

FEAR NOT, FOR THE LORD IS WITH YOU

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

BETHEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH | York, Nebraska

August 4, 2024

SERIES THEME: MEANINGFUL MINISTRY

"Ministry" is one of those churchy words that is often used, yet perhaps not fully understood. Ministry comes from the Latin word for "service." Ministry involves serving others with love, compassion, and empathy. Helping someone with physical needs is sometimes called "compassion ministry." Helping someone with their spiritual needs, sharing the good news of Christ, is generally called "gospel ministry." We misunderstand ministry if we think of it as something only ministers do. While pastors are called to perform gospel ministry on behalf of others, ultimately every believer is called by God to reflect Christ-like love and share the message of salvation as God provides those opportunities. In this worship series we will see our efforts to meet the needs of those God brings into our sphere of influence as meaningful ministry. In our service to them, those people see God's love and God sees our faith.

THEME OF THE DAY: FEAR NOT, FOR THE LORD IS WITH YOU

Shortly before he ascended, Jesus told his followers they were to engage in meaningful ministry to work their way through the world, sharing the good news of salvation. Our loving Lord knew that was a big and often intimidating task. So, his next words were a promise. "Surely I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20). God's people still need to hear that promise. For several weeks, we have been discussing the reality that the Lord of the Church has called all believers to meaningful ministry. Ministry will come with challenges. It can cause fears to arise: the fear of rejection, the fear of inadequacy, the fear of persecution. So, listen again to your Savior. "I am with you always." We conclude our series on meaningful ministry empowered by that gracious promise.

Worship Leader Organist/Pianist Pastor Justin Wilkens Debbie Owen

Acknowledgments

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The Service, Morning Prayer (page 207 in Christian Worship 21)

Hymn: 820 O God, Our Help in Ages Past

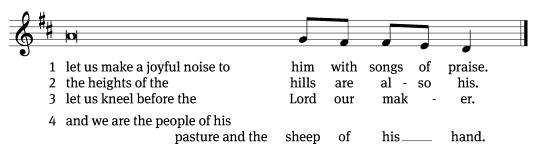
Stand

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall declare your praise.

Hasten to save me, O God; O Lord, come quickly to help me.

Jesus Christ is Lord of all: praise and thanks to God!

O Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord CW 208 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord. 2 For the Lord is a God great____ 3 The sea is his, for he made_____ it. 1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va tion. 2 and a great king a - bove all gods. 3 and his hand formed the dry____ land. 1 Let us come into his presence with thanks giv ing, -2 The deep places of the earth are in his hand: 3 O come, let us worship and bow_ down. 4 For he God. is our



Be seated

First Reading

2 Kings 6:8–17

Elisha's ministry had resulted in Elisha and his servant being surrounded by an enemy army. But they didn't need to fear, for the Lord and his mighty army of angels were with them.

Elisha Guarded by Angels

⁸Now when the king of Aram was waging war against Israel, he would make plans with his officials, saying, "My camp will be at such and such a place."

⁹But the man of God would send a message to the king of Israel, saying, "Be careful when you pass this place because the Arameans are going down there." ¹⁰So the king of Israel would send scouts to the place that the man of God had pointed out. So the man of God warned him, and he was kept safe—and not just once or twice.

¹¹The king of Aram was enraged because of this. He summoned his officials and said to them, "Won't you tell me who of us is for the king of Israel?"

¹²One of his officials said, "No, my lord the king. It is Elisha, the prophet in Israel, who tells the king of Israel the words which you speak in your bedroom."

¹³Then he said, "Go and see where he is. Then I'll send men and capture him." He was told, "Dothan is where he is."

¹⁴So he sent horses and chariots and a strong force there. They came at night and surrounded the city. ¹⁵When the man of God's servant got up early and went out, there were soldiers, horses, and chariots surrounding the city. So his attendant said to Elisha, "Oh no, my lord! What will we do?"

¹⁶He answered, "Don't be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

¹⁷Then Elisha prayed and said, "O LORD, open his eyes so that he can see." Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he saw that the hills were full of horses and chariots of fire, all around Elisha.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 46- In front of hymnal: The LORD Almighty Is with Us

Second Reading

2 Timothy 4:6–8,16–18

Paul knows that soon he will be executed for performing gospel ministry. Yet he is not afraid, for he knows the Lord Jess has always been by his side.

Paul's Farewell

⁶You see, I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. ⁸From now on, there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness. The Lord, the righteous Judge, will give it to me on that day, and not only to me but also to everyone who loved his appearing.

¹⁶At my first hearing, no one came to my defense, but everyone deserted me. May it not be counted against them. ¹⁷But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message would be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles would hear it, and I was rescued from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸The Lord will rescue me from every evil work and will bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Stand





Gospel

Mark 6:45-56

Before engaging in ministry at Gennesaret, Jesus comes to the disciples, dispelling their fears with his comforting and powerful presence.

Jesus Walks on Water

⁴⁵Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go ahead to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he himself dismissed the crowd. ⁴⁶After he had sent them off, he went up the mountain to pray.

⁴⁷When it was evening, the boat was in the middle of the sea, and Jesus was alone on the land. ⁴⁸He saw them straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. About the fourth watch of the night, he went to them, walking on the sea. He was ready to pass by them. ⁴⁹When they saw him walking on the sea, they thought he was a ghost, and they cried out. ⁵⁰They all saw him and were terrified. Immediately he spoke with them and said, "Take courage! It is I. Do not be afraid." ⁵¹Then he climbed up into the boat with them, and the wind stopped. They were completely amazed, ⁵²because they had not understood about the loaves. Instead, their hearts were hardened.

⁵³When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret and anchored there. ⁵⁴As soon as they stepped out of the boat, people recognized Jesus. ⁵⁵They ran around that whole region and began to bring sick people on their stretchers to where they heard he was. ⁵⁶Wherever he entered villages, cities, or the countryside, they were laying sick people in the marketplaces and pleading with him that they might just touch the edge of his garment. And all who touched it were made well.

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Hymn: 803 Day by Day

Sermon

Stand

We Praise You, O God CW 210 O 1 We praise you, O God, we acclaim Lord; vou as 2 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of heav'n ly hosts, 3 The white-robed army of martyrs praise_ you. 1 all creation worships you, Fa - ther ev - er - last ing. 2 heaven and earth are full____ of your glo ry. 3 Throughout the world the ho - ly Church ac - claims you: of heav'n, 1 To you all angels, all the pow'rs 2 The glorious company of apostles praise ____ you. 3 Father of majesty unbounded; your glorious, true, and on lv Son: 1 cherubim and seraphim, end - less praise: sing in 2 The noble fellowship of proph - ets praise____ you. 3 and the Holy Spirit, ad vo - cate and guide. 4 You, Christ, are the King of glo - ry, the eternal Son of the Fa - ther. When you became man to free, 5 set us 6 You sit at the right hand of God



Be seated

Offering

Offering Hymn: 533 Jesus, Lover of My Soul sts. 1–2

Lord, Have Mercy

Hear my voice when I call, O Lord; be merciful and answer me. Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty and most merciful God, the protector of all who trust in you, strengthen our faith, and give us courage to believe that in your love you will rescue us from all adversities; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The following prayer is said:

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger. And in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

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. Let us praise the Lord. Thanks be to God.

The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen.

Hymn: 549 Across the Lands

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: 10:30 AM Worship **Sunday:** 10:30 AM Worship and Communion

Council Meeting August 4th

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Personal assisted listening devices are available.

Given to the Lord: Attendance: Worship 68, Offerings: Operating: Needed 2,854.90, Given \$1,296.30. **To God be the glory!**

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