

“JESUS IS LORD”
AUGUST 9, 2020 SUNDAY SERVICE & SERMON
(abbreviated COVID 19 service/50% seating capacity)
Pastor Tom Olson; Minnesota Valley Free Lutheran Church

PRELUDE: Carol Gustafson

PRAISE SONGS (Inside Service)

HYMN (#154 AH) (#122 OVH): “Jesus Shall Reign Where’er the Sun”

Jesus shall reign where’er the sun
Doth his successive journeys run;
His Kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To Him shall endless prayer be made.
And princes throng to crown His head,
His name like sweet perfume shall rise
With every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every tongue
Dwell on His love with sweetest song;
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on His name.

Let every creature rise and bring
His grateful honors to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud Amen.

PRAYER

CHILDREN’S SERMON: *Romans 10:9 “Who is in charge here? ...Jesus is Lord.”*

EPISTLE LESSON: *Romans 10:5-17 Moses describes in this way the righteousness that is by the law: "The man who does these things will live by them." 6 But the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) 7 "or 'Who will descend into the deep?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). 8 But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: 9 That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. 11 As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame." 12 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile-the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, 13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." 14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15 And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" 16 But not all the Israelites accepted*

the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" 17 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

CONFESSION OF FAITH: 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, dead and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven; And is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From where He shall 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

SERMON TITLE: "JESUS IS LORD"
Romans 10:5-17; Pastor Tom Olson; August 9, 2020

I miss communion at the altar. I miss having people bow on bended knee to the Lord. There is something powerful about bowing on our knees before God. It puts everything back in the right perspective. We do it because we want to honor the one who left heaven's glory and was humbled to the point of death on the cross for you and me. He is worthy of our deepest adoration and appreciation and honor and respect. Jesus is Lord! Today, in our Epistle text, the Apostle Paul takes us deeper into a powerful truth that will change our life and give us confidence, even in the hardest situations. We will talk about the Lordship of Christ.

I. JESUS IS NEAR

*Romans 10:5-8 Moses describes in this way the righteousness that is by the law: "The man who does these things will live by them." 6 But the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) 7 "or 'Who will descend into the deep?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). 8 But what does it say? **"The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming:***

Many people say that they can't believe in God because they can't see Him. Sin blinds our eyes to the clear signs of the presence of God. Yet all the time, God continually reaches out to them with the gospel of Christ and many other ways. Sometimes He shouts, usually He whispers. But the invitation is open: "Though millions have come, there's still room for one. Yes, there's room at the cross for you."

So how do we draw near to God then? The answer is here. First of all, don't do it through legalism or philosophical speculation as mentioned in 5-7...trying to impress God by strict obedience, or trying to conjure Him up, trying to ascend to heaven and bring Him down or go into the deep to bring Him out of the dead. The KEY is THE WORD. Verse 8, **"The Word is near you, in your mouth, in your heart, the word of faith..."** Nothing draws us close to God like prayerful Bible reading.

The famous Dr. Harry Ironside, pastor of Chicago's Moody Church, had a mentor who had no formal education. He was from a little dirt-floored shack in Ireland. But that man, name unknown to me, learned the Word of God on his knees on that dirt floor and was the one that the great Dr. Ironsides went to for inspiration and understanding of the Word of God. Jesus is near if we are in the Word. And when Jesus is near, amazing things happen.

II. JESUS IS LORD

Romans 10:9-13 That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified,

and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. 11 As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame." 12 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile-the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, 13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

UNCONVERTED: Saving faith clings to the cross: That is where the great exchange was made...our sin and unrighteousness for Christ's righteousness and our adoption as children of God. However, don't forget, you can talk about redemption without possessing saving faith. Rev. Joe Stumpf, Jr. pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, son of the esteemed Dr. Joseph Stumpf, Sr. (author of a theology book, "The Christian Faith" once popular in Lutheran seminaries). Joe Jr. preached the clear doctrine of salvation by grace for many years as an unconverted man who confessed Christ as Savior but had not bowed the knee to Christ the Lord. And after about a decade as an ordained pastor he got gloriously converted to a living faith in Christ as Savior and Lord and it really shook up his church to realize you could confess that Jesus is Savior with only an intellectual head knowledge and without being born from above.

LORD: The Bible tells us here that we confess "Jesus as Lord" for salvation, coupled with believing that he bodily rose from the dead. You can't do that without the Holy Spirit. *1 Corinthians 12:2&3* is an amazing verse that gives us some more light on this, *(You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. 3 Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.)* One of the things that our inclusive, multi-, intellectuals today can't cope with is that Jesus Christ is King of Kings and Lord of Lords and is coming back, perhaps soon, to judge the world. Before I got saved, the thought that Jesus is Lord terrified me too because I had not come to know Him personally. I had not come to rest in his saving grace and goodness.

QUESTION: The devil got Adam and Eve to question the goodness of God. When he tempted them, he made them think God was withholding something good from them by denying them the fruit. When they bowed the knee to the Devil and followed him into rebellion against God, they went from having a GOOD FATHER to an evil TASK MASTER. The world today has no peace under the rule of Satan. But Satan still convinces people that God is not good and if you come under the Lordship of Christ that he makes us think we will be missing out on a lot of fun. But we know that fun is temporary and ends up in massive heart ache and eventually in despair. That is why so many people are taking their own lives...because they don't know what it is like to have a loving heavenly Father.

COONROD: Jesus is Lord, and Paul points out here the wonderful news in *verse 11, "Anyone who puts his trust in Him will never be put to shame."* Dear friends, have you bowed the knee and come under the Lordship of Christ? A few weeks ago, I read this headline: *San Francisco Giants pitcher Sam Coonrod was the only player to stand during a moment honoring the Black Lives Matter movement ahead of the season opener against the Los Angeles Dodgers, telling reporters after the game that as a Christian he "can't kneel before anything besides God."* What will you and I do if we are forced to kneel before a false God or false ideology some day? Will we stand like the three Hebrews in Babylon, like Daniel, like Sam Coonrod? It may cost us in the short run but on judgement day we will be glad we did not do it because Jesus is Lord and in the first commandment the Lord says this, *"Thou shalt have no other God's before me."* In China the ruler is demanding that churches praise him in church or face punishment. In California the governor is demanding that churches not have worship services. Pastor John MacArthur believes that God wants his people to get together for worship and the governor is threatening to fine him \$1,000 per day until they quit meeting together. Who do we obey, God or worldly rulers? Since our eternal soul is in the hands of God, I think we know the answer. JESUS IS LORD.

III. JESUS IS NEEDED

Romans 10:14-17 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15 And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" 16 But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" 17 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

TRANSFORMATION: There is no greater need in the world today than for our lost generation to hear the good news of the gospel and meet Jesus personally as Savior and Lord. That is when life transformation takes place. But Paul here asks a very sobering series of questions and observations:

- How can they believe without hearing?
- How can they hear without someone to preach?
- How can they preach unless someone sends them?
- The feet of those who bring good news are beautiful.
- Faith comes by hearing the Word of Christ.

SATISFIED: Our politicians are perplexed because they don't know what to do to help the violent and angry world. They don't know because they have not yet met Jesus as Savior and Lord. But we have! And we need to find new and creative ways to share it with others...Dave Fischer and I are talking now about an ice house on a trailer for our "Hope Mobile." Pastor Andy and I talked on the phone and he said we need an auctioneer's unit on the back of a pickup truck. The only one who can honestly promote salvation are those who have experienced it and are happy with it? If you are satisfied with the Lord Jesus, you are the one to who is ready to tell others the good news that has brought you peace with God and eternal salvation.

LARRY: A thirty-one-year-old dairy farmer with a 5-year-old child and another on the way was one of the most joyful and satisfied Christians I knew in November of 1990. But a tree he was cutting fell on him and killed him. I had his funeral, the biggest funeral I have ever conducted. I opened his Bible and looked for verses he had underlined and picked on underlined in red to preach on. I invite you to use this verse as you witness to a spiritually starved friend or neighbor. It is ***Psalm 43:8 "O taste and see that the Lord is good; How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him."***

Many people have many opinions about what to do to save our nation. But really it comes down to one thing: Jesus.

- Jesus is near and his arms are wide open.
- Jesus is Lord and able to lead us in the right direction.
- Jesus is needed and we have him to share.

APPEAL: We won't get any help following after false Gods or Satan. That is a road to disaster. But Jesus is ready to take you and me and our country and shepherd us to green pastures, still waters and to restore our souls. I think he is even using this virus to do that...to slow us down, stop everything and help us to look up to Him for help and for salvation. Let us bow the knee today to the only one who can lead us safely home to heaven? Jesus is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Amen

PRAISE SONG: Inside Service

PRAYER & 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 that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen*

BENEDICTION: The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you, the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and grant you peace. Amen

DOXOLOGY: Drive up service.

CLOSING SONG: **He is Able**-inside service

POSTLUDE: Carol Gustafson

Not for power point:

4

Blessings abound where'er He reigns:

The prisoner leaps to lose his chains,

The weary find eternal rest,

And all the sons of want are blest.

5

Where He displays His healing power

Death and the curse are known no more;

In Him the tribes of Adam boast

More blessings than their father lost.