



My Constant Companion

Grace Lutheran Church
Yorba Linda, California

September 13, 2020
15th Sunday after Pentecost



Elijah's God is My God Too!

Today: My Constant Companion

We are in a time of change and transition and that is never easy. Really, we are always in a time of transition, from life to death and from death to life: physically and spiritually. Rejoice then that you have a God who is constant, who never changes, who promises to be our constant companion in the midst of change.

August 2 – My Provider (1 Kings 17:1-6)

August 9 – My Strength (1 Kings 19:9-18)

August 16 – OUR Salvation (1 Kings 17:7-24)

August 23 – My Confession (1 Kings 18:21ff.)

August 30 – My Courage to Carry My Cross (1 Kings 18:1-15)

September 6 – My King's Keeper (1 Kings 20:17-28)

September 13 – My Constant Companion



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gathering around Grace – Growing in Grace – Going with Grace

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****Words in light grey indicate text is for in-service only****

CALL TO WORSHIP

WE STAND FOR A GREETING and BLESSING IN THE NAME OF OUR GOD.

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

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with a humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

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C: Christ, have mercy.

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

**AND SURELY
I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS
TO THE VERY END OF THE AGE**

— MATTHEW 28:20 —

THE WORD

THE GOSPEL READING

Matthew 28:16-20

Before His own ascension into heaven, Jesus promises to be our constant companion as we continue His work in His name.

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

This Psalm reminds us that God is our constant companion now... and forevermore.

A. Those closest to the window

B. Those on the piano side

PSALM FOR THE DAY

Psalm 121

M. He who watches over you will not slumber;
he who watches over you will not sleep.

A. ¹ I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
where does my help come from?

B. ² My help comes from the LORD,
the Maker of heaven and earth.

A. ³ He will not let your foot slip—
he who watches over you will not slumber;

B. ⁴ indeed, he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

A. ⁵ The LORD watches over you—
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

B. ⁶ the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.

A. ⁷ The LORD will keep you from all harm—
he will watch over your life;

B. ⁸ the LORD will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore.

M. He who watches over you will not slumber;
he who watches over you will not sleep.



HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord Jesus Christ with us Abide (#541)

- 1 Lord Jesus Christ, with us abide, For round us falls the eventide,
Nor let your Word, that heav'nly light, For us be ever veiled in night.**

- 2 O God, how sin's dread works abound!
Throughout the earth no rest is found,
And falsehood's spirit wide has spread,
And error boldly rears its head.**

- 3 In these last days of sore distress
Grant us, dear Lord, true steadfastness
That pure we keep, till life is spent, Your holy Word and sacrament.**

- 6 The cause is yours, the glory, too, So hear us, Lord, and keep us true.
Your Word alone is our defense, The Church's glorious confidence.**

- 7 Oh, grant that in your holy Word We here may live and die, dear Lord,
And when our journey's ending here, Receive us into glory there.**



SERMON READING:

2 Kings 2:1-14



**ELIJAH'S GOD
is MY GOD too!**

**My Constant
Companion**

When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; the LORD has sent me to Bethel."

But Elisha said, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel.

³The company of the prophets at Bethel came out to Elisha and asked, "Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master from you today?"

"Yes, I know," Elisha replied, "so be quiet."

⁴Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here, Elisha; the LORD has sent me to Jericho."

And he replied, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So they went to Jericho.

⁵The company of the prophets at Jericho went up to Elisha and asked him, "Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master from you today?"

"Yes, I know," he replied, "so be quiet."

⁶Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; the LORD has sent me to the Jordan."

And he replied, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So the two of them walked on.

⁷Fifty men from the company of the prophets went and stood at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the Jordan. ⁸Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground.

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?"

"Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit," Elisha replied.

¹⁰"You have asked a difficult thing," Elijah said, "yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours—otherwise, it will not."

¹¹As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. ¹²Elisha saw this and cried out, "My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!" And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his garment and tore it in two.

¹³Elisha then picked up Elijah's cloak that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. ¹⁴He took the cloak that had fallen from Elijah and struck the water with it. "Where now is the LORD, the God of Elijah?" he asked. When he struck the water, it divided to the right and to the left, and he crossed over.

Offerings are part of our worship life and our life in the church. During this time of social distancing, your offering may be left at the door or mailed or you may give online at www.gracelutheran.church.

OFFERING

TOGETHER! we say:

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH and LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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 SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He sends the Holy Spirit to testify that we are his children and to strengthen us when we are weak.

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *spoken by the worship leader*

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

M: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us.

C: **O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Grant us your peace. Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

CLOSING PRAYER

Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name (#321)

- 1 Savior, again to thy dear name we raise
With one accord our parting hymn of praise.
Once more we bless thee ere our worship cease,
Then, lowly bending, wait thy word of peace.
- 2 Grant us thy peace upon our homeward way;
With thee began, with thee shall end the day.
Guard thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
That in this house have called upon thy name.
- 4 Grant us thy peace throughout our earthly life,
Our balm in sorrow and our stay in strife.
Then, when thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,
Call us, O Lord, to thine eternal peace.

Text: John Ellerton, 1826–93, abr., alt.

For online worship:

CLOSING HYMN

God Has Spoken By His Prophets (#281)

- 1 God has spoken by his prophets, Spoken his unchanging Word,
Each from age to age proclaiming God the one, the righteous Lord.
In the world's despair and turmoil One firm anchor holds us fast:
God is king, his throne eternal, God the first and God the last.
- 2 God has spoken by Christ Jesus, Christ, the everlasting Son,
Brightness of the Father's glory, With the Father ever one,
Spoken by the Word incarnate, God from God, before time was,
Light from Light, to earth descending—He reveals our God to us.
- 3 God is speaking by his Spirit, Speaking to the hearts of all,
In the ageless Word expounding His own message for us all.
Through the rise and fall of nations One sure faith is standing fast.
God abides, his Word unchanging, God the first and God the last.

CALENDAR

Monday – Circuit Meeting for area pastors

Thursday - Bible Study online – 10 AM or 7 PM

Sunday worship – online (at your convenience) or in-person at 9:30 AM.

This week: Confirmation class

*September 26 – California Lutheran High School golf outing
(check their website)*

*October 10th – Lutheran Women’s Mission Society Rally (virtual meeting)
Look for information in the coming weeks.*