

AUGUST 21, 2022



Grace Lutheran Church

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PENTECOST 11

Heroes of the Faith – *Esther* – *Standing Up and Speaking Out*

AS WE GATHER

Heroes of the Faith. We look up to them and they seem larger than life to us. Sometimes, however, we forget that these were ordinary people doing extraordinary things - with the power and strength and guidance of God! Esther is our heroine this week - who leveraged her beauty and her royal position to save her people even when it might cost her life. What has God given you that you ought to be leveraging for others and His kingdom?

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

During our worship service there are many times when the congregation is asked to stand or to be seated. If this is an issue for you feel free to remain seated, or if already standing, to be seated as needed.

PASTOR'S WELCOME

THE OPENING HYMN

*“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” LSB 802, Stanzas 1-3
(Please stand for the singing of the last stanza)*

THE CALL TO WORSHIP *(Psalm 118:24, Matthew 18:20)*

Pastor: This is the day the Lord has made so let's be glad and rejoice in it and in Him. Jesus said that where two or more are gathered together in His name He, Himself will be present with them. We welcome Christ among us as we begin our worship in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *(1 John 1:8-9)*

Pastor: If we say we have no sin... we're deceiving ourselves - and even worse - the truth is not in us.

People: **But if we confess our sins God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Pastor: Let us silently confess our sins - especially those that are lying heavily on our hearts today...

(We observe silence as we reflect on those specific sins or burdens that are on our hearts today and for which we want to ask our Savior's forgiveness.)

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

People: We confess that we have sinned against You and others in thought word and deed by what we have done and what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Jesus Christ have mercy on us - forgive us and renew us. Amen.

Pastor: God our Father has heard your sincere confession and heartfelt sorrow for your sins and for the sake of His Son, Jesus, forgives you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Look up and be glad! Your sins are forgiven.

People: Amen.

THE KYRIE (SUNG RESPONSE)

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy

Pastor: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy

Pastor: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: Amen.

THE HYMN OF PRAISE (SUNG RESPONSE)

Pastor: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.

People: **Lord, God, Heavenly King, Almighty God and Father:**

We worship You, we give You thanks, We praise You for Your glory.

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.

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.

FIRST READING

(Please be seated)

This passage forms the foundation for today's message

Esther 3.13, 4.1,

Dispatches were sent by swift messengers into all the provinces of the empire, giving the order that all Jews—young and old, including women and children—must be killed, slaughtered, and annihilated on a single day. This was scheduled to happen on March 7 of the next year. The property of the Jews would be given to those who killed them...

... When Mordecai learned about all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on burlap and ashes, and went out into the city, crying with a loud and bitter wail...

... Mordecai gave Hathach a copy of the decree issued in Susa that called for the death of all Jews. He asked Hathach to show it to Esther and explain the situation to her. He also asked Hathach to direct her to go to the king to beg for mercy and plead for her people. So Hathach returned to Esther with Mordecai's message. Then Esther told Hathach to go back and relay this message to Mordecai: "All the king's officials and even the people in the provinces know that anyone who appears before the king in his inner court without being invited is doomed to die unless the king holds out his gold scepter. And the king has not called for me to come to him for thirty days." So Hathach gave Esther's message to Mordecai. Mordecai sent this reply to Esther: "Don't think for a moment that because you're in the palace you will escape when all other Jews are killed. If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance and relief for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die. Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?"

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING

(Please stand)

Pastor: The Gospel reading is from Luke 13:22–30

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he went, always pressing on toward Jerusalem. Someone asked him, “Lord, will only a few be saved?” He replied, “Work hard to enter the narrow door to God’s Kingdom, for many will try to enter but will fail. When the master of the house has locked the door, it will be too late. You will stand outside knocking and pleading, ‘Lord, open the door for us!’ But he will reply, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from.’ Then you will say, ‘But we ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.’ And he will reply, ‘I tell you, I don’t know you or where you come from. Get away from me, all you who do evil.’ “There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, for you will see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets in the Kingdom of God, but you will be thrown out. And people will come from all over the world—from east and west, north and south—to take their places in the Kingdom of God. And note this: Some who seem least important now will be the greatest then, and some who are the greatest now will be least important then.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

People: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE HYMN OF THE DAY

(Please be seated)

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee” LSB 702, Stanzas 1-3

TODAY’S MESSAGE

Heroes of the Faith – Esther – Standing Up and Speaking Out

(Use the Sermon Notes and your Bible or Bible app. to follow along)

THE APOSTLE’S CREED

(Please stand)

I BELIEVE in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I BELIEVE in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I BELIEVE in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE OFFERING

(If giving an offering this morning, you can place them in the offering plate located on the table just outside the worship area)

PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil; For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

✠ THE LORD'S SUPPER ✠

WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE DISTRIBUTION

THE BENEDICTION

(Please stand)

THE CLOSING HYMN

“Have No Fear, Little Flock” LSB 735, Stanzas 1-4

THE SENDING

The Pastor will conclude the service by saying ...

Pastor: Now, go in peace!

People: And serve the Lord!

POSTLUDE