

BULLETIN TEMPLATE: Minnesota Valley Church
Association of Free Lutheran Congregations
Date: Sunday, May 22, 2022
Church Year Date: 6th Sunday of Easter

Prelude: Rebekah Olson

Hymn #586 “There Is a Place of Quiet Rest”

Responsive Reading from Psalm 67:

SOUTH: May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face shine upon us,

NORTH: that your ways may be known on earth,
your salvation among all nations.

SOUTH: May the peoples praise you, O God;
may all the peoples praise you.

NORTH: May the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you rule the peoples justly
and guide the nations of the earth.

SOUTH: May the peoples praise you, O God;
may all the peoples praise you.

NORTH: Then the land will yield its harvest,
and God, our God, will bless us.

ALL: God will bless us,
and all the ends of the earth will fear him.

Hymn on PowerPoint: “I Believe in a Hill Called Mount Calvary” HFFOG #270

Children’s Sermon: The secure bird’s nest at our house. *Exodus 33:22 “...I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand...”*

Reader: Glenn Gustafson

First Lesson: *Acts 16:9-15 During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." 10 After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. 11 From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day on to Neapolis. 12 From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days. 13 On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. 14 One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. 15 When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her*

home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.

Epistle Lesson: *Revelation 21:9-27* One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." 10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. 11 It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. 12 It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. 13 There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. 14 The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

OPTIONAL READING: 15 The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls. 16 The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia in length, and as wide and high as it is long. 17 He measured its wall and it was 144 cubits thick, by man's measurement, which the angel was using. 18 The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass. 19 The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, 20 the fifth sardonyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. 21 The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of pure gold, like transparent glass.

22 I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 23 The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. 24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. 25 On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. 26 The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. 27 Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

READER: Here ends the reading of God's Word.

CONGREGATION SINGS: God be praised, for His glad Tidings!

CONFESSION OF FAITH: Apostles' Creed- *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*

Gloria Patri: Ambassador Hymnal p. 4 (please put on screen)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

Announcements and Prayer Concerns

PRAISE AND WORSHIP: Songs to be chosen by Hannah Carrizales

“PEACE IN A TROUBLED WORLD” (Life of Christ Series)
John 16:22-33; Pastor Tom Olson; May 22, 2022

Grace be to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen

QUOTES: Today we have a very important topic, “PEACE (OF MIND) IN A TROUBLED WORLD” I would like to begin by getting us thinking with some thought-provoking QUOTES ABOUT PEACE OF MIND:

1. “Every minute you remain angry, you give up sixty seconds of peace of mind.” Emerson
2. “The measure of success is happiness and peace of mind.” Davro
3. “Peace of mind comes from not wanting to change others.” Jampolski
4. “I can have peace of mind when I forgive rather than judge.” Jampolski
5. “You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.” Isaiah 26:3

Let’s talk about peace of mind today as we live in a troubled world that doesn’t have peace:

I. JESUS RETURNS TO THE FATHER

John 16:23-28 In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. 24 Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete. 25 "Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will tell you plainly about my Father. 26 In that day you will ask in my name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. 27 No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. 28 I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father."

SPIRIT: You can understand that the disciples were really sad to hear that Jesus was leaving them. They loved to be with Jesus. When Jesus was with them their hearts “burned within them.” He fulfilled *Psalm 16:11 “...in Thy presence is fulness of joy...”* He said that He would send a helper, a comforter and a giver of gifts, THE HOLY SPIRIT. They didn’t yet understand the value of a Holy Spirit that could be everywhere at once with all believers rather than the person of Christ that was one place at one time.

SUMMARY: Let’s summarize these verses. **The day would be coming that they would...**

1. No longer need to ask questions or have requests.
2. That anything they asked in His name would be given to them.
3. That they would have complete joy.

QUESTION: The question that comes to our mind is: “WHEN IS THAT DAY?” Is it PENTECOST? Is it in HEAVEN after we die but before the resurrection of the dead? Is it the MILLENIUM in the presence of Christ? Is it ETERNITY in the new heaven and the new earth? I can’t answer that question? But I can say with certainty that it points to a better day are ahead for all believers.

UNIMAGINABLE: In 1 Corinthians 2:8&10 Paul tells us, *“if the rulers of this world had understood who Jesus was and what he wanted to do for them, they never would have crucified Him.”* It goes on to say that the Spirit has revealed to the Apostles what is going to happen to us and in 1 Corinthians 2:9 Paul says this most AMAZING STATEMENT that should cause every believer to explode with joy and excitement: *“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.”*

THRILLED: Are you thrilled about what is going to happen when you die? Are you thrilled about Jesus coming back while you are alive? *“What a day, glorious day, that will be.”* So many people are crabby because the future and eternity are fearful to them. We should be sitting on the edge of our seat every day and saying, “It might be today that I get to meet the Lord.” I enjoy my life very much but that is nothing in comparison to my anticipation of Jesus coming back for me soon. JESUS HAS RETURNED TO THE FATHER AND IS PREPARING A PERFECT PLACE FOR US. This gives us peace in a troubled world.

II. GOD’S PEOPLE SCATTER

John 16:29-32 Then Jesus' disciples said, "Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech. 30 Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God." 31 "You believe at last!" Jesus answered. 32 "But a time is coming, and has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me.

BABEL: We know that the time came very quickly when all the disciples would scatter. Jesus was left all alone in the garden of Gethsemane to be dragged away in the night by soldiers. Jesus would face Caiaphas and Pontius Pilate all alone. But that is not the only scattering of God’s people. After Pentecost the church sort of reenacted the Tower of Babel and refused to scatter. The last COMMAND of Christ was to GO into all the world with the gospel and they stayed in Jerusalem enjoying the fellowship of thousands of new believers. God allowed a persecution to come and scatter them.

Acts 8:3&4 “But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison. 4 Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.”

SCATTERINGS: There have been many scatterings. When my peasant forefathers in Norway got so hungry that they were grinding up birch bark to mix with their flour to make it go farther, they left the land of Norway that they loved and came to America. The first thing these settlers did after building a small, crude log cabin was to build churches.

TOUR: I toured Trinity First Lutheran Church in downtown Minneapolis recently with Dannette and Travis Hensersky. Dannette’s father was pastor there for 27 years. It is the oldest Lutheran Church in Minneapolis established in 1856. Their current building is an impressive structure built in 1951 that shows the care and dedication they had to bringing the gospel to that area. Even today, though they only have 16 members left, their school is filled with multi-ethnic children from that neighborhood who are being given a loving, quality Christian education in a very rough neighborhood. And that is because believers were scattered again in the 1850’s.

PURPOSE: God uses the SCATTERING OF HIS PEOPLE for higher purposes. My family has been “scattered” from Wisconsin to Alaska to Ohio to Minnesota. We have been able to share the gospel with so many different people along the way. I look forward to seeing them in heaven. There are over one hundred Lutheran congregations in Siberia because Stalin took the German farmers out of Ukraine 100 years ago and scattered them all over Siberia. God’s timing and purposes are always perfect. ***Romans 5:6 “You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.”*** God knows what He is doing, even when He SCATTERS HIS PEOPLE. We can have peace in troubled times even if we are scattered according to God’s will. FINALLY:

III. WE HAVE PEACE IN JESUS BY FAITH

John 16:33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

FACTS: This verse brings up several important facts that we really need to get a good grip on if we are going to have peace in troubled times:

1. Jesus wanted the disciples to have PEACE.
2. Jesus told the disciples that they would face TROUBLES.
3. Jesus reminded the disciples that He has OVERCOME the world.

PEACE: I believe that one of the great desires of all people is to have peace in their souls. That is why people try so hard to find peace. They think that financial security will bring peace. It doesn't. I have known poor people who have peace and wealthy people who have no peace. Some think drugs will bring peace. They only bring deep heartache. Some people think having a cabin or vacation home by a lake will bring peace. It doesn't. It brings extra expense and hard work. You can go and sit by any lake for free in a ten-dollar lawn chair without owning anything! But there is a place of peace and rest. We sang about it in our opening song. It is found "NEAR TO THE HEART OF GOD." When Jesus came into my heart and saved my soul, I got a deep and lasting peace inside of me that has never gone away. Many of you have also experienced this deep peace.

TROUBLES: Jesus also tells the disciples that they will have troubles, "***In this world you will have tribulation.***" God's people today, all over the world, have troubles. Christians are killed in Nigeria, they are harassed in China, they are tortured in North Korea, they are beaten in India, they are outlawed in Iran and they are losing their jobs in the United States and they are not allowed to be chaplains in Canada if they belong to a Bible-believing church. This is the lot of God's true children through the ages. God's children get sick and die. Some get healed in this life and many don't get healed until heaven. God's children go through loss. The stock market has gone down 13% this year and older Christians have lost thousands of dollars in retirement savings in just April alone. In 2008 I saw a nice Christian man lose half of his retirement in the stock market correction. But many of God's children are so poor that they don't have any savings. We are blessed, most of us have a place to live, clothes to wear and food to eat but God has not made us wealthy. Christians have family struggles too. Do not be surprised if you have spiritual warfare in your home if you become a dedicated believer in Christ. Jesus said you would.

OVERCOMER: Jesus Christ reminds us not to be afraid. He assured His disciples that He has overcome the world. He lived the sinless life he needed to live. He shed His holy and precious blood to atone for the sins of the world. He is seated at the right hand of God, the place of power and is simply waiting for the appointed day to return in the clouds. In spite of how bad it looks at times, God has things under control. Things are not FALLING APART; they are FALLING IN PLACE! We overcome through faith in Jesus Christ. One day we will see it from God's perspective and it will all make sense.

One poet puts it this way:

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
But trust Him for His grace;
Behind a frowning providence
He hides a smiling face.

Blind unbelief is sure to err
And scan His work in vain;

God is His own interpreter,
And He will make it plain.

SECRET: The secret of PEACE IN A TROUBLED WORLD is to trust in the goodness and omnipotence of God BY FAITH. We need to be looking for the hand of God's providence in every circumstance of life instead of the hand of the devil. When we realize how good and how powerful God is, then we can live in that glorious peace of God. But we need the two keys: TRUE KNOWLEDGE of God and TRUE FAITH in God. KNOWLEDGE OF GOD AND FAITH IN GOD = PEACE. The best place to start is the cross where God demonstrated His victory over sin, death and the power of the devil. TAKE HEART: Our King is on the throne and he is coming back again soon. Then there will be perfect peace forever. Amen

“Now may the peace of God that surpasses all human comprehension guard your hearts and minds through faith in Christ Jesus. Amen”

Hymn #581 “Like a River Glorious”

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Doxology (AH #390) *Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Him all creatures here below, Praise Him above, ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men. A-men. A---men.*

Postlude: Rebekah Olson

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