

AS WE GATHER

We tend to look for things to make faith easier. Signs, wonders, or just little hints here and there would help. Deep within you lies the same faith and longing that sent Peter walking across the wind-swept Sea of Galilee toward Jesus. In what ways is the Lord telling you, as he did Peter, "Come"?

Our Risen Lord today calls you to come: Recognize God's presence; discern between faith and foolishness; not only expect problems, but field them when they come; reorient your thoughts about failure and see it as an opportunity to grow; wait on the Lord; And, ultimately, connect more deeply with God.

The choice is yours to know Him as only a water-walker can, aligning yourself with God's purpose for your life in the process. There's just one requirement: *If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat.*

Gathering Song

Shout to the Lord

My Jesus, my Savior, Lord there is none like You,
All of my days, I want to praise the wonders of your mighty love.
My comfort, my shelter; tower of refuge and strength;
Let ev'ry breath, all that I am, never cease to worship You.

Chorus: Shout to the Lord, all the earth let us sing.
Power and majesty, praise to the King.
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name.
I sing for joy at the work of Your hands
Forever, I'll love You, forever I'll stand,
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.

My Jesus, my Savior, Lord there is none like You,
All of my days, I want to praise the wonders of your mighty love.
My comfort, my shelter; tower of refuge and strength;
Let ev'ry breath, all that I am, never cease to worship You. **(Chorus)**

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Welcome & Invocation

Rev. Dr. Neil Rand PHD

Opening Song

King of Kings, Majesty

King of Kings, Majesty
God of heaven living in me
Gentle Saviour closest friend
Strong Deliv'rer, beginning and end
All within me falls at Your throne

Chorus: Your majesty, I can but bow
I lay my all, before You now
In royal robes, I don't deserve
I live to serve Your majesty

Earth and heav'n, worship You
Love eternal, faithful and true
Who bought the nations, ransomed souls
Brought this sinner near to Your throne
All within me cries out in praise **(Chorus)**

I live to serve Your majesty

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Call to Worship Psalm 47

Pastor: Clap your hands, all you people...

People: Shout to God with a loud song!

Pastor: Make music to praise God, Make music to praise our king!

People: God rules the nations, He sits upon His Holy throne!

Pastor: God is the king of the whole earth, Make your best music for Him!

People: The Earth belongs to God, He rules all things!

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen and ascended!

People: Christ is risen and ascended indeed! Alleluia!

Confession & Forgiveness

Pastor: Though Christ is ascended on high and is seated at the right hand of the Father, ruling and reigning over all creation, there have been times when we have lived as though we rule and reign over our own lives. We have lived as though Christ were too far away to matter. But our heavenly Father invites us to return to Him, confess our sins, and receive His forgiveness.

Silence for meditation.

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

People: we confess to You that we are sinful and unclean. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we walk in Your perfect way and delight in Your perfect will. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die and rise for you. Christ is ascended, and all things are under His feet, including sin, death, and the devil. On account of Christ's saving work 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.

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Almighty God, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heavens, so may we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Reader

Bobbie Rand

First Reading

Isaiah 40:28-31

²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹He gives power to the faint,
and to him who has no might he increases strength.

³⁰Even youths shall faint and be weary,
and young men shall fall exhausted;
³¹but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint.

Reader: This is the Word of our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 12:7b-10

⁷So to keep me from being too elated by the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. ⁹But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Reader: This is the Word of our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Third Reading

Mathew 14:22-32

²²Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. ²⁵And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." ²⁸And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. ³⁰But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³²And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

Pastor: This is the Word of our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Extinguishing of the Paschal Candle

Pastor: The Paschal Candle is lit on Easter Vigil, and kept aflame each Sunday of Easter to proclaim the Risen Christ's presence. When we extinguish it today, on Ascension Day it proclaims the finished work of salvation, and the ascension of the glorified Christ into heaven. As He was taken into heaven in His physical body, we are reminded that we too will join Him in our physical bodies on the last day.

Children's Message & Kid's Church

Song of the Day

In the Eye of the Storm

Chorus: In the eye of the storm
You remain in control
In the middle of the war

You guard my soul
You alone are the anchor
when my sails are torn
Your love surrounds me
in the eye of the storm

When the solid ground is falling out
from underneath my feet
Between the black skies
and my red eyes
I can barely see
When I realize I've been sold out
by my friends and my family
I can hear the rain reminding me **Chorus**

When my hopes and dreams
are far from me
and I'm runnin' out of faith
I see the future I pictured
slowly fade away
And when the tears of
pain and heartache
are pouring down my face
I find my peace in Jesus' name **Chorus**

Instrumental with Flute **Chorus**

Your love surrounds me in the eye of the storm

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Sermon

If You Want To Walk On Water, You've Got To Get Out Of The Boat:

"Learning to Wait on Our Big God"

Creed – APOSTLE'S CREED

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

And 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 thence 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.

Prayers of the Church

Pastor: Ascended Lord, Jesus Christ, we rejoice as we bring our prayers to Your throne of grace. We pray for the whole Christian Church, that through it the will of God be done among us on earth and that in it we may rejoice in hearing the Good News of the Gospel. Ascended Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: As all things on this earth are under Your feet, we pray for the nations of the world and for those who lead them, that justice, security, and peace be known around the globe by Your mercies, provisions, and grace. Ascended Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for the Church and for this congregation, that we use wisely the time and all resources You have given us, accomplishing Your will to further Your mission by the power of the Holy Spirit. Ascended Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for all those with special needs facing trial and troubles in spirit or body, and all those whose cares and challenges are of concern to us. Assure them and us of Your continuing presence in their lives and in our lives also. For the times in our lives when we wonder if Jesus is enough, remind us that because of Christ's ascension, His presence remains each day as He continually pours out His gifts of grace, mercy, and forgiveness. Ascended Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: With gratefulness, ascended Lord, we thank You for the faithful witness of those no longer with us here on earth who rejoice in Your eternal care. Inspire us by their faithful witness and help us serve You and others in love all our days. Ascended Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: O Lord, Hear us now on behalf of those in our congregation and all who stand in need:

Local concerns may be added by congregational elder here.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Sharing Peace

Offering

Stand in Your Love

When darkness tries to roll over my bones
When sorrow comes to steal the joy I own
When brokenness and pain is all I know
I won't be shaken I won't be shaken

Chorus My fear doesn't stand a chance
When I stand in Your love
My fear doesn't stand a chance
When I stand in Your love
My fear doesn't stand a chance
When I stand in Your love

Shame no longer has a place to hide
I am not a captive to the lies
I'm not afraid to leave my past behind
I won't be shaken I won't be shaken **Chorus x2**

Standing in Your love

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Presentation of Gifts

Pastor: Heavenly Father, You are the giver of all good things, and Your Word makes clear that every good and perfect gift comes from You. We ask that You accept these gifts back unto Yourself and use them to Your glory. *[Psalm 145:15, James 1:17]*

People: Amen.

Holy Communion

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 *[Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25]*

Proclamation of Christ

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. *[1 Cor.11:26]*

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. *[Revelation 22:20]*

Lord's Prayer *[Matthew 6:9–13]*

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

People: 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.

Distribution

What the Lord Has Done in Me

Let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich,"
Let the blind say, "I can see, it's what the Lord has done in me."
Let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich,"
Let the blind say, "I can see, it's what the Lord has done in me."

Chorus Hosanna, hosanna to the Lamb that was slain;
Hosanna, hosanna, Jesus died and rose again;
Hosanna, hosanna to the Lamb that was slain;
Hosanna, hosanna, Jesus died and rose again.

Into the river I will wade there my sins are washed away
From the heavens mercy streams, of the Savior's love for me;
I will rise from waters deep, into the saving arms of God;
I will sing salvation songs; Jesus Christ has set me free. **(Chorus)**

Let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich,"
Let the blind say, "I can see, it's what the Lord has done in me."

O Come to the Altar

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)**

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

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

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Amazing Grace, My Chains are Gone

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see

Chorus: My chains are gone I've been set free
My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns
Unending love amazing grace

Tw'as grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed **(Chorus)**

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God who called me here below
Will be forever mine
You are forever mine

Benediction [Numbers 6:24-26]

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.

People: Amen.

Announcements

Sending Shout to the North

Men of faith rise up and sing,
Of the great and glorious King
You are strong when you feel weak,
In your brokenness complete

Chorus: Shout to the North and the South
Sing to the East and the West
Jesus is Savior to all,
Lord of heaven and earth.

Rise up women of the truth
Stand and sing to broken hearts.
Who can know the healing pow'r
Of our awesome King of love. **(Chorus)**

We've been through fire
We've been through rain
We've been refined by the power of His name
We've fallen deeper in love with You
You've burned the truth on our lips. **(Chorus)**

Rise up Church with broken wings,
Fill this place with songs again
Of our God who reigns on high,
By His grace again we'll fly. **(Chorus twice)**