

14TH Sunday after Pentecost
August 26 & 29, 2021



Our Savior Ev. Lutheran Church

(Wisconsin Synod)

1332 Arrowhead Rd.

Grafton, Wisconsin 53024

Church: 262-377-6363 School: 262-377-7780

VERSICLE: For everything that was written in the **past** was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.. (Romans 15:4)

PRAYER OF THE DAY: Grant us, Lord, the clarity to evaluate and learn from the past. You have been consistent with your people from the beginning – your grace and truth are trustworthy in every way. Teach us to seek the deeper things in life, as in humility we live in the present with faith in Jesus, your Son, our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

WORSHIP NOTES: **Welcome to our worship this morning!** During summer we track one portion of Scripture through our sermon series, which in this series is the book of Acts. Today we listen to Stephen’s retelling of Israel’s history – or rather, God’s leading of Israel through history. Again and again the need for a Savior comes into focus. We pray that the Spirit might grant us faith that we do not resist like so many in the past have done.

Guests: Welcome to all who are visiting with us today! Please note:

Restrooms: far side (south) of the entry. **Parent’s Room:** far left (southwest).

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GOD WELCOMES US

- P:** On behalf of our risen Savior Jesus Christ, I welcome you all to God's house. But why have you come?
- C:** **We share the Psalmist's joy when he said, “I rejoice with those who said to me, Let us go to the house of the Lord.” We come with joy to rejoice that God is our Savior.**
- P:** How good it is to rejoice in the name of the Lord. Let's begin then by lifting up our hearts and voices in praise to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

OPENING HYMN “The Head that Once”

CW, #217:1-4

The head that once was crowned with thorns
Is crowned with glory now;
A royal diadem adorns
The mighty victor's brow.

The highest place that heav'n affords
Is his, is his by right,
The King of kings and Lord of lords
And heav'n's eternal light.

The joy of all who dwell above,
The joy of all below
To whom he manifests his love
And grants his name to know.

To them the cross, with all its shame,
With all its grace, is giv'n;
Their name, an everlasting name;
Their joy, the joy of heav'n.

WE CONFESS OUR SINS

- P:** God clearly says in his Word that the only one who may ascend the hill of the Lord and stand in his presence is the one who has clean hands and a pure heart.
- C:** **But we are a sinful people. We have unclean lips and we live among people with unclean lips. God says, "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." So we come to confess our sins and to seek his forgiveness.**
- P:** It is good that we do not hide or make excuses for our sins because God sees and knows everything about us. Rather let us confess our sins and lay them before Christ's cross so that through his mercy we might hear his words of forgiveness.
- ALL:** **Dear God of all mercy, we come before your holy throne today seeking your forgiveness for our rebellion. We are by nature inclined to put ourselves or our things first. We have not always loved our neighbors as ourselves, but we have at times been mean, lying, lustful, arrogant, greedy and selfish. Forgive us for our worldliness and our lack of godliness. Forgive us for all the times we refused to listen to your word, trust in your power, and obey your commands. Forgive us in your mercy so that we are not destroyed in your anger.**

GOD PUBLICLY FORGIVES OUR SINS

- P:** The Lord has assured us "As surely as I live, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live." In fact, "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." Therefore, on behalf of and by the command of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I forgive you of all your sins and declare you clean of your guilt in the name of the Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

BAPTISMS

10:30am Service

WE GIVE THANKS

C: *(Sung)*

From CW, # 453:1

"Come, follow me," the Savior spoke,
"All in my way abiding.
Deny yourselves; the world forsake;
Obey my call and guiding.
Oh, bear the cross, whate'er betide;
Take my example for your guide.

GOD FEEDS US WITH HIS WORD

P: Now that you have experienced that the Lord is good, have received God's forgiveness and are assured of his loving mercy, what else have you come for?

C: **Jesus said, "Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it." So we come to sit at his feet and to listen to his word for it is, "A lamp for our feet and a light for our paths."**

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 7:8-13

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "When Pharaoh says to you, 'Perform a miracle,' then say to Aaron, 'Take your staff and throw it down before Pharaoh,' and it will become a snake." So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did just as the LORD commanded. Aaron threw his staff down in front of Pharaoh and his officials, and it became a snake. Pharaoh then summoned wise men and sorcerers, and the Egyptian magicians also did the same things by their secret arts: Each one threw down his staff and it became a snake. But Aaron's staff swallowed up their staffs. Yet Pharaoh's heart became hard and he would not listen to them, just as the LORD had said.

RESPONSE "Come Follow Me"

From CW, # 453:2-3

I am the light; I light the way,
A godly life displaying.
I bid you walk as in the day;
I keep your feet from straying.
I am the way, and well I show
How you should journey here below.

My heart abounds in lowliness,
My soul with love is glowing,
And gracious words my lips express,

With meekness overflowing.
My heart, my mind, my strength, my all
To God I yield; on him I call.

GOSPEL

JOHN 6:60-69

On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?" Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, "Does this offend you? What if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. Yet there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him." From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. "You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve. Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

SONG OF THE DAY

"Though I May Speak"

CW, #498

Though I may speak with bravest fire
And have the gift to all inspire
And have not love, my words are vain --
As sounding brass -- and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess
And, striving so, my love profess
But not be giv'n by love within,
The profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come; our hearts control.
Our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide ev'ry deed;
By this we worship and are freed.

WE PONDER GOD'S WORD IN OUR HEARTS

MESSAGE & MEDITATION

ACTS 7:1-11, 37-39

"BE BRAVE BY MINING OLD GEMS"

Then the high priest asked him, "Are these charges true?" To this he replied: "Brothers and fathers, listen to me! The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham while he was still in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran. 'Leave your country and your people,' God said, 'and go to the land I will show you.' "So he left the land of the Chaldeans and settled in Haran.

After the death of his father, God sent him to this land where you are now living. He gave him no inheritance here, not even a foot of ground. But God promised him that he and his descendants after him would possess the land, even though at that time Abraham had no child. God spoke to him in this way: 'Your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years. But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves,' God said, 'and afterward they will come out of that country and worship me in this place.' Then he gave Abraham the covenant of circumcision. And Abraham became the father of Isaac and circumcised him eight days after his birth. Later Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob became the father of the twelve patriarchs. "Because the patriarchs were jealous of Joseph, they sold him as a slave into Egypt. But God was with him and rescued him from all his troubles. He gave Joseph wisdom and enabled him to gain the goodwill of Pharaoh king of Egypt; so he made him ruler over Egypt and all his palace. "Then a famine struck all Egypt and Canaan, bringing great suffering, and our fathers could not find food. "This is that Moses who told the Israelites, 'God will send you a prophet like me from your own people.' He was in the assembly in the desert, with the angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our fathers; and he received living words to pass on to us. "But our fathers refused to obey him. Instead, they rejected him and in their hearts turned back to Egypt.

WE CONFESS OUR FAITH

- P:** God has written, "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord' and believe in your hearts that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Therefore, why else have you come?
- C:** **We have come also to confess our faith in Jesus which the Holy Spirit has put in our hearts and which we strive to live out in our daily lives.**
- P:** Then let us publicly declare what we privately believe:

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God the Father almighty, creator of all things, the source of all goodness and love. He is our God and we are His people.

We believe in Jesus Christ, God the Son, true God and true man. He was crucified, died and was buried for our sin, that we might be free. He rose again on the third day that we might enjoy life with God now and for eternity. He ascended into heaven and will come again in power and glory to judge both the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life; He has made us members of the people of God through Word and Sacrament, and sustains and strengthens us in the one true Christian faith through those same means of grace. We believe that our sins have been forgiven and that we will live together with God and all believers now and throughout all eternity.

WE PRAISE GOD WITH OUR GIFTS

- P:** Why else have you come and what is this you have brought with you?
- C:** **God's word says, "Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops," and so we come bearing gifts of love to praise our loving God.**
- P:** It is good and right that we praise our God with our wealth and so let us join in an offering prayer that God may find our humble offering acceptable and pleasing in his sight.
- ALL:** **Our Savior, give us grace to lovingly, unselfishly dedicate ourselves and our possessions for use in your kingdom. Mindful of our shortcomings and sins, we bring this offering to your altar in a spirit of meekness and repentance. Forgive us for all the times we have been unloving, greedy and selfish, and open our hearts to give to you in love as in love you gave yourself for us. Hear us to the glory of your name. Amen!**

OFFERING

Online or in the entryway. Guests please do not feel any obligation to participate in the offering (though you are always welcome to do so). Please fill out a Guest Card located in the entryway, and drop it in the box on the Welcome Center so we can connect with you – thanks!

OFFERING SONG

“Come Follow Me”

CW, # 453:4-5

"I teach you how to shun and flee
What harms your souls' salvation,
Your hearts from ev'ry guile to free,
From sin and its temptation.
I am the refuge of the soul
And lead you to your heav'nly goal."

Then let us follow Christ our Lord
And take the cross appointed
And, firmly clinging to his Word,
In suff'ring be undaunted.
For those who bear the battle's strain
The crown of heav'nly life obtain.

SPECIAL PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(sung)*

LAPP, p. 234

Our Father in heaven, we hallow your name.
May your kingdom holy on earth be the same.
Oh, give to us daily our portion of bread.
It is from your bounty that all must be fed.

Forgive our transgressions and teach us to know
That humble compassion which pardons each foe.
Keep us from temptation, from evil and sin,
For yours is the glory forever! Amen.

GOD BLESSES US

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **Amen. (Sung)**

CLOSING SONG “How Can I Thank You, Lord”

CW, 460:1

How can I thank you, Lord,
For all your loving-kindness,
That you have patiently
Borne with me in my blindness!
When dead in many sins
And trespasses I lay,
I kindled, holy God,
Your anger ev'ry day.

SILENT PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BAPTISMS

We welcome Ezra Joel Fischer into the family of God through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Ezra's godparents are Russ & Hilde Miller & Matthew Willmann and his parents are Joel & Heidi.

We welcome Beatrix Lily Liebenow into the family of God through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Beatrix's godparents are Timothy & Sita Gauger and her parents are Matthew & Greta.

Intro: What is an important life lesson that you've "mined" from the mistake or pain of another person? Why did this lesson affect you in this way? Why is experience such a good teacher?

Be Brave by Mining for Old Gems

- 1. Contrast the two different ways to a _____ God. (Acts 7:1)**
 - Stephen's a _____ =
 - Sanhedren's a _____ =
- 2. We (like Stephen) choose R _____ over R _____. (Acts 7:2-8)**
- 3. Spiritual history shows our n _____ for h _____ and the Lord's intervention to s _____. (Acts 7:9-11)**
- 4. We tend to "r _____ h _____ and forget the most important l _____ of the p _____. (Acts 7:37-39)**
- 5. Worship is not about a p _____, but a p _____. (Acts 7:44-48)**
- 6. Those who r _____ to l _____ from history are d _____ to r _____ it. (Acts 7:54-59)**

Conclusion: In Christ we can truly enjoy the forgiveness that God has given and learn how to live "with ourselves" in the present without regretting the past. We can learn to "fail forward" by examining our own faults and those of our family/friends through the eyes of our faithful God.

Refs in Acts about living in God's grace – Acts 4:33; 6:8; 11:23; 15:11 & 40; 20:24 & 32

3K & 4K Parents are invited to Our Savior Lutheran School's Preschool Open House

3K and 4K

Early Childhood Education Event

**Wednesday,
September 1
At 6:00 p.m.**

Parents are invited to attend
and meet Mrs. DiGangi

Preschool begins after Labor Day

**OUR SAVIOR
LUTHERAN SCHOOL**

1332 Arrowhead Rd. Grafton
osls@wi.rr.com

262-377-7780

OurSaviorGrafton.org

Christian Faith – Christian Service –
Christian Witness – Academic Readiness



YOU ARE INVITED TO

CHRISTIAN

Education

WEEKEND

JOIN US FOR

Sunday School

&

Adult Bible Study

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

THIS WEEK AT OUR SAVIOR

| | | | |
|---------------|--------------|-----------|------------------------------------|
| Sunday (8/29) | 8:00 | am | Worship Service |
| | 9:15 | am | Adult Bible Study |
| | 10:30 | am | Worship Service |
| Wednesday | 8:30 | am | Children's Chapel |
| | 4:00 | pm | Public School Confirmation Class |
| Thursday | 7:00 | pm | Worship Service w/Communion |
| Saturday | 7:00 | am | Men's Breakfast Bible Study |
| Sunday (9/5) | 8:00 | am | Worship Service w/Communion |
| | 9:15 | am | Adult Bible Study |
| | 10:30 | am | Worship Service w/Communion |

NEXT WEEK'S BIBLE READINGS

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| First Lesson | Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 |
| Second Lesson | James 1:17-27 |
| Gospel | Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 |
| Psalm | Psalm 119c |

*LiveStream on Youtube Channel at 10:30am every Sunday
This service is also recorded for review after livestream.
Link on our website (see below).*

THIS WEEK'S WORSHIP SERVICE

**LEARN FROM
THE PAST**
SERVICE THEME

PASTOR: Mark Wagner

ORGANIST: Jon Hahm

HYMNS: 217:1-4, 453:1,
453:2-3, 498,
453:4-5, 460:1

FIRST READING:
EXODUS 7:8-13

GOSPEL:
JOHN 6:60-69

SERMON:
ACTS 7:1-11, 37-39

"BE BRAVE BY MINING
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