

*For the week of The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
August 13th, through August 19th, 2023*

Notes for the Week — Perilous Peter Matthew 14:22-23

After the crowds are satisfied and sent away, Jesus finally does what He went out in the wilderness to do. Having sent the disciples across the sea, Jesus prayed alone. When He was done, the disciples were a way off so Jesus walked to them upon the sea. But His appearance frightened them. They assumed He must be some apparition because no human could walk upon the water. And they are right, no human could walk upon the water. But Jesus responded to their fear by revealing Himself to them: "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."

Yet there was a problem. Not everyone believed Jesus at His Word. Peter responded "Lord, *if it is you*, command me to come to you on the water." Peter was not responding in great faith. Instead of trusting Jesus, Peter decided to put Him to the test. He just could not comprehend how Jesus could possibly be there on the water.

How often are we like Peter? How often do we simply not trust Jesus at His Word? How often do we convince ourselves that Jesus simply could not do such great things? And so we doubt. We give in to our fear. We decide to take things into our own hands and test God, "If it is you, Jesus, if you really are who you say that you are, then..." No wonder we often have such trouble resting in His peace.

Yet even when we test Him, He appeases us. Jesus looked at Peter and said, "Come." So Peter planted one foot after another firmly upon the water and began walking to Jesus. Get this, no human can walk upon the water. Only God could do such a thing, and here we see Jesus walking on the water. But then something miraculous happens. Jesus gives Peter the ability to walk on the water! But Peter soon falters. Why? Because He is not God. So he turns to Jesus and cries out "Lord, save me!" as he disappears beneath the waves.

Finally Peter confesses what he doubted before. All it took was nearly drowning for Peter to recognize that it is in fact Jesus. It's almost as if Jesus is telling Peter, "You should have trusted me and simply stay in the boat. You are not able, but I am able." Jesus continues to remind us of the same. We don't want God to be our Savior, rather we want to be God to do it all ourselves. But there is a problem...we aren't God. And unfortunately for us, sometime God humors us when we try to be Him. But He does so with a specific purpose in mind: for us to turn and cry out, "Lord, save me!"

And when we feel ourselves falling and we cry out to Him, He always answers. He always saves. Because that is who He is. He is our Savior. He redeems us from sin and death, even without us crying out to Him. So how much more then can we be confidence that Jesus will save us, even from ourselves, when we turn and ask. "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." Amen.

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

*Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate.
Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.*

INVOCATION

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

APOSTLES' CREED

VERSE: MATTHEW 14:27

But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."

PSALM 18:1-16 or the appointed daily psalms

Prayer on the Psalm

Praise, honor, and thanksgiving do we offer unto You, O Father of lights, from whom comes every good and every perfect gift, because You daily preserve us from many evils, guard us in many dangers, crown us with many blessings, enable our hearts to appreciate Your goodness, and to rejoice before You, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	62, 63	66	68	71	73	75, 76	78	80
Evening	64, 65	67, 70	69	72	74	77	79	81

BIBLE READINGS

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Matthew 14:22-33	
Monday	The Parable of the Fig Tree—Matthew 24:32-42	Zechariah 11:1-17
Tuesday	The Faithful Servant—Matthew 24:43-51	Zechariah 12:1-13:9
Wednesday	The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins—Matthew 25:1-13	Zechariah 14:1-21
Thursday	The Parable of the Talents—Matthew 25:14-30	Malachi 1:1-2:17
Friday	The Second Coming in Judgement—Matthew 25:31-46	Malachi 3:1-4:6
Saturday	Isaiah 56:1, 6-8	Romans 11:1-2a, 13-15, 28-32

CATECHISM — Baptism, Second Review

What benefits does Baptism give?

It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

Which are these words and promises of God?

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." (Mark 16:16)

DEVOTION OR MEDITATION

DAILY PRAYER

Select from among the following prayers as time and circumstances allow:

Collect of the Week

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.
Amen.

Daily Themes for Prayer

- Sunday:** *For the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacrament.*
- Monday:** *For faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.*
- Tuesday:** *For deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with sin.*
- Wednesday:** *For marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.*
- Thursday:** *For the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed Sacrament of Christ's body and blood.*
- Friday:** *For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.*
- Saturday:** *For faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.*

In Our Prayers this Week

Our Congregation: Brad & Michelle Graf; Jori Graf; Reggie Graf; Taylor Graf; Larry & Debbie Hanson

Baptismal Birthdays: Landrie Entress; Landon Ohlde; Lena Barraza; Barbara Janssen

Wedding Anniversaries: Kermit & Cheryl Deterding; Gene & Stephanie Beauchamp; Keith & Barbara Janssen

Members of the Congregation: Alan Barraza; Max Herrick; Terry Rohlffing; Xander Daniel; John Schultze

Friends of our Congregation: Jane Gorton; Gloria Burrow

Other:

Our Circuit:

St. John Lutheran Church, Aliceville; Rev. Timothy Booth

Trinity Lutheran Church, Burlington; Vacant

Our District Staff and President, Rev. Justin Panzer.

Shannon Fender, Administrative Assistant

Tami Lierz, Administrative Assistant

Our Synod and President, Rev. Matthew Harrison

Our Community: *City of Ottawa; Ottawa University; Neosho Community College*

Our State and Governor, Laura Kelly

Our Nation and President, Joseph Biden

LORD'S PRAYER

MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER FROM THE CATECHISM

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

—or—

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

HYMN OF THE WEEK

"From God Can Nothing Move Me"

537

1 Beautiful Savior,
King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love Thee,
Truly I'd serve Thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

2 Fair are the meadows,
Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer,
He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.

3 Fair is the sunshine,
Fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels in the sky.

4 Beautiful Savior,
Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor,
Praise, adoration
Now and forevermore be Thine!

Text: Münsterisch Gesangbuch, 1677, Münster; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904
Text: Public domain

Looking Forward to "The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost"

August 20, 2023

Readings: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 | Romans 11:1-2a, 13-15, 28-32 | Matthew 15:21-28

By her persistent prayer that Jesus would have mercy and help her (Matt. 15:22, 24), and even in the face of His initial silence and apparent rejection (Matt. 15:23-26), the Canaanite woman boldly confessed her faith in Him (Matt. 15:27-28). Her beautiful example encourages us to cling to the words and promises of the Gospel, even in the face of the Law that accuses and condemns us. "For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable" (Rom. 11:29), and His Law "has consigned all to disobedience" for the very purpose "that he may have mercy on all" (Rom. 11:32). Hence, the woman's faith and hope were not disappointed, but her prayers were answered in the mercy of Christ. Not only does He grant us the crumbs from His table, but He also feeds us with "the children's bread" in the house of His Father (Matt. 15:26-27). He has brought us to His "holy mountain," and He makes us joyful in His house, where He hears our prayers and accepts our sacrifice of praise upon the altar of His cross (Is. 56:7).

