God Knows Whom to Rescue

As we gather

The word "rescue" appears 129 times in the English Bible. The Lord promises to rescue His people and His people cry out for God’s rescue. "Rescue" implies some kind of helplessness, a tragic situation without hope unless an outside force intervenes. For instance, a person trapped in a car in a ditch off the road during a winter storm might need to be "rescued."

2 Peter 2:9 says, "The Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment." It is part of the blessedness of being a believer. We need rescuing but we also have a Rescuer. One of the hymns we are singing this morning says, "Fatherlike He tends and spares us; Well our feeble frame He knows; In His hand He gently bear us, rescues us from all our foes."

Do you need a rescue? Are you the kind of person God rescues? This is the theme of today’s message and service.
**PREPARATION**

**PRELUDE**
“Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng”

**PASTORAL GREETING**

**TOLLING OF THE BELL**

**HYMN**
“Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng”
*LSB 813*  
Verses 1-3, 6-7

**INVOCATION**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✡ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
People: Amen.

**OPENING SENTENCES**  
*Psalm 119:81–82, 88*

Pastor: My soul longs for Your salvation;  
People: I hope in Your word.  
Pastor: My eyes long for Your promise;  
People: I ask, “When will You comfort me?”  
Pastor: In Your steadfast love give me life,  
People: that I may keep the testimonies of Your mouth.

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Pastor: Loving God,  
People: we confess our alienation from You both by nature and by choice. Help us to know and believe how much You love us. Let us abide in Your love even as You abide in us always. Heal us with forgiveness for Jesus’ sake.  
Pastor: Our dear Holy Trinity in mercy has given the Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Jesus, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✡ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
People: Amen.
KYRIE

Pastor: O Lord, whose Word is like fire and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces,

People: have mercy on us.

Pastor: O Christ, who is the founder and perfecter of our faith,

People: have mercy on us.

Pastor: O Lord, who kindles a fire of love among all the peoples of the earth,

People: have mercy on us, and grant us Your peace. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven” LSB 793
Verses 1, 3

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Merciful Lord, cleanse and defend Your Church by the sacrifice of Christ. United with Him in Holy Baptism, give us grace to receive with thanksgiving the fruits of His redeeming work by His rescue on the cross and daily follow in His way; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 19:15-26

With the coming of dawn, the angels urged Lot, saying, “Hurry! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away when the city is punished.” When he hesitated, the men grasped his hand and the hands of his wife and of his two daughters and led them safely out of the city, for the Lord was merciful to them. As soon as they had brought them out, one of them said, “Flee for your lives! Don’t look back, and don’t stop anywhere in the plain! Flee to the mountains or you will be swept away!” But Lot said to them, “No, my lords, please! Your servant has found favor in your eyes, and you have shown great kindness to me in sparing my life. But I can’t flee to the mountains; this disaster will overtake me, and I’ll die. Look, here is a town near enough to run to, and it is small. Let me flee to it—it is very small, isn’t
it? Then my life will be spared.”
He said to him, “Very well, I will grant this request too; I will not overthrow the
town you speak of. But flee there quickly, because I cannot do anything until you
reach it.” (That is why the town was called Zoar.)
By the time Lot reached Zoar, the sun had risen over the land. Then the Lord
rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah—from the Lord out of the
heavens. Thus he overthrew those cities and the entire plain, including all those
living in the cities—and also the vegetation in the land. But Lot’s wife looked
back, and she became a pillar of salt.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE: Hebrews 11:17–31
(The people of God living by faith.)

By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had
received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, even though
God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." Abraha reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he
did receive Isaac back from death. By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau in
regard to their future.
By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph's sons, and
worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff. By faith Joseph, when his end
was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave
instructions about his bones. By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months
after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not
afraid of the king's edict. By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be
known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with
the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. He
regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of
Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. By faith he left Egypt, not
fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is
invisible. By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the
destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel. By faith the
people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried
to do so, they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the people
had marched around them for seven days. By faith the prostitute Rahab,
because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were
disobedient.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.
Congregation, please rise for the Alleluia verse and the Holy Gospel.

VERSE
Jeremiah 23:29a, 28b

Pastor: Alleluia. Is not My word like fire, declares the LORD? What has straw in common with wheat?

People: Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 12:49–53
(Division and perfect peace.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

"I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is completed! Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY
“Jesus Sinners Doth Receive”
LSB 609

SERMON
“The Type of People God Rescues” Pastor Don Ginkel
TEXT: Genesis 19:15-26

NICENE CREED
Text found in the back of the Hymnal.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray together in Christ Jesus for all people according to their needs.

For faith to act in love and service to people, as we follow Jesus through the seasons and changes of life, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For peace in the midst of conflict rather than freedom from it, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For kind pastors who speak the peace Jesus embodied through the Law and the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord:
People: Lord, have mercy.
Pastor: For all who hold positions of public trust in this and every land that all people may live in peace, let us pray to the Lord:
People: Lord, have mercy.
Pastor: For the healing of the sick and peace to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit [especially . . . ], let us pray to the Lord:
People: Lord, have mercy.
Pastor: Other intersessions may be added here..., let us pray to the Lord:
People: Lord, have mercy.
Pastor: For life eternal under God’s reign with all the saints in light, let us pray to the Lord:
People: Lord, have mercy.
Pastor: Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
People: Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
People: And also with you.
HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with “Amen!”, a word of affirmation and belief.

SACRAMENT

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.  
People: And also with you.  
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.  
People: We lift them to the Lord.  
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

2 Timothy 4:22  
[Colossians 3:1]  
[Psalm 136]
PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who is Himself our peace and rescues us from every tribulation and conflict with our fellow human beings. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS


Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

LORD’S PRAYER Matthew 6:9–13 Text found in the back of the Hymnal.
AGNUS DEI

“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.”

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

“All Glory Be to God on High”  
All Glory Be to God on High”  
“We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight”  
“We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight”  
“When in the Hour of Deepest Need”  
“When in the Hour of Deepest Need”

Paul Manz, organ

GENERAL COMMUNION BLESSING

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.  

Numbers 6:24–26

People: Amen.

HYMN “Evening and Morning”  
Evening and Morning”

LSB 726

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

POSTLUDE “Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven”  
Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven”

Lani Smith
“If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake.”

Genesis 18:26, ESV
### Serving in Worship

**OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT**  
Pastor Don Ginkel

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES**  
Michael Zehnder

**ORGAN ASSISTANT**  
Gwen Geisler

**YOUTH BAND**  
Ashley Boeding, Brooke Boeding, Larry Boeding, Lilly Brinkman, Kayden Erling, Will Kopriva

**ELDER**  
- 8:00  
  - Bill Redden  
- 10:00  
  - Roger Gaide

**LECTOR**  
- 8:00  
  - Clyde Wiggins  
- 10:00  
  - Jude Donovan

**ACOLYTE**  
- 8:00  
  - Chrissy Coon  
- 10:00  
  - Hannah Schmitt

**USHERS**  
- 8:00  
  - Barry Kratzer, Members of the Congregation
- 10:00  
  - Jason Dierking, Members of the Congregation

**SERVER**  
10:00  
  - Denise Lucero

**ALTAR GUILD**  
Phyllis McConnell, Sharon Seible, Laurel Shurtleff

**FLOWERS**  
Edna & Linda Achziger, in loving memory of Carla and Lloyd Winn and by Jerry & Judy Peterson, in joyful celebration of their 55th wedding anniversary

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Psalm 91:15, NRSV

I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them.