

**St. Luke Ev. Lutheran  
Church  
Sermon by Pastor  
Anthony E. Schultz  
August 12, 2018  
Twelfth Sunday after  
Pentecost  
Matthew 14:22-33**



<sup>22</sup>Immediately Jesus urged the disciples to get into the boat and to go ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. <sup>23</sup>After he had dismissed the crowd, he went up onto the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone. <sup>24</sup>By then the boat was quite a distance from shore, being pounded by the waves because the wind was against it. <sup>25</sup>In the fourth watch of the night, Jesus came toward them, walking on the sea. <sup>26</sup>When the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified and cried out in fear, "It's a ghost!" <sup>27</sup>But Jesus spoke to them at once, saying, "Take heart! It is I! Do not be afraid." <sup>28</sup>Peter answered him and said, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." <sup>29</sup>Jesus said, "Come!" Peter stepped down from the boat, walked on the water, and went toward Jesus. <sup>30</sup>But when he saw the strong wind, he was afraid. As he began to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" <sup>31</sup>Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand, took hold of him, and said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" <sup>32</sup>When they got into the boat, the wind stopped.

**<sup>33</sup>Those who were in the boat worshipped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God!”**

People of God – rescued from the flaming lake of fire in hell by the innocent blood of the very Lamb of God:

I spent most of my life growing up in a place called West Chicago in Illinois. We didn't have Friday fish-fries. Oh, we had Italian Beef sandwiches. This sliced beef simmered for hours in a juice full of Italian spices. Served on a hoagie bun with some banana peppers or little green peppers – and that was really good. We also had *Chicago style* deep dish pizza. That was pretty good, too. But it isn't a Wisconsin Friday fish fry. For some 25 years now – we have been going to the Elias Inn on a Friday – arriving some time around 5:30 – put your name in – have some refreshment – maybe a glass of Merlot – maybe something Jack Daniels – maybe a Wisconsin style – Old Fashioned – maybe with olives! When your name is called you are seated. The server asks if you are familiar – yeah! Fried fish, baked fish, chicken, German potato salad – slaw, baked beans – rye bread – homemade tartar sauce. It's all wonderful! Imagine the ultimate fish fry – 5 barley loaves – fresh baked – and two small fish – probably salt preserved – maybe smoked – tender flaky fish and while there are literally thousands and thousands of people eating – they are kind of organized into groups of 50 and before you know it – everyone is full! Pick up the “leftovers” – so that nothing is *wasted!* That was wonderful! I've never tasted fresh baked bread that good. I don't remember the last time I had fish that delicious! And they didn't run out either! It was – I don't know – a *miracle!* I

could get used to this – couldn't you! Today God's Word reminds us again of powerful and practical truths!

*Jesus Always Takes Care Of Us!*

- 1. He takes away our sins*
- 2. He keeps us safe from danger!*

As we catch up with the Lord Jesus and His disciples – Jesus is pretty far into His public ministry. Jesus continued to try to teach the people at every opportunity. Jesus continues to work powerful miracles. <sup>25</sup> At that time, Jesus continued, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from clever and learned people and have revealed them to little children. <sup>26</sup> Yes, Father, because this was pleasing to you. <sup>27</sup> Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wants to reveal him. <sup>28</sup> "Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matthew 11:25-30. Jesus continued to work powerful miracles. <sup>9</sup> Going on from there, he went into their synagogue. <sup>10</sup> A man was there who had a withered hand. Looking for a way to accuse Jesus, they asked him, "Is it lawful to heal on Sabbath days?" <sup>11</sup> He said to them, "Who among you, if you have one sheep that falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not take hold of it and lift it out? <sup>12</sup> How much more valuable is a man than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath." <sup>13</sup> Then he told the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and it was restored, as healthy as the other one. <sup>14</sup> But the Pharisees went out and plotted against him, considering how they might put him to death. Matthew 12:9-14 Jesus continued to

try and teach people that He had come – not to be a new King David – to kick out the Romans – to Make Israel Great Again! He had come to save us from all our sins! <sup>15</sup> **Since Jesus was aware of this, he withdrew from that place. Large crowds followed him and he healed them all.** <sup>16</sup> **He ordered them not to tell others about him.** <sup>17</sup> **This happened to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet:** <sup>18</sup> **Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I am well pleased. I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations.** <sup>19</sup> **He will not quarrel or cry out, and no one will hear his voice in the streets.** <sup>20</sup> **A bruised reed he will not break. A smoldering wick he will not put out, until he leads justice to victory.** <sup>21</sup> **And in his name the nations will hope.**

After feeding 5,000 men plus women and children – maybe as many as 15,000 people with one little boy’s brown bag lunch. Knowing many people were more excited about supper than they were about the Bread of Life and the sincere milk of the Gospel-- <sup>22</sup>**Immediately Jesus urged the disciples (NIV “Made” the disciples ) to get into the boat and to go ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd... Urged – made –** you know how sometimes when someone urges – they pretty much make you – please, sit down – and they push down hard on your shoulder. Please stay a little while – while they back up against the door and shut and lock it. They urged you – well pretty much made you stay. There was no choice. When Jesus said – get in the boat and start out for the far shore – that’s what you did! <sup>23</sup>**After he had dismissed the crowd, he went up onto the mountain by himself to pray.** Jesus prayed all the time! Does that seem strange to you that the Son of God should pray to His Heavenly Father? Jesus was born into this world – to do the will of His Father in Heaven. Jesus gave thanks and praise to His Heavenly Father for all the blessings His Father poured down on Him. Do we? Do we

thank Jesus for the rain? Do we thank Jesus for the sunshine or do we grumble and complain? Do we thank Jesus for our job or complain that we work too hard for too little pay and benefits? Do we thank our Heavenly Father or grumble and complain that we have too many aches and pains and problems? God's Word says, **"Be joyful always; pray continually, give thanks under all circumstances – *all circumstances* for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus!** (Philippians 4: ) Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. You can go to that Garden still today – pudgy olive trees – thousands of years old – where Jesus prayed with such earnestness that his sweat was dark with blood! Did you ever pray with such earnestness? Perhaps! They say sometimes soldiers, sailors and marines in hand to hand combat sometimes sweat blood. If we have prayed in the immediate aftermath of a horrible car crash or a house fire or an explosion – and someone we love is in mortal danger – imagine Jesus' passionate love for sinners like us!

**He went up onto the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone. <sup>24</sup>By then the boat was quite a distance from shore, being pounded by the waves because the wind was against it.** When I was little it bothered me – that Jesus' disciples – professional fishermen – were forever in the middle of the Sea of Galilee when they were seemingly caught by surprise! Why didn't they look at the sky before they started out? You get a little older and a little bit smarter. The Sea of Galilee is not very big. It is not as big as Lake Winnebago! It is pretty much surrounded by hills – the hillside – the Sermon on the Mount – the cliff where the legion of possessed pigs went over the edge. So...you can't see the storm coming until it comes over the hill tops – and then it's pretty much a *tempest in a tea pot* – hills keep the storm from quickly passing – instead it goes around and around! It's hard to sail a sail boat against the wind! It was very

bad – through the night! <sup>25</sup>In the fourth watch of the night – (that is between 3 and 6 in the morning) , Jesus came toward them, walking on the sea. <sup>26</sup>When the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified and cried out in fear, “It’s a ghost!” <sup>27</sup>But Jesus spoke to them at once, saying, “Take heart! It is I! Do not be afraid.” Up through the night battling the storm – Jesus’ disciples were exhausted. And when they saw their Savior walking on the water they were *sore afraid!* They were terrified! **At once** – immediately – right away – Jesus called out to them – **don’t be scared!** There is power in Jesus’ words. What Jesus commands – Jesus enables! It isn’t up to us to be brave. Jesus is our strength. Jesus is our courage! Jesus makes us strong. Jesus is strong within is! Don’t be scared! And they were afraid no longer!

Simon Peter – the fisherman – almost always the first to speak does here, too! <sup>28</sup>Peter answered him and said, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” <sup>29</sup>Jesus said, “Come!” Peter stepped down from the boat, walked on the water, and went toward Jesus. Imagine that! Walking on water! Not swimming near the surface – but walking on top of the waves. For a moment or two that must have been pretty cool. <sup>30</sup>But when he saw the strong wind, he was afraid. As he began to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” <sup>31</sup>Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand, took hold of him... Immediately – immediately Jesus stretched out his hand, took hold of him... Jesus did not let him spit and sputter. Jesus did not let him swallow a whole bunch of lake water. Jesus didn’t yell at him or embarrass him or shame him. Immediately Jesus took hold of Peter. , took hold of him, and said to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” <sup>32</sup>When they got into the boat, the wind stopped. <sup>33</sup>Those who were in the boat worshipped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God!” Worship is when you say, “Thank you, Jesus!” The disciples were thankful for rescue



from the literal storm. Everybody has storms in their life – physical storms and far more dangerous spiritual storms. Aunt Judy has the storm of Pancreatic Cancer. She was at the Lauber Family Picnic in Jackson on Saturday. She was the one in the wheel chair. Will she be at the family picnic next year? Only Jesus knows! Will she be at the family Thanksgiving? Will she be at the family Christmas? Only Jesus knows! In the meantime she worships Jesus – thankful for each day – one day at a time! We worship Jesus, too! We worship Him on Thursday nights or Sunday mornings early or late! Only two more weekends and it will be Labor Day – Fall/Winter schedule – 7:45 and 10:15 – with Sunday School and Bible Class and more! We worship Jesus when we have family devotions – Little Visits With God! We worship at Sunday School opening devotions and Chapel at TSL and Lakeside Lutheran High School and Luther Preparatory School. Read your Bible! Study God’s Word! Worship with the family of believers every opportunity Jesus gives you. Say Thank you Jesus when you are out in the storm in the darkness of night. Say thank you, Jesus!--all the time! Amen!

**To God alone all glory!**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Rev. Anthony E. Schmitt", is centered on a light blue rectangular background.