

Sunday Worship Service – August 9, 2026
Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost
ELWB (red book) – Holy Communion – Setting 8 (p.184-192)

Welcome by the Pastor

Land Acknowledgment Statement & Welcome Statement

Introduction to the Theme of the Bible Readings¹

In the OT reading, Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. In The Gospel reading, the disciples face a great storm on the sea and 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 who soothes our fears.

To reflect on, and experience, the silence where Elijah found God, and the silence that strengthened Jesus in prayer in our gospel reading, there will be intentional times of silence throughout the service.

Prayer of Confession*

God of the lost and forsaken, without your aid we are powerless and are quickly beaten by the storms of life; without your grace we fall to our injuries and are soon imprisoned by our resentments; without your intervention we quickly submerge and gasp for breath in our misery and despair. Reacquaint us with your saving grace, that we may know that anything is possible, even when it feels like everything is falling apart. Renew our dreams and hopes for the future, that we may be instruments of your promise. Amen.

(10 seconds of silence for reflection)

Words of Forgiveness*

Take heart! Christ is with us, and holds our lives with mercy and grace.

In Christ’s love we are forgiven in the name of the + Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

¹ <https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Home/TextsAndResources#texts>

#821 Gathering Hymn ***"Shout to the Lord"***

**My Jesus, my Savior, Lord, there is none like you.
 All of my days I want to praise the wonders of your mighty love.
 My comfort, my shelter, tower of refuge and strength;
 let ev'ry breath, all that I am never cease to worship you.
 Shout to the Lord, all the earth; let us sing
 power and majesty, praise to the King.
 Mountains bow down and the seas will roar at the sound of your name.
 I sing for joy at the works of your hands;
 forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand.
 Nothing compares to the promise I have in you.**

p. 184 **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.**

Call to Worship*

Jesus walks to us over the water.
Call to us God. We long to be with you.
 Jesus calls to us, "Come! Do not be afraid."
Save us, God, because sometimes it feels like we're sinking!
 Jesus saves us from our fears. God calms us in the midst of the storm.
Thanks be to God!

p.185 **Canticle of Praise "Glory to God"**

Refrain:

**Glory to God in the highest, the highest,
 and peace to God's people on earth.**

- 1. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
 we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
 Glory to God in the highest, the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.**
- 2. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
 you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
 you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

Refrain:

**Glory to God in the highest, the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

**3. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen. Amen. Amen.**

Final Refrain:

**Glory to God in the highest, the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Glory to God in the highest, the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

Prayer of the Day*

***Steadfast God of faith and grace, call to us now. Carry us out of our fears
and doubts into the glorious message of your saving love and constant
presence. Walk with us, O God, as we renew our faith, discern your call in
our lives, and journey forth as disciples of Christ. Amen.***

1 Kings 19:9-16

*On Mount Horeb, where God had appeared to Moses with typical signs of
God's presence—earthquake, wind, and fire—Elijah now experienced God in
"sheer silence." God assured Elijah that he is not the only faithful believer.
Seven thousand Israelites are still loyal. God instructed Elijah to anoint two
men as kings and to anoint Elisha as his own successor.*

A reading from 1 Kings, the 19th chapter, beginning at the 9th verse:

There Elijah went into a cave and spent the night.

God's word came to him and said, "Why are you here, Elijah?"

Elijah replied, "I've been very passionate for the God of heavenly forces
because the Israelites have abandoned your covenant. They have torn
down your altars, and they have murdered your prophets with the sword.
I'm the only one left, and now they want to take my life too!"

God said, “Go out and stand at the mountain before God. God is passing by.” A very strong wind tore through the mountains and broke apart the stones. But God wasn’t in the wind. After the wind, there was an earthquake. But God wasn’t in the earthquake. After the earthquake, there was a fire. But God wasn’t in the fire. After the fire, there was a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his coat. He went out and stood at the cave’s entrance. A voice came to him and said, “Why are you here, Elijah?”

Elijah said, “I’ve been very passionate for the God of heavenly forces because the Israelites have abandoned your covenant. They have torn down your altars, and they have murdered your prophets with the sword. I’m the only one left, and now they want to take my life too.”

God said to him, “Go back through the desert to Damascus and anoint Hazael as king of Aram. Also anoint Jehu, Nimshi’s son, as king of Israel; and anoint Elisha from Abel-meholah, Shaphat’s son, to succeed you as prophet.”

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**
(30 seconds of silence to reflect on the reading)

Psalm 105:1-5a²

Alleluia! Give thanks to God, and call on God’s name,
 proclaim God’s deeds among the peoples!

Sing to God; sing praise, and tell of all God’s marvels!

Glory in God’s holy name; let the hearts that seek the God rejoice!

Turn to God – to God’s strength – and seek God’s presence constantly.

Remember the marvels God has done.

(30 seconds of silence to reflect on the psalm)

p. 188 **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

² *The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation*

Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia.
Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 14:22-33

Matthew's gospel typically portrays Jesus' disciples as people of "little faith," who fail despite their best intentions. In the gospel reading, Matthew shows how Jesus comes to the disciples when they are in trouble and sustains them in their time of fear and doubt.

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 14th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Right then, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead to the other side of the lake while he dismissed the crowds. When Jesus sent them away, he went up onto a mountain by himself to pray. Evening came and Jesus was alone. Meanwhile, the boat, fighting a strong headwind, was being battered by the waves and was already far away from land. Very early in the morning Jesus came to his disciples, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified and said, "It's a ghost!" They were so frightened they screamed. Just then Jesus spoke to them, "Be encouraged! It's me. Don't be afraid." Peter replied, "Lord, if it's you, order me to come to you on the water." And Jesus said, "Come."

Then Peter got out of the boat and was walking on the water toward Jesus. But when Peter saw the strong wind, he became frightened.

As Peter began to sink, he shouted, "Lord, rescue me!"

Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed Peter, saying, "You person of weak faith! Why did you begin to have doubts?" When they got into the boat, the wind settled down. Then those in the boat worshipped Jesus and said, "You must be God's Son!"

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(30 seconds of silence to reflect on the gospel)

Sermon: Peace in the Storm

(30 seconds of silence to reflect on the sermon)

#763 Hymn of the Day “My Life Flows on in Endless Song”

1. My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation,
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.

Refrain:

No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

2. Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?

Refrain

3. What though my joys and comforts die? The Lord my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he giveth.

Refrain

4. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing?

Refrain

A Contemporary Creed ³

We believe in God in whom is power and compassion.

We believe in the Creator who gave birth to the universe,
set solar systems dancing in space,
shaped molecules and mountains,
and conceived beauty beyond our imagining.

God's power topples tyrants, and brings down walls of separation;
God's love embodies the tenderness
of a parent, encouraging and caring for each of us.

We believe in Jesus, born in obscurity in an occupied land;
a human being, vulnerable to hunger, thirst, persecution and grief.
Jesus understood the power of love and confronted the powers of evil,
spoke the truth with courage and clarity,
forgave his enemies and changed lives.
In Jesus' living, dying and rising again

³ From the *Iona Abbey Worship Book*, published by Wild Goose Publications, Glasgow, UK, 2017.

he showed love strong enough to save the world.

**We believe in the Holy Spirit who sustains, comforts and empowers us,
opens the scriptures, opens our minds,
and illuminates earth's darkness. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession⁴

Confident of your care and upheld by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

(10 seconds of silence to prepare for the prayers)

We pray for your church throughout the world: Strengthen the faith of all who believe. Speak to us through your word of power and mercy. For our congregations and our ministries, that they reflect your love and life amid a turbulent world. Guide our leaders with your still, calm voice.

Reach out to us **and save us, O God.**

(5 seconds of silence)

We pray for the well-being of your creation. Protect waterways, forests, lands, and wildlife from exploitation and abuse. Tame the storms that threaten human habitations. Reach out to us **and save us, O God.**

(5 seconds of silence)

For all who struggle amid the storms of life, that they find peace and hope in your loving presence. Comfort any who are lonely and grieving and all who suffer. Reach out to us **and save us, O God.**

(5 seconds of silence)

We pray for ourselves and our loved ones. May we keep our eyes on you and when we forget and begin to sink into the stormy waters of our lives.

Reach out to us **and save us, O God.**

(5 seconds of silence)

⁴ <https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Home/TextsAndResources#texts>

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.
(10 seconds of silence)

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always! **And also with you!**

Offering Prayer

Gracious God, your gifts are indeed great, your works a wonder to behold. We thank you for the gift of your amazing grace, as we return a portion of these gifts to you. Bless these gifts, that our giving may become a beautiful message of your love and grace. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

p.190 Great Thanksgiving

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.

It is a right, good and joyful thing, always and everywhere,
 to give thanks to you, who on this day overcame death and the grave,
 and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life

And so with your creatures on earth and all the heavenly chorus,
 we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**p.190 Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory, full of your glory.
 Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

Eucharistic Prayer⁵

Holy God, our Bread of Life, our Table, and our Food,
 You created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.

⁵ *With One Voice: Leaders Edition*, p.72.

You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life,
 And you fed your people Israel with manna from heaven.
 You sent Jesus to eat with outcasts and to become food for the world.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
 Our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat, this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, Jesus took the cup,
 Gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the covenant in my blood,
 Shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal:
 Strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want,
 and by this bread and cup make of us the body of Christ.
 For all these gifts, we give our thanks and praise. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.
 Amen.**

Communion Distribution

p.191 ***Lamb of God***

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
 Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
 Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;**

grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

#773 Communion Hymn “Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

1. Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.
2. When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,
when my life is almost gone,
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall.
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.
3. When darkness appears and the night draws near,
and the day is past and gone,
at the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand.
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

Communion Blessing

Prayer after communion

Announcements

Blessing

May the Lord bless you and keep
May the Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.
May the Lord look upon you with favour + and give you peace
(5 seconds of silence)

#774 Sending Hymn “What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine”

1. What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain

Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

2. Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms;
Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain

3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain

Sending

Go in peace, to love and serve God through word and deed.

Thanks be to God!

Sources:

Bible passages (except where otherwise indicated) from Common English Bible (CEB).

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