

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church

Peachtree City, Georgia

The Fifth Sunday of Easter ☩ May 15, 2022 ☩ 11:00 A.M.

Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor Miriam Beecher, Pastor David Beecher, Minister of Music

☐ = Pastor ☒ = Lector [reader] ☑ = Congregation ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship (hymnal, if you have one at home)
↑ Please stand as you are able.

PRELUDE: *Trumpet Voluntary*

Music and The Master Ringers

This "Prince of Denmark's March" is by Jeremiah Clarke (c.1673-1707), arranged here for ringers by Sandra Eithun (2014).

Welcome to worship! Today's worship includes the sacrament of communion. Communion is offered by intinction: you may receive a wafer and dip it in the chalice with wine or white grape juice. Or you may pick up a prefilled communion "kit" on the altar rail as you approach the altar. Please tell an usher if you need a communion kit brought to you where you sit. At home you may prepare ahead of time wine/grape juice and bread appropriate for your family. Our liturgy declares we celebrate with "the church on earth and the hosts of heaven."

We acknowledge that communion always connects us "remotely" and powerfully with the Church through time and space.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

↑ GATHERING HYMN: *Out of the Depths I Cry to You*

ELW Hymn 600

(Could this be Jonah's hymn from the belly of the great fish?)

- 1 **Out of the depths I cry to you; O Lord God, hear me calling.
Incline your ear to my distress in spite of my rebelling.
Do not regard my sinful deeds. Send me the grace my spirit needs; without it I am nothing.**
- 2 **All things you send are full of grace; you crown our lives with favor.
All our good works are done in vain without our Lord and Savior.
We praise you for the gift of faith; you save us from the grip of death;
our lives are in your keeping.**
- 3 **In you alone, O God, we hope, and not in our own merit.
We rest our fears in your good Word and trust your Holy Spirit.
Your promise keeps us strong and sure; we trust the cross, your signature,
inscribed upon our temples.**
- 4 **My soul is waiting for you, Lord, as one who longs for morning;
no watcher waits with greater hope than I for your returning.
I hope as Israel in the Lord, who sends redemption through the Word.
Praise God for grace and mercy!**

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; translation composite Text © 1978, 2006 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress. AF License SAS 0000345

↑ 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.**

↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- ☑ **Amen.**

READING: Genesis 6:1-7-22

The Message

- ☒ This morning's lesson is from Genesis, the sixth chapter.

GOD saw that human evil was out of control. People thought evil, imagined evil—evil, evil, evil from morning to night. GOD was sorry that he had made the human race in the first place; it broke his heart. GOD said, “I’ll get rid of my ruined creation, make a clean sweep: people, animals, snakes and bugs, birds—the works. I’m sorry I made them.”

⁸But Noah was different. GOD liked what he saw in Noah.

⁹⁻¹⁰This is the story of Noah: Noah was a good man, a man of integrity in his community. Noah walked with God ...

¹¹⁻¹²As far as God was concerned, the Earth had become a sewer; there was violence everywhere. God took one look and saw how bad it was, everyone corrupt and corrupting—life itself corrupt to the core.

¹³God said to Noah, “It’s all over. It’s the end of the human race. The violence is everywhere; I’m making a clean sweep.

¹⁴⁻¹⁶“Build yourself a ship from [gopher]wood. Make rooms in it. Coat it with pitch inside and out ...

¹⁷“I’m going to bring a flood on the Earth that will destroy everything alive under Heaven. Total destruction.

¹⁸⁻²¹“But I’m going to establish a covenant with you: You’ll board the ship, and your sons, your wife and your sons’ wives will come on board with you. You are also to take two of each living creature, a male and a female, on board the ship, to preserve their lives with you: two of every species of bird, mammal, and reptile—two of everything so as to preserve their lives along with yours. Also get all the food you’ll need and store it up for you and them.”

²²Noah did everything God commanded him to do.

L Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

↑ **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** *Halle, Halle, Hallelujah*

ELW Hymn 172

Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, hallelujah. Hallelujah, Hallelujah!

↑ **HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 12:33-42**

Contemporary English Version

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the twelfth chapter.

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

[**J**esus said,] A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. You can tell what a tree is like by the fruit it produces. ³⁴You are a bunch of evil snakes, so how can you say anything good? Your words show what is in your hearts. ³⁵Good people bring good things out of their hearts, but evil people bring evil things out of their hearts. ³⁶I promise you on the day of judgment, everyone will have to account for every careless word they have spoken. ³⁷On that day they will be told they are either innocent or guilty because of the things they have said.

³⁸Some Pharisees and teachers of the Law of Moses said, “Teacher, we want you to show us a sign from heaven.”

Jesus replied: “You want a sign because you are evil and won’t believe! But the only sign you will get is the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰He was in the stomach of a big fish for three days and nights, just as the Son of Man will be deep in the earth for three days and nights. ⁴¹On the day of judgment the people of Nineveh will stand there with you and condemn you. They turned to God when Jonah preached, and yet here is something far greater than Jonah.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

OFFERING: *Be Not Dismayed, Whate’er Betide, God Will Take Care of You*

THE SAILOR'S BIBLE

Words by Tom S. Long Music by Allen Pote
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THE FORTY MINUTE TOUR

CHORUS: Come sit right down and hear some tales, tales from a Bible page.

We'd like to act them out for you up on this simple stage.

Our actresses are talented, our actors brave and sure. So come along set sail with us for a forty minute tour, a forty minute tour.

You'll witness daring rescues done up on the stormy seas; and if you all participate, you'll even feel the breeze.

You'll even feel the breeze.

Story-Tellers 1 and 2

CHORUS: Now side by side we travel on as members of God's crew. I pray you'll always stand by me and I will stand by you.

We have a Captain guiding us, who's no fair-weather friend. God sails with us through every storm until the journey's end.

So sit right down and hear some tales, tales from a Bible page. We'd like to act them out for you upon this simple stage—
here in the "Sailor's Bible!"

THE STORY OF NOAH AND THE GREAT FLOOD

Scene 1

DO WHAT YOU GOTTA DO

Neighbors: Hey there, Noah, what kind of feather brain, builds a boat and doesn't check the weather vane?

There's no cloud in the clear blue sky. I think your God's left you high and dry.

Storyteller 3: But Noah and his family replied:

Noah's family: You may think we're some kind of oddity. Call us nuts, but here is where we gotta be,

Building an ark out of gopher wood, painting it with tar to seal it good.

CHORUS: You gotta do what God wants you to do stand for the things you know are true.

Even if the whole world laughs at you, do what you gotta do, what you gotta do, what you gotta do!

Neighbors: Hey there, Noah, are you a simpleton? Is this ark supposed to be a temple?

Then go praise God with a "Sis boom bah." Meanwhile we say: "Ha ha ha!"

Storyteller 4: But Noah and his family didn't stop.

Noah's family: They can laugh, but we'll never mind the least, as we gather two of every kind of beast.

Load those pairs walking two by two; last of all loading me and you!

CHORUS: Then the sky grew dark and the wind blew cold. The ones that mocked didn't feel so bold.

They raised a mighty cry of dread:

Neighbor Timmy: Uh-oh.

CHORUS: When they remembered what Noah said:

You gotta do what God wants you to do stand for the things you know are true,

Even if the whole world laughs at you, do what you gotta do, what you gotta do, what you gotta do!

Do what you gotta do, what you gotta do, what you gotta do! What you gotta do!

Storytellers 3 and 4

All participate on cue: Group 1, tap finger to palm, making a quiet sound.

Group 2: rub palms together, making a swishing sound.

Group 3: tap all fingers on palm

Group 4: clap hands

Group 5: slap thighs and drum feet on the floor

WHEN LIFE IS A ZOO

CHORUS: When the ark started rolling they learned the hard way, how a seasick hippo can spoil your day.

The turtles refused to come out of their shells. The blood-hounds were sneezing because of the smells.

Duet: The love birds were fighting; the doves were at war. A sow was complaining her mate was a bore,

A porcupine mister was hurt by his miss when he got overeager attempting a kiss!

Solo: There was thunder and lightning all day and all night, till the laughing hyenas were crying with fright.

The rain without ending was such an ordeal, a crocodile shed a few tears that were real.

Solo: We should all love our neighbors; but I think it's rude how the lions were eyeing their neighbors as food.

The antelope found what they thought was a hose, and got sick when they drank from the elephant's nose!

Solo: The shellfish were selfish; the clams wouldn't talk. The slugs never cleaned up their slime when they walked.

The black widow spider just smiled when she said she'd not seen her husband since breakfast in bed.

Solo: The boa constrictors got aches in their backs. The cabin for termites was showing some cracks.

A spotted giraffe got a pain in her throat. A nearsighted whale fell in love with the boat.

CHORUS: When bad weather follows you day after day, the word of the Lord can be hard to obey.

Yet in spite of their problems to God they stayed true. You've got to trust God when your life is a zoo.

*Storytellers***THE PROMISE**

CHORUS: The water receded, the world was restored. Noah knelt down and gave thanks to the Lord.

“Never again,” God declared with a sign, “will the waters destroy human kind.

“For this is my promise as wide as the sky, Stronger than thunder and deep as the sea,

That speaks to the hunger in ev’ry heart’s cry: You are my children and you belong to me.”

Storytellers

CHORUS: After the tempest and after the rain, after the trial that travels with pain,

we see a light with a radiant hue, from the One who makes everything new.

Solo: And just like the concert of colors above, we are brothers. and sisters united in love.

Together we sail through dangerous night, till we shine with a heavenly light.

CHORUS: For this is my promise as wide as the sky, stronger than thunder and deep as the sea,

that speaks to the hunger in every heart’s cry: You are my loved ones; you are my song.

You are my children; you will always belong to me.”

THE STORY OF JONAH AND THE GREAT FISH*Scene 2***NO WAY, NOT ME**

CHORUS: The people of Nineveh across the sea, they don’t love you; they’re not like me.

Besides there’s things I’d rather do. Just let me name a few:

Jonah: I’d rather swim in boiling oil and set myself on fire. I’d rather drill a rotten tooth and pull it out with pliers.

I’d rather lick a rattlesnake; I’d rather eat a bug. I’d rather poke a grizzly bear and ask him for a hug.

CHORUS: So don’t call me, and I won’t call you. Ix-nay, no way, no can do.

So sorry, negatory, no siree. Not me, not me, not me!

Jonah: You gotta have the have limits to the grace you preach, and there are some folks you just can’t reach.

Besides I think I would resent if Ninevites repent.

CHORUS: The Lord is slow to anger and compassionate to all. Upon the just and unjust both the rain of mercy falls.

And God proclaims that we should love our gravest enemies,

Jonah: But this forgiving ev’ryone is not the thing for me.

CHORUS: So don’t call me, and I won’t call you. Ix-nay, no way, no can do.

So sorry, negatory, no siree. Not me, not me, not me! **Not me!**

*Scene 3***JONAH’S PRAYER***Storyteller*

Jonah: You see me here though I am veiled in darkness, apart from you, beneath the angry waves.

I lost my way and tried to live without you. Please hear my prayer, or this will be my grave.

CHORUS: I call to you with pain as deep as oceans. I call to you, not sure if I believe.

Still I call and trust that in my weakness, I call to you and you will rescue me.

Where can I go? All other hopes are idols. O God, I know you are the one who saves.

So this I vow: I vow that I will serve you, and sing your name in songs of grateful praise.

I call to you with pain as deep as the oceans. I call to you, not sure if I believe.

Still I call and trust that in my weakness, I call to you and you will rescue me. I call to you and you will rescue me.

*Scene 4***NINEVEH REPENTS**

CHORUS: What happens in Nineveh stays in Nineveh. All our crimes will go unknown, worse than things you see in cinema.

We are buh buh buh buh buh bad to the bone.

So ev’rybody get your swag on. All go crazy and party till dawn. Dance all night at a frenzied rave and misbehave!

Storyteller: When Jonah faced that mighty city, he smiled and said:

Jonah: I’ll show no pity.

CHORUS: It was three days walk from end to end, one colossal pit of sin.

But Jonah went where he was sent and preached:

Jonah: *You must repent!* In forty days, clean up this town, or God will knock your city down.

CHORUS: But oh, how he sorely vexed when Jonah saw what happened next.

The king knelt down, took off his crown, and put on burlap for a gown.

Jonah: No...wait a minute what are you doing?

CHORUS: All his people did the same, called for mercy in God’s name.

Jonah: No...this can’t be happening...

CHORUS: Oh Mighty One, please forgive. We turn from sin; we want to live.

Storyteller: And when God saw that, God forgave them.

Jonah: Noooo!

CHORUS: People of Nineveh, sing and celebrate. All our lives have been restored.
 God, to you our hearts we dedicate. We will buh-buh-buh-buh-buh-buh bless the Lord.
 So everybody get your praise on. Hallelujah, my sins are gone!
 Lift your hands and your voice again, and shout amen!

Jonah: You were supposed to punish them!

CHORUS: Buh-buh-buh-buh-buh-buh-buh-buh bless the Lord! Buh-buh-buh-buh-buh-buh-buh-buh bless the Lord!
 Buh-buh-buh-buh-buh-buh-buh-buh bless the Lord! And shout amen!

Scene 5

GOOD NEWS

Storytellers

CHORUS: Good news, hallelujah! Good news for the tempest-tossed.
 Good news if you think you're sinkin', God comes lookin' for you when you're lost.
 Good news, hallelujah! Good news 'bout a God who saves.
 Good news, when life is stormy, we can trust the Lord to calm the waves.

Solo: The Lord saved Noah from a flood and all his family.

Solo: The Lord saved Jonah with a fish, when he was lost at sea.

Solo: The Lord saved Ninvevites when they turned to him anew.

CHORUS: And so these sailors of the Lord lived on to preach good news.
 Good news, hallelujah! Good news for the tempest-tossed.
 Good news if you think you're sinkin', God comes lookin' for you when you're lost.
 Good news, hallelujah! Good news 'bout a God who saves.
 Good news, when life is stormy, we can trust the Lord to calm the waves. We can trust the Lord to calm the waves!

† BENEDICTION

☐ God, the Author of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of adoption,
 † bless you now and forever. ☑ **Amen.**

† SENDING HYMN: *God Will Take Care of You*

**1 Be not dismayed whate'er betide, God will take care of you;
 beneath his wings of love abide, God will take care of you.**

*Refrain: God will take care of you, through ev'ry day, o'er all the way;
 God will take care of you, God will take care of you.*

**2 Through days of toil when heart doth fail, God will take care of you;
 when dangers fierce your path assail, God will take care of you. Refrain**

**3 All you may need he will provide, God will take care of you;
 nothing you ask will be denied, God will take care of you. Refrain**

Text: Civilla D. Martin, 1869-1948 Text is in Public Domain.

† DISMISSAL

☐ Alleluia! Christ is risen.

☑ **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

☐ Nourished by the Shepherd's abundant love, go forth to walk in the paths of righteousness.
 Love one another in truth and action. May God's abundant blessings abide in you forever.

☑ **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

CAST

Jonas Barbour	Jonah
Aiden Bauer	Storyteller/Noah's Neighbor/Sailor
Evangeline Bauer	Storyteller/Noah's Family
Marcus Bauer	Storyteller/Noah's Neighbor/Sailor
Breanna Broadwell	Storyteller/Noah's Family/Soloist
Erin Gambrel	Sailor/Soloist
Marian Groover	Storyteller/Noah's Neighbor/"Boom, Boom" leader/ "Ocean"/Soloist
Finn Gundersen	Sailor/Noah's Family
Jack Gundersen	Storyteller/Sign Holder/Noah's Family
Brooks Hudson	Noah's Neighbor/Sailor/Soloist
Olivia Milburn	Storyteller/Mrs. Noah/Soloist
Andre Okoronkwo	Storyteller/Sailor/Cast 1
Dante Okoronkwo	Noah/Sailor, Small Jimmy
Morgan Pearson	Noah's Neighbor/"Flash, Flash" leader/"Ocean"/Soloist
Preston Steele	Noah's Neighbor Timmy/Nerdy Tommy/1 st Mate Big Jim/Soloist

CREW

Sue Byers
 Chelby Gambrel
 Brad Milburn
 Pat Oliver
 Joni Siepert
 David Beecher
 Dave Byers
 Ingrid Hudson, Children and Family Ministry Director
 Barbara Anderson, sKIDdles Leader

sKIDdles Singers: Miriam Barbour, Thorn Cook, Ava Dari, Kyle Dietzler,
 Larson Hudson, Caroline Johnson, William Pearson, Christina Polizzi,
 Mickey-Reese Pou, Audrey Smith, Mark Steele

Altar Guild: Jan and Jim Christopher

Ushers: Kathie Manes and Paul Talbott

Tech Crew: Joni Siepert and Brad Milburn

*Sanctuary Flowers are given to the glory of God by Joyce and George Pilch,
 in celebration of their 50th Wedding Anniversary, June 5*

