

## WHAT LUTHERANS BELIEVE

**THE BIBLE** – We believe that EVERY word in the Bible is inspired by God, and therefore the whole Bible is the true, unalterable Word of God, clearly teaching the way of salvation. (2Ti. 3:15-17).

**GOD** – We believe that God is ONE (Dt. 6:4) and that He has revealed Himself in three distinct Persons (Mt. 3:13-17), the Father, our Creator and Preserver; the Son, Jesus, Who is both God and Man, and our only Saviour; the Holy Spirit, Who creates faith in our hearts and enables us to live a God-pleasing life.

**MAN** – We believe that God created man with body and soul, in His image, but man of his own free will lost this image through sin. (Gn. 1:27; 2:7; 3.)

**SIN** – “Sin is the transgression of the Law.” (1Jn 3:4). There are two kinds of sin: original (inherited) sin (Ps. 51:5) and actual sin (sin in thought, word and deed) (Mt. 15:19). Man is subject to death and eternal damnation by reason of the guilt that attaches to sin.

**REDEMPTION** – We believe that God out of pure love and mercy redeemed mankind from sin through the all-sufficient sacrifice of His only Son, Jesus, and His resurrection shows that God was satisfied with the work of Christ. (Jn 3:16; 1Jn 2:2; Ro. 4:25).

**FAITH** – We believe that the sinner must personally receive the merits of Jesus for salvation and trust that, “Jesus died for me.” (Jn 17:3; Ja 1:21; Ps. 31:14).

**THE CHURCH** – We believe that the church, established by Christ is the whole number of believers in Christ, for only believers are members of the church. Jesus Christ is its one and only foundation (Ep. 2:19-22). The church is found wherever the Gospel of Jesus Christ is preached and the Sacraments are administered according to Christ’s institution.

**SACRAMENTS** – We believe that Christ instituted two sacraments, and when Baptism is administered to infants and adults, according to the command of Christ, God offers His grace and forgiveness of sins (Acts 22:16). In the Lord’s Supper, believing communicants, with the bread and wine, also really receive Christ’s body and blood for the forgiveness of sins (1Co. 11:24-25).

**SECOND COMING OF CHRIST** – We believe that Christ will return visibly to earth (Acts 1:11) on the Last Day (Mk. 13:32) to judge the world (Acts 10:42). The believers will go to heaven, to be with God forever (1Th. 4:13-18). The unbelievers will go to hell, eternally separated from God (Mt. 25:32, 46).

**RESURRECTION** – We believe that on the Last Day believers in Christ will rise from the dead, their souls reunited with their earthly bodies and glorified by Christ (Jn 14:19; 17:24).

# Fourth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 7)

## June 20, 2021

### **INTROIT**

*Psalm 107:29-32; Antiphon: Psalm 107:28*

*Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,  
and he delivered them from their distress.  
He made the storm be still,  
and the waves of the sea were hushed.  
Then they were glad that the waters were quiet,  
and he brought them to their desired haven.  
Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,  
for his wondrous works to the children of men!  
Let them extol him in the congregation of the people,  
and praise him in the assembly of the elders.*

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,  
and he delivered them from their distress.*

### **COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**P** *Almighty God,  
in Your mercy guide the course of this world  
so that Your Church may joyfully serve You  
in godly peace and quietness;  
through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.*

**C** *♪[Amen]♪*

### **GRADUAL**

*Psalm 145:3, 5b, 6b*

*Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised,  
and his greatness is unsearchable.  
On your wondrous works, I will meditate.  
and I will declare your greatness.*

### **RESPONSE FOR PRAYERS**

*After each petition:*

**P** *Lord, in Your mercy,*  
**C** **hear our prayer.**

## **Job 38:1-11 (ESV)**

Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said: <sup>2</sup>"Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? <sup>3</sup>Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to me. <sup>4</sup>"Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. <sup>5</sup>Who determined its measurements -- surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? <sup>6</sup>On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, <sup>7</sup>when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy? <sup>8</sup>"Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb, <sup>9</sup>when I made clouds its garment and thick darkness its swaddling band, <sup>10</sup>and prescribed limits for it and set bars and doors, <sup>11</sup>and said, "Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stayed?"

## **2 Corinthians 6:1-13 (ESV)**

Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>For he says, "In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. <sup>3</sup>We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup>but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup>by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; <sup>7</sup>by truthful speech, and the

power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup>through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

<sup>11</sup>We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians; our heart is wide open. <sup>12</sup>You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted in your own affections. <sup>13</sup>In return (I speak as to children) widen your hearts also.

## **Mark 4:35-41 (ESV)**

<sup>35</sup>On that day, when evening had come, [Jesus] said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." <sup>36</sup>And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. <sup>37</sup>And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. <sup>38</sup>But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" <sup>39</sup>And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. <sup>40</sup>He said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?" <sup>41</sup>And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

## **FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Job 38:1–11

2 Corinthians 6:1–13

Mark 4:35–41

### ***The Word of Christ Bestows Peace on His Creation through His Forgiveness of Sins***

In his anguish and affliction, Job must be reminded that, as a finite creature, he is in no position to question the Maker of the heavens and the earth. Job's "words without knowledge" are unable to penetrate the wisdom of the Lord (Job 38:1–2). For the Lord has "prescribed limits" and "set bars and doors," so that "here shall your proud waves be stayed" (Job 38:9–11). That's how He humbles us unto repentance. But also by His powerful Word, He calms the "great windstorm" and the waves "breaking into the boat." He does not permit the chaos of this fallen world to overwhelm us or bring us to despair. By the Word of His Gospel, He speaks "Peace!" to us, which bestows the "great calm" of His new creation (Mark 4:37–39). Therefore, do not be afraid, and do not receive this grace of God in vain. "Now is the favorable time," and "now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:1–2).

### ***Next Week's Readings from God's Word:***

June 27 (Proper 8): Pentecost 5 (Series B):

Lamentations 3:22-33, Psalm 30, 2 Corinthians 8:1-9, 13-15, Mark 5:21-43