

7/26/09

THE CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 145:1-13 (A psalm of praise. Of David)

Lay Minister: 1 I will exalt you, my God the King;

People: I will praise your name for ever and ever.

Lay Minister: 2 Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever.

People: 3 Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.

Lay Minister: 4 One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your

mighty acts.

People: 5 They will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty, and I will meditate on your wonderful works.

Lay Minister: 6 They will tell of the power of your awesome works, and I will proclaim your

great deeds.

People: 7 They will celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your

righteousness.

Lay Minister: 8 The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.

People: 9 The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.

Lay Minister: 10 All you have made will praise you, O LORD; your saints will extol you.

11 They will tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might,

People: 12 so that all men may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

Lay Minister: 13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through

all generations.

People: The LORD is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made.

Lay Minister: We begin our worship in praise to God the King. He is most worthy of Praise.

People: We begin in the name of God the Father, and in the name of God the Son,

and in the name of God the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY Almighty and most merciful God, the protector of all who trust in You, strengthen our faith and give us courage to believe that in Your love You will rescue us from all adversities; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Genesis 9:8-17

(God established His covenant with Noah and placed a rainbow as the sign of this covenant.)

8 Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: 9 "I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you 10 and with every living creature that was with you-- the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you-- every living creature on earth.

11 I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be cut off by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth."

12 And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come:

13 I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

14 Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, 15 I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life.

16 Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth."

17 So God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth."

THE EPISTLE LESSON Ephesians 3:14-21

(To Him be glory in the Church and in Christ for all generations.)

14 For this reason I kneel before the Father,

15 from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name.

16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,

17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,

18 may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,

19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge-- that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,

21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 6:45-56

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(Jesus walks on water and Peter reaches out into trouble.)

45 Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. 46 After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray. 47 When evening came, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and he was alone on land. 48 He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. About the fourth watch of the night he went out to them, walking

on the lake. He was about to pass by them, 49 but when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost. They cried out, 50 because they all saw him and were terrified. Immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." 51 Then he climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. They were completely amazed, 52 for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened.

53 When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret and anchored there. 54 As soon as they got out of the boat, people recognized Jesus. 55 They ran throughout that whole region and carried the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. 56 And wherever he went-- into villages, towns or countryside-- they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched him were healed.

Matthew 14:19-33

21 The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

22 Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd.

23 After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,

24 but the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

25 During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake.

26 When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

27 But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

28 "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

29 "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

32 And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down.

33 Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

INTRO - Two Fridays ago I went trout fishing with Rick Dwight and his grandson Hunter. We took my boat and did ok fishing at Long Lake about 40 miles north on the Glenn Highway. However, I had a tire that has been low at times. I did not check it. On the way back from Long Lake I heard a little louder noise than I had been hearing outside the window. I looked and saw rubber flying. It was my tire on the boat trailer. The rubber was flying! We stopped, and got out the lug wrench from the truck. However there was a problem there. The wrench from the truck was too big to fit past the hub on the trailer, and reach the lug nuts on the wheel of the trailer. We were north of Sutton and had a flat tire and we could not get it off to fix it. Now, I'm not 100% sure why the tire blew. However, I have to believe that if I had checked the tire to see if it was properly inflated I might have prevented the trouble. In other words, I brought this trouble on myself.

I. We are all only too familiar with causing our own problems.

A. We don't always cause our own problems.

1. Sometimes we can be driving down the road and the other guy crosses the lane.
2. Sometimes a hurricane, or tornado, or earthquake hits.
3. But I remember my conversation with our member Dr. Lutz. He said, "if people took better care of themselves, 60 % of my business would go away." He talked about smoking, drinking, over eating, dangerous behaviors, etc.
4. Many times we do cause our own trouble, and many times these troubles are not just innocent mistakes. Often they include sin. Often we've been warned by God. Often we hurt others as well as ourselves. We are all only too familiar with causing our own problems.

B. Please look with me at MATTHEW 14, the parallel passage to Mark 6. We have the same story in verses 21 - 33, but I want you to focus on verse 25-31

1. First of all, when Jesus came walking on the lake that was a miracle, a surprise by itself.
2. Peter did not have to get out of the boat. But in verse 28 he cried out, **28 "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."**
3. Peter was walking on the water with Jesus, amazingly, he could have continued as he was, but he diverted his attention and he started to sink, according to verse **30, But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"**
4. Peter was drowning, and while none of these choices were sinful, Peter had taken the initiative and done this to himself.

II. Sometimes it causes others trouble to help us when we get ourselves in trouble. On that Friday, I called my son Josh, and he was ready to drive out past Sutton with a star lug wrench. He didn't cause the problem. He might have had to provide the solution.

A. We don't like asking others for help.

1. Sometimes We honestly don't like to put others out.
2. Sometimes it is pride. We don't like them to see our foolishness.

3. Sometimes they might look down on us for being so foolish.
- B. But please look at how Jesus reacted to Peter.
 1. When Peter began sinking Jesus reached out his hand, kept Peter from drowning, and brought Him back in the boat.
 2. Verse 31 says, **31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"**
 3. He did point to Peter's doubt, helping Peter to learn a lesson from his foolishness, but, Jesus was there to help.
- C. In all honesty, that is true of the whole reason that Jesus was in the world.
 1. We got ourselves in trouble by willingly sinning against the Lord.
 2. Much of our trouble we have brought on ourselves, and we cannot save ourselves from the trouble, or from the consequence of our sinful behavior.
 3. In love God sent Jesus who died and rose for us, to overcome the trouble, the death, the punishment we have brought on ourselves.
 4. Psalm 50:15 says, "Call on me in the day of trouble. I will deliver you and you will glorify me." Jesus lived the truth of that Psalm in this story for Peter. Jesus lived the truth of that Psalm in his life for us.

III. Even when we have caused our own trouble, Jesus is there to help if we'll turn to Him.

- A. Maybe the help doesn't always come as we want.
 1. Sometimes we aren't saved right away.
 2. In all honesty, sometimes we are not delivered until we reach heaven.
 3. But, in Jesus, God delivers and helps and saves us.
- B. The lesson from this story is, even when we don't deserve help, God is there and willing to help because He loves us. Please turn to the one who can help.
 1. Turn to God in prayer that cries out for help.
 2. Turn to God with lives that are always turned because of repentance.
 3. Turn to God in faith, trusting in him to help now, and eternally, through Jesus.

CONCLUSION - So, two Fridays ago I had Josh on the phone. He was at the store and about to come to help us. But, a man drove by and asked, "Do you need help? My boss lives down this driveway across from you. He runs a repair shop. He'll loan you a wrench. Which he did." The Lord took care of us again, in spite of my foolishness, again. The Lesson here is God loves us, and he knows our weakness.

Peter shows us the truth of Psalm 50, **"Call on me in the day of trouble. I will deliver you and you will glorify me."**