

**Redeemer Lutheran Church
San Antonio, Texas**

**September 5, 2021
Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Service of Prayer and Preaching: Pg. 260-267**

NOTE: Offerings will not be received by passing the plate. For now, please place your attendance cards and offering in the plates located at each exit.

A mask is required to be worn when entering Redeemer. If you pass the temperature check, you are not required to wear a mask while inside the church. However, if you have not been fully vaccinated, or if you have a condition that would make you more susceptible to infection, we recommend that you continue to follow CDC guidelines and wear a mask.

Please sit in designated pews only for bible class and worship.

Prelude

Opening Hymn

“Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven” – LSB # 793

Opening Versicles: Pg. 260

Old Testament Cantic:

The Readings:

The First Lesson: Isaiah 41:1-4, 8-13

¹ “Be silent before me, you islands! Let the nations renew their strength! Let them come forward and speak; let us meet together at the place of judgment. ² “Who has stirred up one from the east, calling him in righteousness to his service? He hands nations over to him and subdues kings before him. He turns them to dust with his sword, to windblown chaff with his bow. ³ He pursues them and moves on unscathed, by a path his feet have not traveled before. ⁴ Who has done this and carried it through, calling forth

the generations from the beginning? I, the LORD — with the first of them and with the last — I am he.”

⁸ “But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, you descendants of Abraham my friend, ⁹ I took you from the ends of the earth, from its farthest corners I called you. I said, ‘You are my servant’; I have chosen you and have not rejected you. ¹⁰ So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. ¹¹ “All who rage against you will surely be ashamed and disgraced; those who oppose you will be as nothing and perish. ¹² Though you search for your enemies, you will not find them. Those who wage war against you will be as nothing at all. ¹³ For I am the LORD your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

The Second Lesson: James 1:12-27

¹² Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. ¹³ When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; ¹⁴ but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. ¹⁶ Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. ¹⁸ He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created. ¹⁹ My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰ because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. ²¹ Therefore, get rid of all

moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. ²² Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. ²⁵ But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it — not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it — they will be blessed in what they do. ²⁶ Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Lesson: Mark 8:27-38

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 8th chapter.

Congregation: Glory to You, O Lord!

²⁷ Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, “Who do people say I am?” ²⁸ They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” ²⁹ “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Peter answered, “You are the Messiah.” ³⁰ Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him. ³¹ He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. ³² He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. “Get behind me, Satan!” he said. “You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.” ³⁴ Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must

deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. ³⁶ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? ³⁷ Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? ³⁸ If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Praise to You, O Christ.

The Responsory: Pg. 263

Catechism:

The Apostle's Creed

The Lord's Prayer

The Sermon:

The Hymn:

"The Lord, My God, Be Praised" – LSB # 794

Prayer: Pg. 265

Congregational Prayers

Collect of the Day

Collect for the Word

Luther's Morning Prayer: Pg. 266

Blessing: Pg. 267

The Closing Hymn:

"Voices Raised to You We Offer" – LSB # 795

Postlude (remain seated)

James 1: Trials, Tribulations, Tests and Testimonies (Epistles Now by Rev. Leslie F. Brandt)

We have so much to learn as the children of God. The most difficult, perhaps, is to learn how to regard our trials and tribulations—even the tragedies that beset us—as capable of enhancing and enriching our lives. Whereas God does not send them, He does permit them, and He can use them to draw us closer to Him and thereby accomplish His purposes in and through us. We desperately need the wisdom to accept these painful happenings with graciousness, even with joy, knowing that whatever they may be, God can transform them from ugliness into beauty, from the plots of Satan designed to destroy into the purposes of God destined to do us good. The key is a genuine faith in a loving God, a faith that frees us and strengthens us to endure whatever may come our way.

These tribulations do not come from God. The conflicts we engage in have their origin in the forces of evil that permeate our hemisphere as well as in our own self-centered natures, the rebel will that recoils from the vision of light and freedom and sacrificial love. We won't win every battle in the incessant war against the powers of the night, but the ultimate victory is, in Jesus Christ, already ours. If we fall only to rise again, fail only to fight again, we discover a forgiving and loving God indwelling our hearts and strengthening our arms to carry on this war of the ages. It is not difficult to see or imagine God's presence in sunlight and success, but it is when we recognize that God is with us in the crucible of conflict that we experience real joy.

Let us be aware, however, that we can be trapped by tribulation. If we attempt to fight our selfish, sin-ridden desires by ourselves, we are in for defeat and eventual destruction. Courting those inner fires usually resolves getting burned. Faith in God and in His truth and grace will give us the edge, and the final victory, even over our enflamed passions and foolish errors.

There is something else we must learn as God's children. It is not enough to be listeners and proclaimers of the Gospel; we are commissioned to be doers. Christian faith that falls short of loving performance in respect to the needs of suffering people about us falls short of genuine faith. May our small faith be rekindled and burn bright with joy and obedience.