

## 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

August 17 & 20, 2023

**The Season** After reliving the great events of the life of Christ, the worshipping Church spends half a year focusing on the teachings of Christ. The Church wears green during the season of Pentecost as the Spirit uses those teachings of Jesus to grow the faith of believers. The appointed lessons teach us the characteristics of the Holy Ministry, the Christian, the Church, our God, and the Christian life.

**The Sunday** Doubt is the unfortunate companion of faith. Wherever faith clings to the promises of God, doubt is always right there lingering in the back of our mind, constantly asking the serpent's Garden question, "Did God really say?" Today's lessons show us believers who had faith in God and his abilities to save them, but yet doubted when his plans or purpose failed to match theirs. In each case, it is adversity that fights against faith and allows its unfortunate companion to rear its ugly head. And in each case, the true answer to doubt is not found in the great miracle that removes adversity, but in the still small voice of our Savior God whispering in his Word. *The Christian answers doubt with faith.*

## Hymn

*Be Still, My Soul* CW 415



1 Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side;  
2 Be still, my soul; your God will un - der - take  
3 Be still, my soul; though dear - est friends de - part  
4 Be still, my soul; the hour is has - t'ning on



Bear pa - tient - ly the cross of grief or pain;  
To guide the fu - ture as he has the past.  
And all is dark - ened in the vale of tears;  
When we shall be for - ev - er with the Lord,



Leave to your God to or - der and pro - vide;  
Your hope, your con - fi - dence, let noth - ing shake;  
Then you will bet - ter know his love, his heart,  
When dis - ap - point - ment, grief, and fear are gone,



In ev - 'ry change he faith - ful will re - main.  
All now mys - te - rious shall be bright at last.  
Who comes to soothe your sor - rows and your fears.  
Sor - row for - got, love's pur - est joys re - stored.



Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'n - ly friend  
Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know  
Be still, my soul; your Je - sus can re - pay  
Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,



Through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.  
His voice who ruled them while he lived be - low.  
From his own full - ness all he takes a - way.  
All safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.

Text: Catharina A. von Schlegel, 1697–1752, abr.; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–97, alt.  
Tune: FINLANDIA (10 10 10 10 10 10) Jean J. C. Sibelius, 1865–1957, adapt. © Breitkopf & Härtel.  
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## Morrison Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Wisconsin Evangelical  
Lutheran Synod



MORRISON  
ZION  
LUTHERAN

Our mission is to

**Glorify God**

as we

**Gather**

around the Gospel  
to help people

**Grow**

in the **Gospel**  
and

**Go**

with the **Gospel**

**Welcome!** We  
thank God that you  
have joined us at  
worship today.

Restrooms are  
located in the  
basement. Hearing  
loop headphones and  
Large Print Hymnals  
are available from an  
usher.

If your children  
need to leave worship,  
please take them to  
the basement. A TV  
broadcasts the  
service in the  
basement.

Today we gather  
together in the  
presence of God. He  
is present among us  
in a special way  
through his Word and  
Sacrament. We  
acknowledge our sin  
and rejoice in the  
good news of  
forgiveness through  
the life and death of  
Christ. This is the  
focus of our worship.

Stand

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

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### CONFESSION OF SINS

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M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: **Amen.**

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### PRAYER AND PRAISE

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M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

#### Oh, Taste and See

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are  
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -  
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -  
ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: 'Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e - ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav - ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -'.



## Prayer of the Day

**M:** Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

*Be Seated*

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## THE WORD

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### First Lesson:

### Exodus 14:10-31

The children of Israel during their great exodus aptly displayed that doubt is the unfortunate companion of faith. As they made their way from Egypt to Canaan, they scurried back and forth between the poles of faith and doubt with alarming regularity. Faith had led them to follow Moses and the Pillar into the desert. Now, however, with the sea in front of them and a great army behind them, faith fled and doubt reigned. Adversity made them forget the God of the Passover. The troubles that seem to afflict us or hem us in, are, in fact, part of the plan for the glory of God and the salvation of man. It is only after the parted sea finds its former home that we recognize the grace of God's hand in our lives. And we hear the gentle whisper of our Savior God, "Why did you doubt?"

<sup>10</sup> As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the LORD. <sup>11</sup> They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? <sup>12</sup> Didn't we say to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians'? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!"

<sup>13</sup> Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. <sup>14</sup> The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still."

<sup>15</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. <sup>16</sup> Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground. <sup>17</sup> I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. And I will gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen. <sup>18</sup> The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen."

<sup>19</sup> Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, <sup>20</sup> coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.

<sup>21</sup> Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, <sup>22</sup> and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

<sup>23</sup> The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. <sup>24</sup> During the last watch of the night the LORD looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. <sup>25</sup> He jammed the wheels of their chariots so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites! The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

<sup>26</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen." <sup>27</sup> Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward it, and the LORD swept them into the sea. <sup>28</sup> The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen—the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived.

<sup>29</sup> But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. <sup>30</sup> That day the LORD saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. <sup>31</sup> And when the Israelites saw the mighty hand of the LORD displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant. (NIV)

## Psalm of the Day

## Psalm 73 CW

### Refrain



Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and  
not be a - fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my  
sure de-fense, and he will be my Sav - ior.

### Psalm tone



\*

I am always with you, O LORD;\*  
you hold me by my right hand.  
You guide me with your counsel,\*  
and afterward you will take me into glory.  
Whom have I in heaven but you?\*  
And earth has nothing I desire besides you.  
My flesh and my heart may fail,\*  
but God is the strength of my heart  
and my portion forever.

**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.**

*Refrain*

Refrain Tune: Jack Noble White. © 1976 Belwin-Mills Publishing Corp., (admin. Alfred Publishing Co.). All rights reserved. Used by permission.

**Second Lesson**

**James 1:2-8,12**

The trials we face in this sinful world can make us terrified like the disciples, or despondent like the children of Israel before the sea. James calls us out as living like double-minded men when we doubt our God. He preaches a law to hearts that need to hear it: "Do not doubt!" But God promises that in the midst of the storms of life, we can listen and also hear his gentle whisper. "It is I. Don't be afraid!" When we hear his voice, the waves of doubt recede and faith finds its place again.

<sup>2</sup> Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, <sup>3</sup> because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. <sup>4</sup> Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. <sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. <sup>6</sup> But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup> That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. <sup>8</sup> Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do. "So I declared on oath in my anger,

<sup>12</sup> Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. (NIV)

**Verse of the Day**

M: Alleluia. Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.  
Alleluia. (Hebrews 11:1)

*Stand*

M: The Gospel according to Matthew chapter 14.

**C: Glory be to you, O Lord.**

## Gospel:

## Matthew 14:22-33

The evangelist paints a picture of frantic effort against a storm with little progress. Then Jesus came—and note the way he came! The very thing they had been fighting, the water that threatened to take their life, Jesus walked on it like it was dry ground. What a Savior we have that walks on the waters of all our greatest fears! See the faith in the disciples grow! See Peter show it in his own miraculous walk. But, all too often, doubt is the unfortunate companion of faith. What pulls our eyes of faith away from Jesus? What are the waves and wind in our lives that make us doubt him? With Jesus there is never any need to doubt. How sad that we so often do! Rather, let us focus on the Savior and watch our faith swell as the disciples' did when their doubts vanished.

<sup>22</sup> Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. <sup>23</sup> After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, <sup>24</sup> and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

<sup>25</sup> Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. <sup>26</sup> When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

<sup>27</sup> But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

<sup>28</sup> "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

<sup>29</sup> "Come," he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. <sup>30</sup> But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

<sup>31</sup> Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

<sup>32</sup> And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. <sup>33</sup> Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." (NIV)

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ.

*Be seated*

## Hymn of the Day

*By Grace I'm Saved* CW 384



1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and bound - less;  
2 By grace God's Son, our on - ly Sav - ior,  
3 By grace! Oh, mark this word of prom - ise  
4 By grace to tim - id hearts that trem - ble,  
5 By grace! On this I'll rest when dy - ing;



My soul, be - lieve and doubt it not. Why wa - ver  
Came down to earth to bear our sin. Was it be -  
When you are by your sins op - pressed, When Sa - tan  
In trib - u - la - tion's fur - nace tried— By grace, de -  
In Je - sus' prom - ise I re - joice. For though I



at this word of prom - ise? Has Scrip - ture ev - er  
 cause of your own mer - it That Je - sus died your  
 plagues your trou - bled con - science, And when your heart is  
 spite all fear and trou - ble, The Fa - ther's heart is  
 know my heart's con - di - tion, I al - so know my



false - hood taught? So then this word must true re -  
 soul to win? No, it was grace, and grace a -  
 seek - ing rest. What rea - son can - not com - pre -  
 o - pen wide. Where could I help and strength se -  
 Sav - ior's voice. My heart is glad; all grief has



main: By grace you, too, shall heav'n ob - tain.  
 lone, That brought him from his heav'n - ly throne.  
 hend God by his grace to you did send.  
 cure If grace were not my an - chor sure?  
 flown Since I am saved by grace a - lone.

Text: Christian L. Scheidt, 1709–61, abr.; tr. composite.

Tune: O DASS ICH TAUSEND ZUNGEN HÄTTE (DRETZEL) (98 98 88) Cornelius H. Dretzel, 1697–1775, alt.

## Sermon

Exodus 14:10-31

*Stand*

### 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.**

*Be Seated*

### Offering

*Stand*

### Prayer of the Church

## 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.

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

## Benediction

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.

Serve the Lord with gladness.

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

*Be Seated*

## Hymn

*Oh, for a Faith that Will Not Shrink* CW 405:1-2

1 Oh, for a faith that will not shrink Though  
2 That will not mur - mur nor com - plain Be -  
pressed by man - y a foe, That will not trem - ble  
neath the chas - t'ning rod, But in the hour of  
on the brink Of pov - er - ty or woe,  
grief or pain Can lean up - on its God,

Text: William H. Bathurst, 1796–1877.

Tune: ST. PETER (CM) Alexander R. Reinagle, 1799–1877.