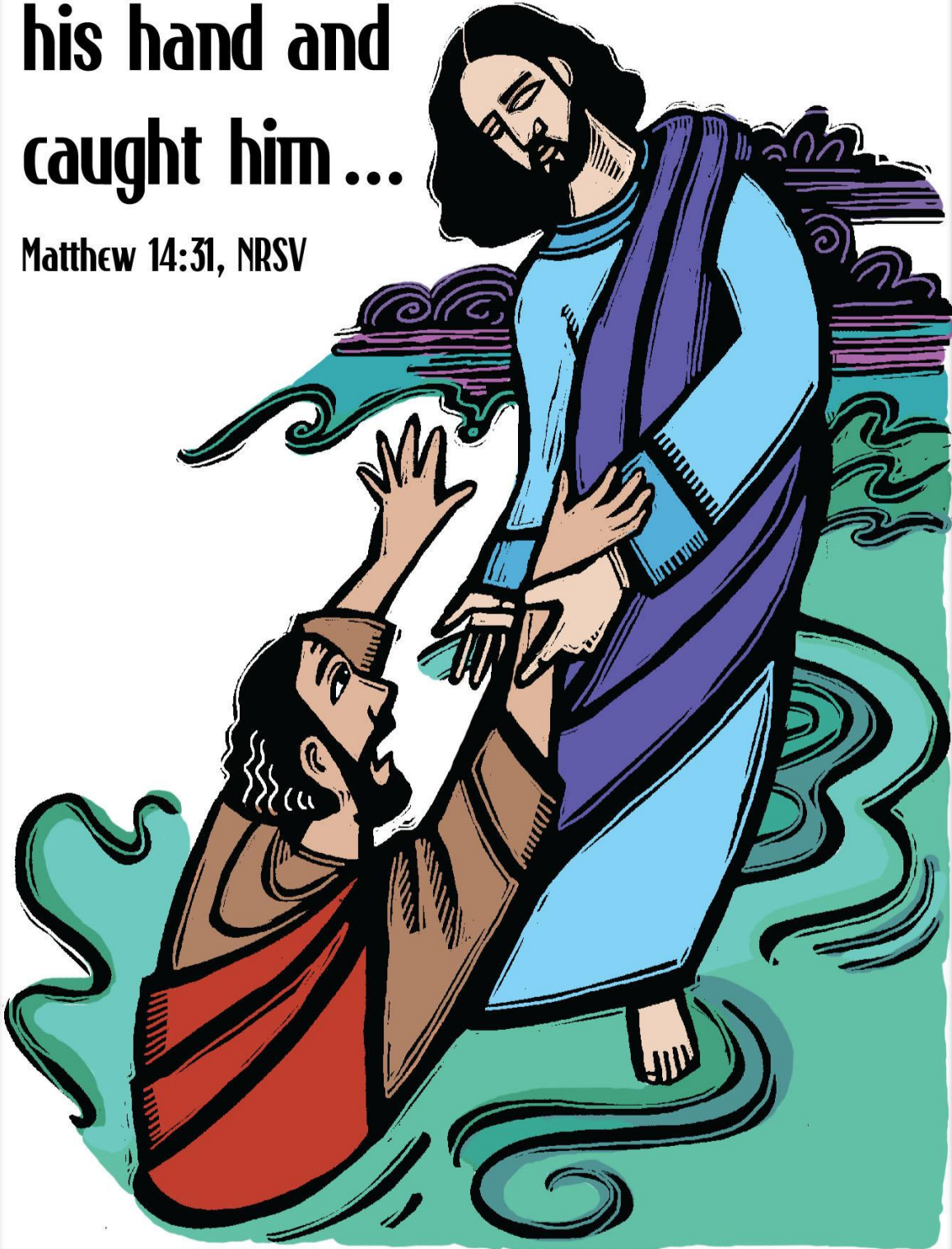


ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆Bethany ◆Immanuel ◆Lunder ◆Silver Lake ◆Winnebago

**Jesus immediately reached out
his hand and
caught him ...**

Matthew 14:31, NRSV



Pentecost 11

August 13, 2023



ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆ Bethany ◆ Immanuel ◆ Lunder ◆ Silver Lake ◆ Winnebago

Ministers

Every member of the Parish

Pastors (#590-2737 – cell; email pastorbill@oneinchristlutheranparish.org)

Bill Peters

(#590-0727 – cell; email pastorrandy@oneinchristlutheranparish.org)

Randy Baldwin

web page - <http://www.oneinchristlutheranparish.org>

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 13, 2023

COME, HOLY SPIRIT!

We joyfully welcome all guests who are worshiping with us this morning.

We ask you to please sign our guest register. God's Spirit has empowered us to be an united community of faith and encourages us to be a neighbor to all.

SPIRIT, SET OUR HEARTS ON FIRE!

ORDER OF WORSHIP

(* Stand as you are able)

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

✠ **GATHERING** ✠

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the People of God

*CONFESSIO

With thanksgiving, O God, we make your deeds known by praising you in words and songs which tell of all your wonderful works.

Holy God, we gather here to worship you with praise and thanksgiving for all you have done, are doing, and promise to do in the world and in our lives.

We have done nothing to deserve such grace and goodness and so we cannot help but respond with joy and delight for being so loved by you and so precious to you.

We rejoice because we no longer have to earn your love - only to accept it.

You, O God, graciously revealed this love forever when you entered our world and our history in person - in Jesus Christ our Lord.

He enters our very lives through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

We pray that this time of worship may reveal the depth of our love for you and for this world you created, for we offer it in Jesus' name. Amen.

We confess, O God, all the times when we are in special need of your help to overcome our weaknesses, our anger, our fear.

We know that our quality of life is diminished when we find ourselves reacting to difficult situations, rather than acting to resolve them.

This may mean looking at ourselves and our motives and pondering how differently we may act if we really believe...

Apostle Paul's words that "the word is near you, on your lips and in your heart" and "if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead you will be saved."

When our lips gladly confess that Jesus is Lord but our actions do not reflect that belief,
forgive us.

When our need to promote our personal agendas becomes more important than promoting the Lordship of Christ,

forgive us.

When our apathy and prejudices undermine the gospel of love,
forgive us.

Merciful God, forgive us all our faults and fears, we pray. Renew our faith in the living Christ so that we can live joyously aware of his risen presence strengthening us to confess him as Lord and to make that confession visible in and through our lives.

This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen

***EXPERIENCING GOD'S GRACE – THE GOOD NEWS**

Hear the good news: “If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved.” and “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Thanks be to God!

***OPENING SONG**

“O Savior, Precious Savior”

514

*O Savior, precious Savior, whom yet unseen we love;
O name of might and favor, all other names above:
we worship thee; we bless thee; to thee alone we sing;
we praise thee and confess thee, our holy Lord and King.*

*O bringer of salvation, who wondrously hast wrought,
thyself the revelation of love beyond our thought:
we worship thee; we bless thee; to thee alone we sing;
we praise thee and confess thee, our gracious Lord and King.*

*In thee all fullness dwelleth, all grace and pow'r divine;
the glory that excelleth, O Son of God, is thine.
We worship thee; we bless thee; to thee alone we sing;
we praise thee and confess thee, our glorious Lord and King.*

*Oh, grant the consummation of this our song above,
in endless adoration and everlasting love;
then shall we praise and bless thee where perfect praises ring,
and evermore confess thee, our Savior and our King!*

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879

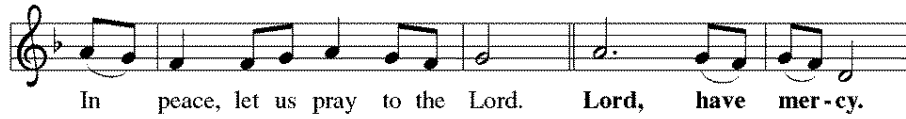
***APOSTOLIC GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

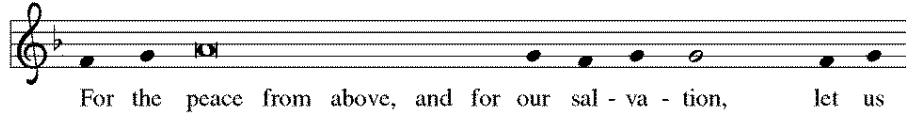
And also with you.

***SHARING THE PEACE**

***KYRIE**



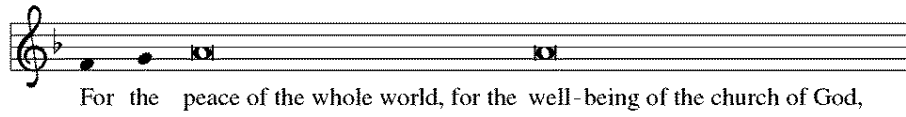
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer-cy.**




For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us



pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



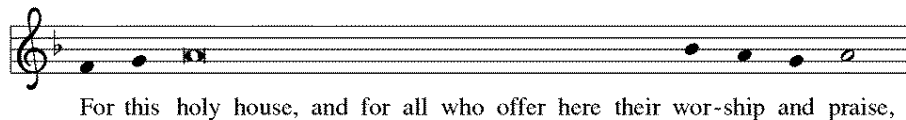
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



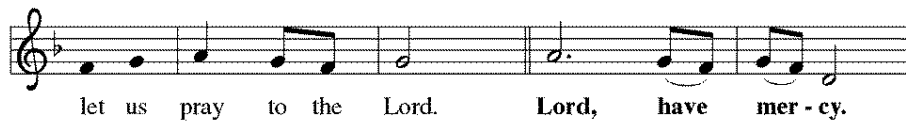
and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



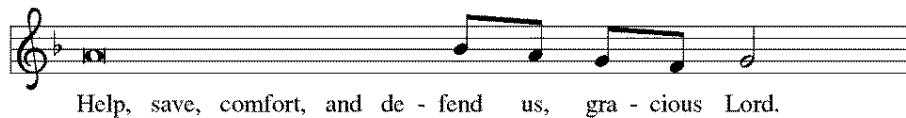
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE** "Glory to God..."

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

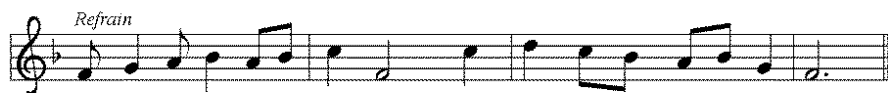


1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.

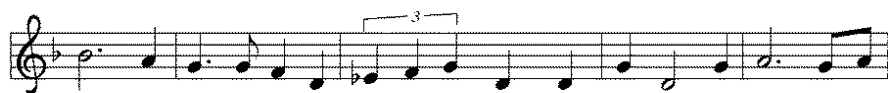
Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of

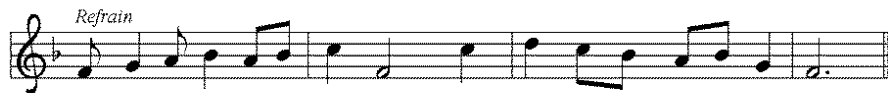


God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are



seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,

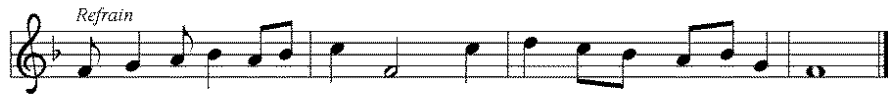


you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

God speaks to us in scripture, reading, preaching, and song

Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing bread and cup of the eucharist, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God's presence to others.

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Kings 19:9-18

On Mount Horeb, where God had appeared to Moses with typical signs of God's presence—earthquake, wind, and fire—Elijah now experienced God in "sheer silence." God assured Elijah that he is not the only faithful believer. Seven thousand Israelites are still loyal. God instructed Elijah to anoint two men as kings and to anoint Elisha as his own successor.

⁹At [Horeb, the mount of God,][Elijah] came to a cave, and spent the night there.

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁰He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

¹¹He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; ¹²and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁴He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." ¹⁵Then the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 10:5-15

A right relationship with God is not something we achieve by heroic efforts. It is a gift received in the proclamation whose content is Jesus Christ. This proclaimed word creates our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Hence Christian proclamation is an indispensable component of God's saving actions.

⁵Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them."

⁶But the righteousness that comes from 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,

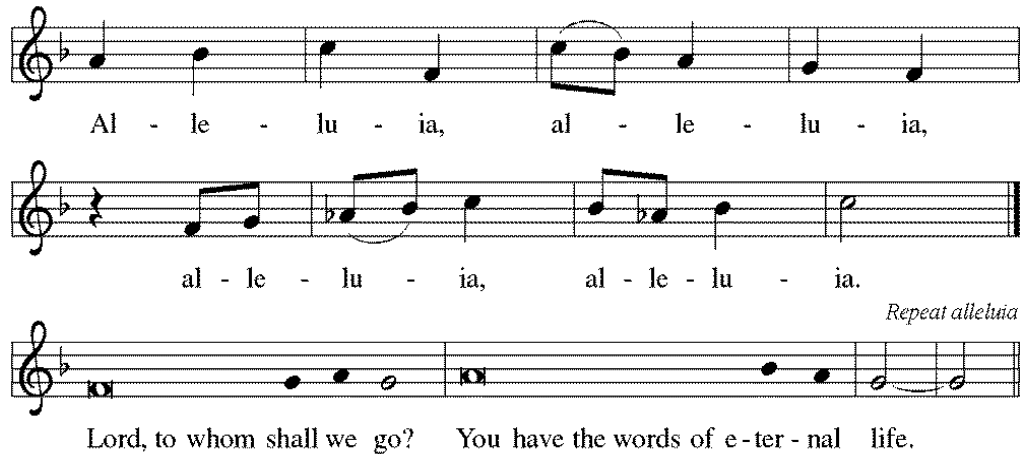
on your lips and in your heart"

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

¹⁴But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

*GOSPEL READING

Matthew 14:22-33

Matthew's gospel typically portrays Jesus' disciples as people of "little faith," who fail despite their best intentions. In this story, Matthew shows how Jesus comes to the disciples when they are in trouble and sustains them in their time of fear and doubt.

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²²[Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee], while he dismissed the crowds.²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,²⁴but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.²⁵And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea.²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear.²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

²⁸Peter 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, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus.³⁰But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"³²When they got into the boat, the wind ceased.³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

Harlan Nyhus

SONG OF THE DAY

"Blessed Assurance"

Blue # 95

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.*

*Refrain This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior, all the day long:
this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.*

*Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love. Refrain*

*Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love. Refrain*

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

***APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

***PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY**

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

...Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

✠ **THANKSGIVING** ✠

God invites us to respond to His grace

OFFERING

***OFFERTORY SONG** *"Create in Me..."*

ELW # 186

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit.*

✠ **SENDING** ✠

God blesses us and sends us in mission in the world

***BLESSING**

***THREE-FOLD AMEN**

***RINGING OF THE BELL**

***SENDING SONG**

Blue # 99

*“When Peace like a River”
It Is Well with My Soul*

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

*Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control,
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has shed his own blood for my soul. Refrain*

*My sin--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*

*Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
the trumpet shall resound and the Lord shall descend;
even so it is well with my soul. Refrain*

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828-1888

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude



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HERE AND NOW

“Lord, save me!” (Matthew 14:30). Right now! Right here! Right away! Peter was desperate. Neither Peter nor Jesus was thinking of heaven. The cry cracking through the storm at sea had nothing to do with a hoped-for future in a realm beyond earth in a time to come when the days of this life, here, are no more. In the tumult, in the deep-water chaos and fright, “Lord, save me!” is an urgent cry for Jesus to reach “here”—not to take me “there.”

Christians can become so bent on “being saved” as an afterlife promise that they go along, living with little discovery of Jesus present in the world, saving the world here and now.

“Lord, save” is a refrain repeated throughout all of scripture from Genesis to Revelation. In the first chapter of Matthew’s gospel is the prophetic “Wow!” that Jesus is Emmanuel, meaning “God is with us” (Matt. 1:23). From the moment he begins his ministry, Jesus makes visible and touchable the kingdom of heaven that “has come near” (Matt. 4:17). He gathers a community of disciples, announces and creates good news, cures, teaches the way of blessedness, does mercy, insists on forgiveness, encourages faith, remembers the forgotten, sees the unseen, chooses the rejected, gives courage, offers hope . . . all to save *here and now*.

“Lord, save me!” The saving takes place even before Jesus dies on the cross. The reason for his parables: to save. The meaning of the miracles: to save. The purpose of his teaching: to save.

“Lord, save me!” What a courageous appeal those words are, trusting Jesus to be Lord—master not only of a gated spiritual territory, but master on windy seas where we tremble and gasp and sink into the deep waters of a turbulent world that roils our lives. Courageous Peter, with little faith and little doubt, dares us to make his words our own: “Lord, save me!”