ give you peace.



HYMN TO DEPART: 763 WHEN PEACE, LIKE A RIVER

1 When peace, like a river, attendeth
my way;
When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught
me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.
Refrain

ref It is well (It is well)
with my soul, (with my soul),
It is well, it is well with my soul.

2 Though Satan should buffet, though
trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless
estate
And hath shed His own blood for
my soul. Refrain

3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glorious
thought;
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no
more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O
my soul! Refrain

4 And, Lord, haste the day when our
faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a
scroll,
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord
shall descend;
Even so it is well with my soul.
Refrain

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–88, alt.

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