TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The Problem With Living

AS WE GATHER

Today's sermon topic is called "The Problem with Living." It might also be entitled, "The Struggles of Life" or "Blind Faith."

The problem isn't that we don't have faith. The problem is that we have faith AND we see problems everywhere in life. And these problems sometimes cause us to shift our focus from the Mountain-Mover to the mountain itself, causing us to fear, worry or even doubt. That is misplaced focus according to all the prophets and apostles.

Paul, aware of our tendency to be distracted by the obstacles of life, reminds us that our vision is currently limited. We dare not trust our eyes alone: "For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known" (1 Cor. 13:12). It's an admission that while living on earth, we can't always see or know God's great designs and how He is working out "all things together for good" in our lives.

But by faith, we can trust that the One who knows all and completely loves us and has a perfect plan to see us through every struggle until that glorious day when there is "no sorrow, suffering or pain." It's a matter of focus, refusing to trust our eyes and instead trust our faith or more accurately, trust the Focus of our Faith: Jesus. Paul says confidently, "We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).
GATHERING SONG

MIGHTY TO SAVE

Everyone needs compassion, Love that's never failing.
Let mercy fall on me. Everyone needs forgiveness,
The kindness of a Savior. The hope of nations

CHORUS: Savior, He can move the mountains.
My God is mighty to save. He is mighty to save.
Forever, Author of salvation.
He rose and conquered the grave. Jesus conquered the grave.

So take me as You find me, All my fears and failures.
Fill my life again. I give my life to follow,
Everything I believe in. Now I surrender. CHORUS

Shine your light, And let the whole world see.
We're singing for the glory of the risen King.
Jesus, Shine your light, And let the whole world see.
We're singing for the glory of the risen King. CHORUS

The Sovereign Lord is my strength; ... he enables me to tread on the heights.

Habakkuk 3:19, NIV
PREPARATION

PASTORAL GREETING

OPENING SONG

OPEN THE EYES OF MY HEART/HOLY, HOLY, HOLY  

Baloche/Dykes

Open the eyes of my heart Lord,
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You, I want to see You
Open the eyes of my heart Lord,
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You, I want to see You

To see You high and lifted up
Shining in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy holy holy

Holy holy holy
Holy holy holy
Holy holy holy
I want to see You

INVOCATION

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor:  It is God who executes judgment,
People:  putting down one and lifting up another.
Pastor:  Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled,
People:  and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

A time for silent reflection

Pastor:  Almighty God,
People:  we are a disobedient people who have forsaken Your ways and chosen the desires of our own hearts over Your Word. In thought, word, and deed we have sinned against You and against one another, done what is evil, and failed to do what is good. In pride we have sought to repair our sinful condition and have failed. We are sorry for all our sins, and we pray You to forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son, asking You to send also Your Holy Spirit that we
may amend our sinful lives and live to the praise of Your glory; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: Be comforted, dear people, for the Lord has heard Your cry for mercy and forgiven You for the sake of Your Savior Jesus Christ, our Lord. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, 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
Pastor: May He who began this good work within you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
People: Amen.

*d WORD *

Old Testament: Job 1:17-22

While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, “The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”

While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, “Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother’s house, when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”

At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship and said:

“Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised.”

In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

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

Second Reading: Habakkuk 3:16-19

I heard and my heart pounded, my lips quivered at the sound; decay crept into my bones, and my legs trembled. Yet I will wait patiently for the day of calamity to come on the nation invading us. Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior.
The Sovereign Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to go on the heights.

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

Congregation, please rise for the Holy Gospel.

Holy Gospel: John 20:24-29

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

Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.” A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!” Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

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

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY  HUMBLE THYSELF - AWESOME GOD
Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord.
Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord,
and He shall lift you up, higher and higher,
and He shall lift you up.

Our God is an awesome God; He reigns from heaven above
with wisdom, power, and love, our God is an awesome God!
Our God is an awesome God; He reigns from heaven above
with wisdom, power, and love, our God is an awesome God!

SERMON  “Blind Faith”

NICENE 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

WE FALL DOWN

We fall down, we lay our crowns at the feet of Jesus, the greatness of mercy and love at the feet of Jesus. And we cry holy, holy, holy, and we cry holy, holy, holy, and we cry holy, holy, holy is the Lamb.

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.  
**2 Timothy 4:22**

**People:** And also with you.

**Pastor:** Lift up your hearts.  
**[Colossians 3:1]**

**People:** We lift them to the Lord.

**Pastor:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**[Psalm 136]**

**People:** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**  

**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.”
DISTRIBUTION SONGS

O COME TO THE ALTAR  
Chris Brown

Are you hurting and broken within Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin  
Jesus is calling
Have you come to the end of yourself Do you thirst for a drink from the well  
Jesus is calling

CHORUS: O come to the altar The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with The precious blood of Jesus Christ
Leave behind your regrets and mistakes
Come today there's no reason to wait Jesus is calling
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy
From the ashes a new life is born Jesus is calling  
CHORUS X2

Oh what a Savior Isn't he wonderful Sing alleluia Christ is risen
Bow down before him For he is Lord of all Sing alleluia Christ is risen
Oh what a Savior Isn't he wonderful Sing alleluia Christ is risen
Bow down before him For he is Lord of all Sing alleluia Christ is risen  
CHORUS X2

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown Tell the world of the treasure you've found

HOW HE LOVES US  
McMillan/Crowder

He is jealous for me, Love's like a hurricane, I am a tree,
Bending beneath the weight of His wind and mercy.
When all of a sudden, I am unaware of these afflictions eclipsed by glory,
And I realize just how beautiful You are, And how great Your affections are for me.

And, oh, how He loves us, oh, Oh, how He loves us, How He loves us all.
**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**

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.

**CLOSING SONG**

**BLESSED BE YOUR NAME**

Redman

Blessed be Your name in the land that is plentiful,
Where Your streams of abundance flow, blessed be Your name.
Blessed be Your name when I'm found in the desert place,
Though I walk through the wilderness, blessed be Your name.

**CHORUS:** Every blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise.
When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say,
“Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your name.
Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your glorious name.”

Blessed be Your name when the sun's shining down on me,
When the world's “all as it should be.” Blessed be Your name.
Blessed be Your name on the road marked with suffering,
Though there's pain in the offering, blessed be Your name. **CHORUS**

“Blessed be the name of the Lord,
blessed be Your name.
Blessed be the name of the Lord,
blessed be Your glorious name.”
CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!
People: Thanks be to God.
The Sovereign LORD is my strength ... He enables me to go on the heights ...

Habakkuk 3:19
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 Bill Redden
10:00 Don Loptien
LECTOR 8:00 Joyce Dowdy
10:00 Carol Shepherd
ACOLYTE 8:00 Ian Avedissian
10:00 Nolan Pierce
USHERS 8:00 Art Gordon, Members of the Congregation
10:00 Jason Dierking, Members of the Congregation
SERVER 10:00 Margo Pasha
ALTAR GUILD Sally Atchison, Gloria Gaudreault, Laurel Shurtleff
FLOWERS Jim and Tanya Schmitt, in joyful celebration of their 19th wedding anniversary.

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