

May 5, 2024, 6th SUNDAY OF EASTER
Pastor Tom Olson, Minnesota Valley Free Lutheran Church

PRELUDE: Jan Ellingson (Fugleberg)

CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 98

HYMN #527 "I Serve a Risen Savior"

CONFESSION OF SIN: Psalm 51:1-7 Have mercy on me. O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge. Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place. Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

CHILDREN'S SERMON:

Reader: Luke Johnson

FIRST LESSON: Acts 10:34-48 Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism 35 but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right. 36 You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. 37 You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached- 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. 39 "We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, 40 but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. 41 He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen-by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. 42 He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the

living and the dead. 43 All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." 44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. 45 The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. 46 For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, 47 "Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have." 48 So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

EPISTLE LESSON: 1 John 5:1-8 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. 2 This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. 3 This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, 4 for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. 5 Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. 6 This is the one who came by water and blood-Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. 7 For there are three that testify: 8 the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.

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

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

CONFESSION OF FAITH: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, Begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made; Who for us, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, And was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, And was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, And ascended into heaven, And is seated on the right hand of the Father, And He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, The Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the Resurrection of the dead, And the Life of the world to come. 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

PRAISE SONGS PICKED BY JAN

SERMON TITLE: “THE PARADIGM SHIFT”

Luke 24:44-53; Pastor Tom Olson; May 5, 2024

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

STAGES: Children grow and change. At every stage there is a PARADIGM SHIFT. When a baby starts to crawl, adjustments need to be made. They can no longer be left on top of a table. When they stand and walk, items have to be placed on higher shelves. When they learn how to ride a bicycle, their world changes again...then a car, then marriage...at each milestone there is a paradigm shift that affects everything in life.

SHIFT: Jesus was leaving for heaven. The whole paradigm shifts. The disciples were used to having Jesus with them in person, now they would need to transition to operating in the power of the unseen Holy Spirit. This was necessary so that God’s presence in and with believers could be world-wide rather than in one spot at one time. We must remember that part of the humbling of Christ was to be born into a human body and be in that body, now glorified, for all eternity. He had to return to the right hand of the Father in order to send the Holy Spirit to be in and with us believers. It is THE PARADIGM SHIFT, Luke 24:44-43.

I. FULFILLED PROPHECY

Luke 24:44 He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

FOUNDATION: Prophecy is a major foundation of our faith. Jesus used Old Testament prophecy to prove to His disciples that his death, burial and resurrection was announced by God through the prophets and is what the Messiah came to do. Once you start to see that Jesus fulfilled hundreds of prophecies, you realize that He is the real deal. These prophecies were given to many prophets over the period of literally thousands of years. And no one could ever have orchestrated their fulfillment, right down to the birth in Bethlehem, the fight to Egypt, the death on the cross, the resurrection and so many more. Prophecy must be fulfilled.

FUTURE: Now our focus moves to prophecies about the second coming of Christ. A large number of pastors will not preach about the second coming of Christ. But it is the big topic that Jesus and the Apostles reminded the people to never forget. Even every time that we partake of Holy Communion, we are announcing the second coming of Christ.

1 Corinthians 11:26 “For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.”

PREACHERS: I have asked pastors why they don’t talk about the second coming of Christ and they say something like, “It is too controversial.” Now we certainly are not going to agree on every little point about the rapture, the millennium, or the rebuilding of the third temple, but that doesn’t change the fact that the next great event in the history of the world is the physical return of Jesus Christ to “judge the living and the dead.”

HOPE: For me, the return of Jesus is something I long for every day of my life. I love to quote the old Jesus People song we sang back in the 1970’s. “*Tell me, how it’s gonna be, read it from the Bible again. I can’t wait to see Jesus. ‘cuz Jesus is coming again, Oh Yah, Jesus is coming again.*”

AWAKENING: It is unfulfilled prophecy of the imminent return of Christ that really woke me up to my need of salvation. And now

prophecy keeps me excited about the return of Christ. I love to be with people who love to study fulfilled prophecy about the first coming of Christ and unfulfilled prophecy about the return of Christ.

PEACE: In light of the wars in the Middle East and Ukraine I love to read I love to read *Isaiah 2*, "***In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. 3 Many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. 4 He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.***

HEALTH: In light of cancer and diseases I like to ready *Revelation 21:3&4* ... "***Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.***"

Our new paradigm is from PROPHECY.

II. ENLIGHTENED MINDS

Luke 24:45-48 ***Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. 46 He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things.***

OPENED: The NEW PARADIGM is enabled by ENLIGHTENED MINDS. Notice in verse 45 that they could not understand the Scriptures until Jesus "***opened up their minds.***" Our ability to be effective in the work of the Lord has to come from enlightened minds.

INFORMATION: We can read Greek and Hebrew and have a library full of commentaries on the Word of God and yet be spiritually dead if we

don't have the enlightening of the Holy Spirit. The Apostle Paul was a Bible scholar, trained under the great Rabbi Gamaliel, and yet he was blind to what the Word of God said about Jesus.

EXPERIENCE: After God opened up his mind, he went from being the great persecutor of the faith to the great teacher of the faith. The old hymn has a great prayer for enlightenment: "*Lord speak to me that I may speak in living echoes of thy tone... Oh fill me with Thy fullness Lord, until my very heart overflow in kindling word and glowing speech, Thy love to tell, Thy praise to show.*" The third NEW PARADIGM is...

III. ANTICIPATED POWER

Luke 24:49 ***I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.***"

SEASONS: On April 14 we emphasized the idea of "tarrying" until we be filled fresh with the Holy Spirit. Today I want to look at this from the idea of a PARADIGM and emphasize that they were about to enter the season of the Holy Spirit. Jesus was preparing for them to see Him leave and the Holy Spirit to come in a new and powerful way. We need to look at the future with this framework of the promise of the Holy Spirit.

VISITATION: When I was first in the ministry and went to visit someone in the hospital, I spent the whole drive there fretting and planning about what verses to read and what to say and how to pray. I don't do that anymore. I enjoy the scenery and converse with God. I have learned to trust Him to give me the right words to say and the right Scripture passages to read. And I have found that to be much more effective.

ALIVE: The Holy Spirit is alive and well on planet earth and we need to learn to trust that He will speak to us and use us as the moment requires. Here is a principle of Scripture I think we can claim in times we need to know what to say. ***Matthew 10:19-20* ...do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, 20 for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.** Do you ANTICIPATE POWER from the Holy Spirit as your face your day? We need to do that.

IV. BLESSED WITH JOY

Luke 24:50-53 When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. 51 While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. 52 Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. 53 And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

RIVERS: There are very few things that make life today better than the joy of the Lord bursting out of our hearts in rivers of living water to a joyless culture. One of the great hallmarks of this generation, young and old, is that they have little joy.

AFRICA: Sharon's photo album from poverty-stricken Africa is filled with teen-agers that have big smiles and are filled with joy, even though they owned merely the clothes on their backs. Today, it is hard to find a people that smile. Comedians have almost all been cancelled because no one can even laugh at jokes or laugh at themselves or at famous personalities.

OFFER: One thing that we can offer a very unhappy culture is joy. We can be filled with the joy of the Lord. As the joy of our salvation fills our hearts, some will hate us for our joy, they will be jealous of our joy, but those whom God is calling to salvation will find it attractive and want to know more. *Nehemiah 8:10, "The joy of the Lord is our strength."*

COMMUNION: The communion table is a great place to have that joy restored:

- we celebrate the forgiveness of sins,
- we are reassured of the presence of Christ in us
- we are reminded that He is coming again to usher in His eternal kingdom of peace.

This is the NEW PARADIGM that God's people have and the world cannot comprehend. We are blessed. *May the peace of God that passes all understanding guard your hearts and minds through faith in Messiah Jesus. Amen*

HYMN #402 "Redeemed, Restored, Forgiven"
HOLY COMMUNION (Dave Fischer prep and help)

CHORAL BENEDICTION: *May the Lord, Mighty Lord, Bless and keep you forever-- Grant you peace, Perfect peace, Strength in every endeavor. Lift up your eyes and see His face, Feel His grace forever. May the Lord, Mighty Lord, Bless and keep you forever.*

POSTLUDE: Jan Ellingson