

The 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, August 9th, 2026

Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says:

“Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.” Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing bread and cup of the eucharist, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God’s presence to others.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE CHURCH CONFESSES: FOR SELF-PRESERVATION

From Meta Herrick Carlson's "Speak It Plain"

Living God, we have come to offer public apology...

Merciful God,

**you put on flesh and lived among us,
showing all of creation how
to hold this world lightly,
to lose ourselves,
to trust that death is not the end after all.**

**And yet we struggle
to practice what we preach,
hiding behind locked doors,
frozen by fear of loss and change.**

We confess...

Have mercy on us, O God. [5x when cued]

We confess that we prefer
our slow denial and dissolution...

*But if you let go of this life
for my sake, you will finally find it.*
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

When Peace, like a River

ELW 785

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 19:9-18

⁹ At [Horeb, the mount of God,][Elijah] came to a cave and spent the night there.

Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁰ He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it

away.”

¹¹ He said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.” Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake, ¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁴ He answered, “I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.” ¹⁵ Then the Lord said to him, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶ Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel, and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷ Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill, and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸ Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”
Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 85:8-13

Please read responsively.

- ⁸ I will listen to what the Lord God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to you.
- ⁹ **Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell in our land.**
- ¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- ¹¹ **Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**
- ¹² The Lord will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.
- ¹³ **Righteousness shall go before the Lord
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

SECOND READING: Romans 10:5-15

⁵ Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” ⁶ But the righteousness that comes from 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 abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say?

“The word is near you,
in your mouth and in your heart”

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim), ⁹ because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation. ¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

¹⁴ But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵ And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 14:22-33

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew shows how Jesus comes to the disciples when they are in trouble and sustains them in their time of fear and doubt.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 773

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontious Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

A TIME ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

ELW 763

My Life Flows on in Endless Song

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

...Together as the body of Christ,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

...We await his coming,
when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom,
all our sins and sorrows will be no more.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

...Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit,
that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.
Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

...all glory and honor is your, O God, O Living One,
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever.
Amen.

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
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMNS

ELW 755 & 756

BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine, our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

ELW 774

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

SENDING

Shalom. Do not be afraid.
Thanks be to God.

Thank you, worship leaders!

Greeter/Usher: Tim Kass

Accompanist: Gail Kass

Reader: Nathan Summerside

Communion Assistant: Nathan Summerside

Altar Guild: John & Peg McAllister and Sharon Utesch

Livestream: Angela Catton

Audio/Visual: Tim Kass

Bulletin Art: Angela Catton

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