

Minnesota Valley Church; Sunday, May 17, 2026
7th Sunday of Easter/Ascension

Prelude: Carol Gustafson (Osthus.Reynolds)

CALL TO WORSHIP: from Psalm 68

PASTOR: Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth,

ALL: Sing praise to the Lord,

PASTOR: To him who rides the ancient skies above,

ALL: Who thunders with mighty voice.

PASTOR: Proclaim the power of God, whose majesty is over Israel,

ALL: Whose power is in the skies.

PASTOR: You are awesome, O God, in your sanctuary;

ALL: The God of Israel gives power and strength to his people. Praise be to God!

HYMN #172 “Crown Him with Many Crowns”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE: John 14:1ff...Jesus has gone to prepare a place for us.

Reader: Becky Kruse

Gospel Lesson: *John 17:1-12 After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. 2 For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. 3 Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. 4 I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. 5 And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began. 6 "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. 7 Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. 8 For I gave*

them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. 9 I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. 10 All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. 11 I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name-the name you gave me-so that they may be one as we are one.

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 *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.*

SCRIPTURE PRAYER: Dave Fischer

HEALING PRAYER: Pastor Tom

Announcements and Receive Offering

PRAISE AND WORSHIP: Songs to be chosen by Carol

SERMON: “THREE WORDS TO REMEMBER” 1
Peter 5:6-11 5/17/26; Pastor Tom Olson

We will dive right into our next sermon in our 1 Peter series. We are using the series theme “A Peculiar People.” Today we briefly glance at THREE WORDS TO REMEMBER in 1 Peter 5:6-11.

I. TRUST

1 Peter 5:6-7 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. 7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

CONTROL: There are times in life when we face monumental obstacles that stop us in our tracks. At this point there are only two things you can do. One is to retreat into despair and let it crush you. The other is to cry out to God, cast the care upon Him and rest in His sovereign control. That is actually the best way to live, even when we are able to control our lives.

TIMING: Peter tells suffering Christians that they would do well to let go and TRUST GOD’S TIMING. One thing you find in life is that God’s timing may not be convenient, but it is perfect. “Jesus was never in a hurry but always on time.” I would like that to be that way.

CALL: When I accepted the call to this church it was conditional upon Rebekah finishing her Senior year of high school in Ohio. I am sure some of you did not really appreciate that. But in hind sight your seventeen months

with Pastor Les and Jan Galland are a very precious memory to you.

PATIENCE: Here is Peter’s advice: It doesn’t work well to make things happen. What is much better is to following the leading of the Lord and patiently trust him for the provision in His time.

TIMBERLAND: The little Timberland Church in Wisconsin had a hard time finding a pastor. I think it took about two years. Some people got impatient and left. Shortly after that a pastor who grew up in the area decided to move back home to the small church and slow down. He is an outstanding Bible teacher who has been there about seven years. The people who remained have been blessed. They are celebrating the pastor’s 70th birthday today and he is still going strong. TRUST THE LORD! Secondly...

II. RESIST

1 Peter 5:8-9 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

ACTION: The second word, RESIST, is different from trust. These verses call us to action. God wants us to flex our muscles and do something. When the devil tempts us, God wants us to RESIST the temptation with all of our physical, spiritual and emotional powers.

How do we resist the devil? Here are some ways:

1. Don't go near a place of temptation. Drive home by a different route.
2. Quote Scripture out loud like Jesus did when He was tempted. Luther said, "One little word shall fell him." The most powerful word is the NAME of Jesus.
3. Fast and pray: Jesus said demons can only be dealt with if we fast and pray.
4. Have a good friend who keeps you accountable and warns you if they see you getting off of the safe path. Others see us going into danger before we do ourselves.
5. Be faithful in church. The preaching of God's Word and the strength we get at the Lord's table is much more powerful than people give it credit for. It is easy to stay home but it is not good for the soul. People convince themselves they don't need church but in time you see them slip away from the Lord.

Satan and his demons work hard to keep us away from God. RESIST them! Finally...

III. REST

1 Peter 5:10-11 And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. 11 To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

OFTEN: These have probably been the most quoted verses in my ministry. I quote them because they have helped me so much personally. They help me rest in the sovereign work of God in my life.

These verses remind me that:

1. God is gracious and is working in my life no matter what it looks like outwardly.
2. We are heading to eternal glory and that this life is merely preparation for heaven and His coming eternal kingdom.
3. We all suffer but it is temporary.
4. God is the one who delivers us in his way. Sometimes he delivers us slowly and naturally, sometime through a sudden miracle and ultimately by taking us out of this world into His perfect heaven.
5. The main thing is that God is glorified by my life.

TORONTO: After Sharon and I were married we drove to Toronto, Canada to visit the missionaries that she worked with in Liberia, West Africa. They had lost all their earthly possessions in the Liberian civil war and were living in borrowed housing. Yet two things were on their minds.

CONCERNS: Mrs. Hodgson was concerned that the Bible translation into the Bassa language she was working on got finished. Mr. Hodgson was hoping to see how God would ultimately get the glory through their difficult situation. In spite of losing most everything they had, both

had a peace and a joy that I never will forget. They are in heaven with the Lord now, the Bible was translated and God was glorified through it all. They learned to REST in the Lord.

These are THREE KEY WORDS for the FOUNDATION of a good life: TRUST (TRUST GOD); RESIST (RESIST THE DEVIL) AND REST (REST IN THE SOVEREIGN GOODNESS OF GOD). If you do these three things, you will see the beautiful will of God unfold in your lives and in this church. *May the peace of God that surpasses all human comprehension guard your hearts and minds through faith in Christ Jesus. Amen*

Hymn #517 (vss 1&5) “Trust & Obey”

SLIDE PRESENTATION

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

Closing Song:

‘Let it be said of us’ by Steve Fry

*Let it be said of us that the Lord was our passion,
That with gladness we bore every cross we were given;
That we fought the good fight, that we finished the course,
Knowing within us the power of the risen Lord*

REFRAIN

*Let the cross be our glory and the Lord be our song.
By mercy made holy, by the Spirit made strong.
Let the cross be our glory and the Lord be our song
‘Til the likeness of Jesus be through us made known.
Let the cross be our glory and the Lord be our song.*

*Let it be said of us: we were marked by forgiveness,
We were known by our love and delighted in meekness.
We were ruled by His peace, heeding unity’s call,
Joined as one body that Christ would be seen by all.*

Postlude: Carol Gustafson