

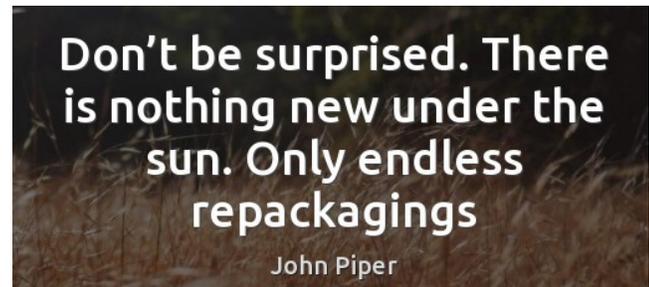
## OUR REDEEMER'S VOICE

AUGUST 2020

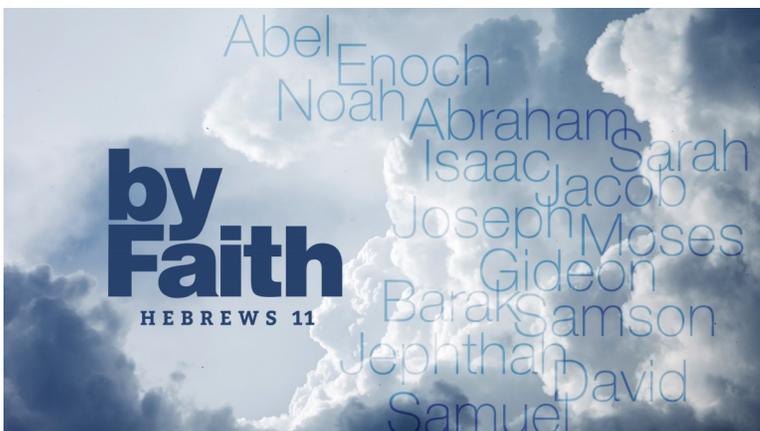
### Here We Go Again

George Santayana once said, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Over time, many have reworked his words a bit, but they carry the same message. All those reworking of Santayana's words reminds me of a similar quote from Solomon: "What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 1:9). Even those who think they are being original end up simply repeating what has gone before, even if they know history.

That doesn't mean that there are not new inventions and new applications to old inventions (just think of all the technological and medical advances over the centuries). What it means is that the human condition remains unchanged. The BIG issues in our lives remain constant and the various approaches remain unchanged, though tweaked. Poverty remains a problem. All kinds of approaches have been used to wipe out poverty (How many of us remember Lyndon B. Johnson's "War on Poverty"?), using everything from giving people new places to live, giving people food, giving people farming tips, giving people education, and so forth, only to have poverty continue. War continues, even though we have fought in the "war to end all wars," had the League of Nations, and have the United Nations, international law and courts to try cases in, countless dollars poured into diplomatic causes, and more. Still, as I said, war is with us. With the current pandemic raging around the world, I don't have to tell anyone that illness and death are still with us. Countless amounts of money have gone into efforts to eradicate these ills, even going so far as using cryonics in an effort to avoid death (by the way, those who have done this are dead. They are frozen, but dead), but illness and death remain. People still weep for loved ones who have died. With all the books about how to "fix" your spouse, or family, or work environment, or relationships with your neighbor, or whatever, it is **amazing** that we still have problems between people, but we do. With all the books, speakers, videos, and so on, about how to effectively communicate, it is **shocking** just how easily we are misunderstood, and we misunderstand others.



Still, we should not simply throw up our hands and give up. Scripture is not fatalistic. For example, in reference to getting along with other people, Paul tells us, "If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all" (Romans 12:18). In James 5:16, we learn that we are indeed to pray for healing. But the real antidote to all these various ailments will be revealed at the Second Coming of Jesus. At that time, those who have trusted in him will be raised to a new life where these old, old evils will no longer exist. That is our hope as Christians. Jesus **is** the answer.



But let us return to the fact that our problems are not new to us. That means that saints from all the ages before us have faced them. They have seen war, famine, poverty, illness, plague, death, persecution, being misunderstood, and on and on. They become a great resource for us as we face the various ills in our modern world. How have they faced such issues? Where did they find comfort and assurance in the hour of trial? How did they live their lives in a sinful world?

This is something with which a robust liturgical calendar can help us. They are good, even for those who are not in the pastoral ministry. Sure, pastors and such are present in abundance, but there are other vocations represented. For example, we remember Lucas Cranach and Albrecht Dürer on April 6, and they were artists. We remember Frederick the Wise on May 5 and Emperor Constantine on May 21, and they were politicians. We remember the musician Johann Sebastian Bach on July 28. We remember Monica, a faithful mother, on August 27. These are just a few of the saints from whom we can learn, how their faith in Christ carried them through during the day of trial.

As I think of it, some history is worth repeating; the history of those who remain faithful to the Lord through the various changes and challenges in their lives. May we learn from them and remain faithful to Jesus as well.

In Christ's name,

Pastor



### **Digging In The Nicene Creed Second Article, Part 15**

*And [I believe] in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, **very God of very God**, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the*

*Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.*

The last article concluded what we are covering concerning the phrase "Light of Light." We now turn our thoughts to "very God of very God." The idea of the Father as the Source while the Son has no beginning (which we discussed in reference to "Light of Light") is obviously present with the phrase "very God of very God" as well. If you remember the introductory material about Arius, it is easy to understand why this thought is being hammered. Jesus is God, co-equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit, every much a person like the Father and the Spirit. This, then, is a restatement of the phrase "God of God," so all that was said in reference to that phrase applies here. We will simply look at the additional word "very."

The word translated "very" is a translation of the Greek word *ἀλήθεια*, or the Latin *verum*. The Greek means "true," "very," "real," "genuine," and the like. The Latin expresses the same general ideas. Therefore, you will find slight variations in the translation in different Christian traditions. The idea remains the same, no matter on which translation you settle. The Son is just as much God as the Father is God. There is no second place God, no junior God, no lower God. While the Son is the image of the Father made visible to our eyes, the Father is also the image of the Son, only invisible to our eyes. It works both ways. To see Jesus is to see the Father (Colossians 1:15; John 14:9).

The only possible problem here is in the few places where the Father is called Jesus' God (example: John 20:17). However, when we consider that Jesus is speaking of the Father being his God in reference to his human nature, then no conflict is present. So, for example, Gregory of Nazianzus wrote:

The Father could be called the God, not of the Word but of him who was seen by humankind. For how could he be the God of him who is himself genuinely God? In the same way he is the Father, not of him who was seen but of the Word. ... Notice how Paul says, "the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of Glory." God of Christ but Father of the glory. Though both compose a single whole, it is not by unity of nature but by coalescence of those two natures. What could be more intelligible?

Next month we will turn our thoughts to "begotten, not made." Until then, may "the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all" (2 Corinthians 13:14). Amen.

*In the beginning  
was the Word,  
and the Word  
was with God,  
and the Word  
was God*  
John 1:1

## A Devotion from LHM Website: "Come Follow Me"



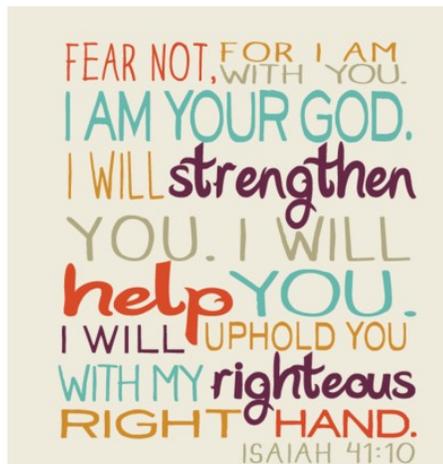
*"Come, follow Me," the Savior spake, All in My way abiding; Deny yourselves, the world forsake, Obey My call and guiding. O bear the cross, whate'er betide, Take My example for your guide.*

*"Then let us follow Christ, our Lord, And take the cross appointed. And, firmly clinging to His Word, In suffering be undaunted. For those who bear the battle's strain, The crown of heav'nly life obtain."*

"Deny yourselves, the world forsake." That may not be popular advice. Contemporary culture is not necessarily known for self-denial. Yet in a world of self-gratification and self-centeredness, there stands Jesus, calling to us, "Come, follow Me ... Deny yourselves, the world forsake ... bear the cross." It is not a cross of our own making, a cross created out of our own invented piety and pride. The cross we are to take up is more like that borne by Simon of Cyrene on the first Good Friday. Simon was quite literally the first to take up the cross and follow in Jesus' steps. It was not Simon's idea; Scripture tells us that soldiers "seized" him and "compelled" him to take up Jesus' cross and carry it to Golgotha.

"Take My example for your guide." The apostle Peter writes, "For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in His steps" (1 Peter 2:21). As Simon of Cyrene no doubt learned, to follow closely in the steps of Jesus may well mean that cross-bearers will be splattered with the dust and blood of suffering. Jesus left us His example of suffering, but His death on the cross was much more than an example to follow. "He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed" (1 Peter 2:24).

Healed and forgiven by His wounds, we take up the cross and follow. In many places around the world, cross-bearers suffer the loss of homes and employment, imprisonment or death. In other places those who follow Jesus may only endure the ridicule or disdain of others. But in every place, taking up the cross calls for self-denial and the forsaking of the world's temptations. Our sinful and self-centered demands are to be laid aside so that we might better love our neighbor as ourselves. In this, too, we follow Jesus: "Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. For Christ did not please Himself, but as it is written, 'The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me'" (Romans 15:2-3).



In the strength of the Spirit, we take up the cross and follow Jesus, bearing up under the strain of battle against the temptations of the devil, the world, and our own sinful self-centeredness. By faith we cling firmly to the Word—to Jesus, the Word made flesh, and to the written Word of Scripture. Undaunted in suffering and in service, one day we will bear, not a cross, but a crown. "Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Revelation 2:10b).

### A Personal Postscript:

To some extent we are carrying a new burden with this virus present. We must understand that regardless of the possible dangers, the Lord is our protection and guide. We need merely to trust His love and daily presence through His Spirit. There is no need to fear, as many Bible verses tell us. "Lord I believe; help my unbelief!"

## THROUGH THE WORSHIP WINDOW

### August — Pentecost:

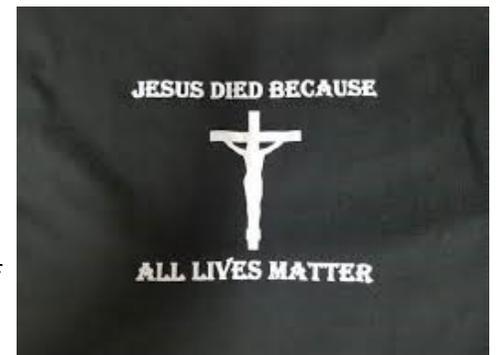


The Gospel for August begins with the feeding of the 5000, a remarkable miracle. Soon after this Jesus walks across the Sea to His disciples. In this segment are recorded other miracles such as the healing of the Canaanite woman who touched His garment.

Later Peter confesses that Jesus is *the Christ, the Son of the Living God*. And Jesus begins to reveal upcoming His suffering and death.

In the Old Testament, Isaiah invites us to come to Jesus for the provisions of life. In the story of Job, God reminds us that He alone is God, the Creator of all things. Later in Isaiah is a reference that 'foreigners' can also come to the Lord. There is also a reminder that Israel will find salvation in Him. Jeremiah tells of God's offer of saving to those who repent and believe.

In the New Testament readings from Romans, where Paul laments the hardness of heart in Israel to accept Christ, Paul prays that the Israelites would turn to Jesus and accept His salvation. Later Paul shows that a remnant of Israel is still faithful. His final message is 12:1-2 *Therefore I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good and perfect will.*



This is an excellent way to end the devotions for August, with each of us dedicated to God's will.

Remain faithful to the Lord who is faithful to us.

Arlen D. Besel– Worship

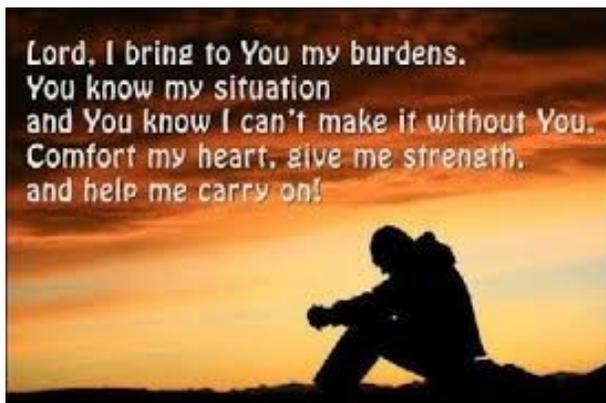
### **Guaranteed Weight Loss!** [Adapted from *Portals of Prayer*]

*Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.* Matthew 11:28

*Cast your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.* 1 Peter 5:7

*Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens; God is our salvation.* Psalm 68:19

C. S. Lewis once wrote that you can't know how bad you are until you've tried to be good. As a monk, Martin Luther prayed, whipped himself, etc. in an effort to try and overcome sin and temptation to sin. Yet he, like all of us, fall prey to sin daily.



We are burdened by cares of this life: worrying about debt, job loss, illness, homeschooling our kids, contracting COVID19, and so much more. It weighs us down. If that weren't enough, the weight of trying to keep God's Law perfectly to earn salvation is so great that it will bury us.

Thanks be to God that our Lord Jesus has borne that weight for us; He did it by keeping God's Law perfectly all the way to the cross! He suffered pain, betrayal, mockery, hatred and death, then rose victoriously, triumphing over death. He gives us this same victory through faith in Him. Daily, He bears all our burdens and gives us His Spirit full of joy, comfort, and peace—now that's a true weight loss program!

During this time of isolation, many people are carrying extra weight (and I don't mean the pounds gained during this pandemic!); we have the Good News that can free them from an intolerable weight of sin and death—Share it today with those you know and love!

Kitty Rickert, Evangelism Chair



**Reopening Committee Report & Worship Opportunity**

We will have outdoor communion worship services once per month at this time. Our first such service was well attended and appreciated, so it was decided that we continue this for the time being. Our next outdoor service is scheduled for Thursday, 8/13, 6:30 pm., with a rain date of 8/20. The next Reopening Committee meeting will be Saturday, 9/12, 11:00 a.m. (following the Mutual Ministry meeting).

**O.R.C.H.A.R.D. Update**

Our second grant project has been completed; all of the paperwork has been submitted, and now we just await the check in the mail! Thank you to everyone who worked the 80 hours to bring this all about!



We will have an LWML meeting Saturday, August 15 from 10 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., so bring your lunch! We will have a Bible study, meeting & will work on the Pillowcase Dress mission project. Bias tape & elastic have already been purchased



& we have some pillowcases at church, but if you find any cute ones, feel free to purchase/bring them. We also need rickrack, ribbons, lace, buttons, etc. to embellish the little dresses. See you then!

Due to the COVID19 pandemic, societies are not meeting; that means that mites are not being collected & our mission projects are going unfunded. You can help rectify this by sending your mite money in yourself. You can give online at: <https://www.lwmlchesapeake.org/giving-to-lwml.html> or mail your check to: Yvonne Brown, Financial Secretary, LWML Chesapeake District, 9111

Alcona St, Lanham, MD 20706. If you are sending a check, include your name, church & city, society name (LWML), phone number & email address; do it today; the money is needed no later than August 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you.

Mary Beth Cooley, Ruth Hewlett & Kathy O'Malley

**August Birthdays**

- 3 Mark Johnston
- 6 Rev. John Rickert
- 11 Kevin Kruelle
- 18 Milton Steltz, Jr
- 20 Bonnie Johnston
- 24 Lian Noble Kline
- 27 Loren Kline



**Anniversaries**

- 7 A K & Helga Kissell
- 14 Kevin & Meghan Gerzevske

*If we missed your special day, please call or email the church office with your info so we can celebrate with you! (302) 737-6176; secretary.orlcde@outlook.com*

**Due to our limited activities, no separate calendar has been produced. Scheduled activities for August:**

Sunday	8/2	Matins Worship Service/Online	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday	8/5	Romans Bible Study/Live-Streamed	7:00 p.m.
Sunday	8/9	Matins Worship Service/Online	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday	8/12	Romans Bible Study/Live-Streamed	7:00 p.m.
Thursday	8/13	Outdoor Worship with Communion	6:30 p.m.
Saturday	8/15	LWML Meeting, Lunch & Project	10:00 a.m.
Sunday	8/16	Matins Worship Service/Online	10:00 a.m.
		Church Council Meeting/Zoom	Noon
Wednesday	8/19	Romans Bible Study/Live-Streamed	7:00 p.m.
(Thursday	8/20	Rain Date for outdoor worship	6:30 p.m.)
Sunday	8/23	Matins Worship Service/Online	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday	8/26	Romans Bible Study/Live-Streamed	7:00 p.m.
Sunday	8/30	Matins Worship Service/Online	10:00 a.m.



## AUGUST BIBLE READINGS

- |           |                                     |           |                              |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------|
| <b>1</b>  | Habakkuk 3:2-19<br>2 Chronicles 1-3 | <b>17</b> | Psalm 72<br>Nehemiah 7-9     |
| <b>2</b>  | Psalm 57<br>2 Chronicles 4-6        | <b>18</b> | Psalm 73<br>Nehemiah 10-13   |
| <b>3</b>  | Psalm 58<br>2 Chronicles 7-9        | <b>19</b> | Psalm 74<br>Esther 1-3       |
| <b>4</b>  | Psalm 59<br>2 Chronicles 10-12      | <b>20</b> | Psalm 75<br>Esther 4-6       |
| <b>5</b>  | Psalm 60<br>2 Chronicles 13-15      | <b>21</b> | Psalm 76<br>Esther 7-10      |
| <b>6</b>  | Psalm 61<br>2 Chronicles 16-18      | <b>22</b> | Psalm 77<br>Job 1-3          |
| <b>7</b>  | Psalm 62<br>2 Chronicles 19-21      | <b>23</b> | Psalm 78<br>Job 4-6          |
| <b>8</b>  | Psalm 63<br>2 Chronicles 22-24      | <b>24</b> | Psalm 79<br>Job 7-9          |
| <b>9</b>  | Psalm 64<br>2 Chronicles 25-27      | <b>25</b> | Psalm 80<br>Job 10-12        |
| <b>10</b> | Psalm 65<br>2 Chronicles 28-30      | <b>26</b> | Psalm 81<br>Job 13-15        |
| <b>11</b> | Psalm 66<br>2 Chronicles 31-33      | <b>27</b> | Psalm 82<br>Job 16-18        |
| <b>12</b> | Psalm 67<br>2 Chronicles 34-36      | <b>28</b> | Psalm 83<br>Job 19-21        |
| <b>13</b> | Psalm 68<br>Ezra 1-5                | <b>29</b> | Psalm 84<br>Job 22-24        |
| <b>14</b> | Psalm 69<br>Ezra 6-10               | <b>30</b> | Psalm 85<br>Job 25-27        |
| <b>15</b> | Psalm 70<br>Nehemiah 1-3            | <b>31</b> | Habakkuk 3:2-19<br>Job 28-30 |
| <b>16</b> | Psalm 71<br>Nehemiah 4-6            |           |                              |

