SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

What About Jonah?

AS WE GATHER

During the Summer, Pastor is preaching on topics suggested by members of the congregation. Today we hear a story many people have said must be an allegory—not a true story about a man swallowed by a great fish. Is it true and what is its meaning for us? It is a story of SECOND CHANCES…for Jonah, for the Ninevites and especially, for you and me!
GATHERING SONG

LET IT RISE

Let the glory of the Lord rise among us,
Let the glory of the Lord rise among us;
Let the praises of the King rise among us, let it rise.

Let the songs of the Lord rise among us,
Let the songs of the Lord rise among us;
Let the joy of the King rise among us, let it rise.
O, let it rise. O, let it rise.

★ PREPARATION ★

PASTORAL GREETING

OPENING SONG HE KNOWS MY NAME

I have a Maker, He formed my heart.
Before even time began, my life was in His hand.
He knows my name, He knows my ev’ry thought.
He sees each tear that falls and hears me when I call.

I have a Father, He calls me His own.
He’ll never leave me no matter where I go.
He knows my name, He knows my ev’ry thought.
He sees each tear that falls and hears me when I call,
He hears me when I call.

INVOCATION

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


Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen from the dead!
God has crowned Him with glory and honor!
People: The river of the water of life, bright as crystal,
flows from the throne of God
and of the Lamb in the midst of the city.
Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen from the dead!
God has crowned Him with glory and honor!
People: The tree of life produces twelve kinds of fruit and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of nations.

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen from the dead! God has crowned Him with glory and honor!

People: The LORD God is our light, and in Him we will reign forever and ever.

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen from the dead! God has crowned Him with glory and honor!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Gracious Father, You daily bless us with mercy, yet we still go astray. So we confess our sin to You.

A time of silence is observed.

People: We have sinned against You, mighty God, in thought, word, and deed.

Pastor: We have acted in selfish ways that betray the love for our neighbors You desire.

People: We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed.

Pastor: We have spoken hurtful words that betray the life and healing that You freely give us in Christ.

People: We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed.

Pastor: We have said and done things that betray the oneness in Christ that You have given to Your people as a gift.


Pastor: Jesus prayed that the love with which the Father has loved Him would be in us and that we would dwell under the shadow of His wings. Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

☼ WORD ☼

Old Testament Reading: Nahum 1:11-15

From you, O Nineveh, has one come forth who plots evil against the Lord and counsels wickedness.

This is what the Lord says:

“Although they have allies and are numerous, they will be cut off and pass away. Although I have afflicted you, O Judah, I will afflict you no more. Now I will break their yoke from your neck and tear your shackles away.”

The Lord has given a command concerning you, Nineveh:
“You will have no descendants to bear your name. I will destroy the carved images and cast idols that are in the temple of your gods. I will prepare your grave, for you are vile.”

Look, there on the mountains, the feet of one who brings good news, who proclaims peace! Celebrate your festivals, O Judah, and fulfill your vows. No more will the wicked invade you; they will be completely destroyed.

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

Epistle: Acts 11:1-10

The apostles and the brothers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him and said, “You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them.”

Peter began and explained everything to them precisely as it had happened: “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. I saw something like a large sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to where I was. I looked into it and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles and birds of the air. Then I heard a voice telling me, ‘Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.’

“I replied, ‘Surely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’

“The voice spoke from heaven a second time, ‘Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.’ This happened three times, and then it was all pulled up to heaven again.”

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

Congregation, please rise for the Holy Gospel.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 16:1-4

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixteenth chapter.
People: Glory to You, O Lord.

The Pharisees and Sadducees came to Jesus and tested him by asking him to show them a sign from heaven.

He replied, “When evening comes, you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,’ and in the morning, ‘Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.’ You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. A wicked and adulterous generation looks for a miraculous sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah.” Jesus then
left them and went away.

Pastor:   This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People:  Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Christa Kirschner

SONG OF THE DAY     SING TO THE KING     Foote

Sing to the King who is coming to reign.
Glory to Jesus, the Lamb that was slain.
Life and salvation His empire shall bring,
and joy to the nations, when Jesus is King.
Come, let us sing a song,
a song declaring that we belong to Jesus; He is all we need.
Lift up a heart of praise.
Sing now with voices raised to Jesus; sing to the King.

For His returning we watch and we pray;
We will be ready the dawn of that day.
We’ll join in singing with all the redeemed,
‘cause Satan is vanquished and Jesus is King.
Come, let us sing a song,
a song declaring that we belong to Jesus; He is all we need.
Lift up a heart of praise.
Sing now with voices raised to Jesus; sing to the King.

SERMON     “Jonah: One Whale of a Tale”     Rev. John Larson
Text: The Book of Jonah

APPOSTLES’ CREED

Text found in the back of the Hymnal.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH
THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
People: And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ONE THING REMAINS

Higher than the mountains that I face,
stronger than the power of the grave.
Constant in the trial and the change.
One thing remains, one thing remains

CHORUS: Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.
Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.
Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.
Your love.

On and on and on and on it goes.
It overwhelms and satisfies my soul.
And I never, ever have to be afraid.
One thing remains, one thing remains. CHORUS

In death, in life, I'm confident and covered
by the power of Your great love.
My debt is paid; there's nothing that can separate
my heart from Your great love. CHORUS
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]

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.

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

REVELATION SONG  Riddle

Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain; Holy, holy is He;
Sing a new song to Him
Who sits on heaven's mercy seat.

CHORUS: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty.
Who was and is and is to come;
With all creation I sing praise to the King of kings;
You are my ev'rything and I will adore You.

Clothed in rainbows of living color flashes of lightning, rolls of thunder;
Blessing and honor, strength and glory
And power be to You, the only wise King. CHORUS

Filled with wonder, awestruck wonder, At the mention of Your name;
Jesus, Your name is power, breath and living water,
Such a marvelous mystery, yeah. CHORUS
LORD I NEED YOU

Lord, I come, I confess. Bowing here, I find my rest.
And without You, I fall apart.
You're the one that guides my heart.

   My one defense, my righteousness;
   Oh, God, how I need You.

Where sin runs deep, Your grace is more. Where grace is found is where You are.
And where You are, Lord, I am free.
Holiness is Christ in me. CHORUS

So, teach my song to rise to You When temptation comes my way.
And when I cannot stand, I'll fall on You.
Jesus, You're my hope and stay. CHORUS
OCEANS
Crocker/Houston

You call me out upon the waters, The great unknown where feet may fail.
And there I find You in the mystery, In oceans deep, my faith will stand.

CHORUS: And I will call upon Your name And keep my eyes above the waves.
When oceans rise, My soul will rest in Your embrace
For I am Yours and You are mine.

Your grace abounds in deepest waters, Your sov'reign hand will be my guide.
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me,
You've never failed and You won't start now. CHORUS

Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders, Let me walk upon the waters
Wherever You would call me. Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander
And my faith will be made stronger In the presence of my Savior. CHORUS

GENERAL COMMUNION BLESSING

BENEDICTION  John 17:20–21

Pastor: Jesus prayed: “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will
believe in Me through their word, that they may all be one, just as You,
Father, are in Me, and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the
world may believe that You have sent Me."

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.

BENEDICTION SONG  EVERLASTING GOD
Brown—Riley

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
Wait upon the Lord We will wait upon the Lord
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
Wait upon the Lord We will wait upon the Lord

Our God You reign forever Our Hope our strong Deliv'rer

CHORUS: You are the everlasting God The everlasting God
You do not faint You won’t grow weary
You're the defender of the weak You comfort those in need
You lift us up on wings like eagles

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS
Therefore in order to forestall this I fled to Tarshish for I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness and one who Concerning Relents Calamity.
Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT
Pastor John Larson
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  Scott Luethy
10:00 Scott Luethy
LECTOR
8:00  Norm Finfrock
10:00 Ted Lemke
ACOLYTE
8:00  Ian Avedisian
10:00 Holly Schmitt
USHERS
8:00  Larry Nisbet, Members of the Congregation
      10:00 Jason Dierking, Members of the Congregation
SERVER
10:00 Jude Donovan
ALTAR GUILD
Sally Atchison, Gloria Gaudreault, Judy Peterson, Deb Shiflet
FLOWERS
Bob and Linda Olsen, In joyous celebration of their 50th anniversary