

ILCW Year-C Lessons for the 13th Sunday after Pentecost

OLD TESTAMENT Jeremiah 23:23-29 NIV "Am I only a God nearby," declares the LORD, "and not a God far away? 24 Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?" declares the LORD. "Do not I fill heaven and earth?" declares the LORD. 25 "I have heard what the prophets say who prophesy lies in My Name. They say, 'I had a dream! I had a dream!' 26 How long will this continue in the hearts of these lying prophets, who prophesy the delusions of their own minds? 27 They think the dreams they tell one another will make My people forget My Name, just as their fathers forgot My Name through Baal worship. 28 Let the prophet who has a dream tell his dream, but let the one who has My Word speak it faithfully. For what has straw to do with grain?" declares the LORD. 29 "Is not My Word like fire," declares the LORD, "and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?"

Epistle

Hebrews 12:1-13 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. 2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the Cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the Right Hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. 4 In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. 5 And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when He rebukes you, 6 because the Lord disciplines those He loves, and He punishes everyone He accepts as a son." 7 Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? 8 If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. 9 Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! 10 Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in His holiness. 11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. 12 Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. 13 "Make level paths for your feet," so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.

Gospel (Sermon Text)

Luke 12:49-53 "I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! 50 But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is completed! 51 Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. 52 From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. 53 They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL, USA
13th Sunday of Pentecost-C  August 18th 2013
9:30am  "Run the Relay Race of Faith "



Woodcut illustration from a 1695 Bible – Jeremiah
Jeremiah with a ro, and possibly a collar that he wore as part of his prophecy.

OSL OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH OSL

Evangelical Lutheran Synod

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BIBLE CLASS 8:30 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM FELLOWSHIP 10:45 AM

Pastor Andrew Burmeister (863) 430-5859

Organist: Janice Thomas (813) 650-9198

August 18th 2013 Pentecost-13(C) ✠ FAITH RACE ✠

WELCOME to Our Savior! We are happy to have you worship with us today. If you are visiting us for the first time, we ask that that you please fill out a visitor card found in the pew cardholder and place it in the offering plate. Come and worship with us again! Thank you.

TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER: If you are new to the area and have never communed with us before, please speak with the pastor before the service. If you are not currently a member of an ELS or WELS congregation, we ask that you please **wait to take communion until you can speak with our pastor.** Out of Christian love and consideration to you the visitor, we want you to have the opportunity to learn what our church teaches about the Bible and Sacraments before you unite with us in taking Holy Communion. Thank you.

ORDER OF SERVICE *(See insert)*

PLEASE NOTE: The service folder insert has been written so that it may be used more than once. If you prefer to use the Hymnal, see **page 15**. Keep this bulletin but please leave the (ivory)insert with an usher after the service. Thank you. May the Lord bless your worship!

Service		
Opening Hymn	451 (4v)	Stand Up! – Stand Up for Jesus
Hymn of Day	447 (4v)	Fight the Good Fight With All Thy Might
Sermon	Luke12:49-53	“Run the Relay Race of Faith”
Offering Verse	644 (1v)	Praise God From Whom All Blessings...
Communion Hymn	516 (4v)	In the Hour of Trial
Closing Hymn	464 (6v)	Blest Be the Tie That Binds

PROPER for (TRINITY12=) THIRTEENTH SUNDAY of PENTECOST ✠ AUG 18

INTROIT: Make haste, O God, to deliver me! Make haste to help me, O Lord! Let them be ashamed and confounded who seek my life. Let them be turned back and confused who desire my hurt. ...from Psalm 79

COLLECT: Almighty and everlasting God, only by Your gift it comes that Your faithful people perform true and praiseworthy service: Grant, we beseech You, that we may faithfully serve You in this life and not fail to finally attain Your heavenly promises; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. ♪ **A--men.**

GRADUAL: I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise will always be on my lips. My soul will boast in the Lord; the humble will hear and rejoice. Alleluia! Alleluia! Sing out loud to God, our Strength; make a joyful noise to the God of Jacob! Alleluia! ...from Psalm 34

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: *(printed on the outside back page of the bulletin)*

Jeremiah 23:23-29 (Like Jeremiah) We proclaim God's Word even in opposition.
Hebrews 12:1-33 Endure hardship for the Gospel as God's sons&daughters.
Luke 12:49-53 Truth about Christ will cause divisions. But, Hold fast to it.

SERMON Text: (Gospel-C) **Luke 12:49-53** Theme: **“RUN FAITH'S RELAY RACE”**

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Madeline Beck	Elma Hendrick's Mother	Buster & Patty Brewbaker
Mary Fowler (Sharon Williamson's mother)		Delores (Dee) Kurczewski
Jonathan Jumper (Elaine's grandson)		Jeanette Kubly
Vivian Temple (surgery recovery),	Shalem (10yr. Indian)	Mariah Sawyer
George Wendt (brother of Steve Wendt)		Ann Wentz

Volunteers	Today	Next Sunday
Greeter	(Volunteer)	(Volunteer)
Usher	(Volunteer)	(Volunteer)
Treats	Orpha Weber	(Volunteer)

COFFEE will be served in the Fellowship Hall following the service. Everyone is invited to stay! We thank our volunteers for serving today. We are **IN NEED OF SERVERS** for future Sundays. If you can help, PLEASE SIGN UP. Thanks!

Statistics	Last week	Year to date (average)
Sunday Worship	23	32
Communion Attendance	--	25
Sunday Bible Class	13	12
Thursday Bible Class	10	9
Sunday Offering	\$	(YTD total) \$

Calendar of Events

Sunday, 8/18	8:30 am 9:30 am 11:00 ff... 1:45, 2:30	Bible Study (Exodus 20) Divine Worship (W/ Holy Communion) Fellowship time: Treats and Drinks SLA Board & Assn. meet at OSL
Tuesday, 8/20 Thursday, 8/22 Saturday, 8/24	6:00 pm 6:30 pm 1:00pm	Catechism Class with Prescott Dux Bible Study at Madeline Beck's Catechism Class: Jon & Mariah Sawyer
Sunday, 8/25	8:30 am 9:30 am 10:45 ff...	Bible Study Divine Worship (no Communion) Fellowship time: Treats and Drinks

Congregational Notes

Please contact our Elders with any concerns about church matters: **Jim Vanesky 644-7807 & John Weber 853-5458 & Don Wienke 863-815-8892.**

Schedule notes here in August

+ This afternoon, SLA Board & Association meet at OSL at 1:45 & 2:30pm.
Next Sunday: 8/25 Pentecost-14C (No L.S. p.5) Hymns: 511, 413, -, 279, 367

TRINITY.12(PENT.13C) Luke 12:49-53 "FAITH'S RELAY RACE" 08.18.13 OS

"I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! I have a Baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my focus until it is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division!"

INTRODUCTION Jesus has fire to cast - will it be good news fire or bad? He speaks of the Baptism of His death and how pressed He is to see it through to its completion. He speaks of **bringing division instead of peace** - families divided because of Him. Not exactly the sort of gentle Jesus we like to hear about it, is it? Not exactly the "all is well with you," "don't worry be happy," "no disaster will come near you" religion that is peddled today in the name of God is it?

In today's **OT reading** (Jeremiah 23), the Lord contrasts His Word with the false hope of the prosperity preachers of his day. *"Is not my Word like fire, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?"* Fire burns and destroys, but it also **renews and refines**. The brush fires that plague places (Beaver Creek this last week) destroy trees and homes, but they also renew the forests and cause seeds to sprout. Fire **destroys the dross**, but it **refines and purifies gold and silver**. There is the fire and brimstone of Sodom and Gomorra and the threat of the unending fire of Hades. That's "**LAW fire**."

But there is also the fire of the **burning bush** of Sinai (Exo.3-4), the **pillar of fire** that led the Israelites (Exo.13-), **Pentecost** fire (Acts 2), Jesus' Baptism of the Holy Spirit's **fire**. That's "**GOSPEL fire**." The fire that Jesus is eager to cast on the earth is the fire of His Baptism. *"He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire,"* said **John the Baptizer** pointing to Jesus. That is the fire of Pentecost, which like the burning bush, burned but did **not burn up**, illuminated but did **not consume**.

But for that fire to be kindled there must be a sacrifice, an/other fire, a **whole burnt offering, a death**. And, not just **any** death, but the death of **Jesus Himself, the Son of God in the flesh**. He alone can kindle this fire; He alone can die for you, and He is totally focused on bringing it to completion. The word (GK: **SUNECW**) in this morning's reading is translated "**distressed**" (v.50) but that doesn't quite get to the real essence. "**Totally focused**," or "**intensely driven**" would be more like it. Jesus is **completely focused on saving you** together with the whole world - *"who for the joy that was set before Him endured the Cross, despising the shame."*(Heb.12:2) He had **one purpose** in coming - to strike a fire in the darkness to bring light and life to all by dying and rising, and nothing could deter Jesus from that path of His Baptism to His Cross.

When Jesus was baptized, John was outraged *"You have it all wrong, cousin. **Backwards**. I should be baptized **by you**, not the other way around."* But Jesus insisted; He demanded it. *"Let it be now, John. It is proper for us to fulfill all righteousness."* Jesus stands **in the place of sinners**, baptized as a sinner and put on a road that leads straight to a death on the Cross. And He is focused until He can cry out in His death "**It Is Finished**."

In that death, there is **Gospel** fire, **Pentecost** fire, the fire of God's Passion to save fallen humanity. Jesus was driven to bring that kind of fire to the earth. In that death there is a peace that surpasses our understanding, a peace that the world cannot give us, a peace that comes from sins washed away, from

sinners justified to live before God clothed in a righteousness not their own, a peace that comes from freedom from sin, death, the condemnation of the Law.

But we expect something else, don't we? Something **different**, something **more**. Something **more suited to our suburban life and its trials**. We want peace, yes, but peace **on our terms**. Maybe some, "Couldn't we just get along" kind of peace. The people in Jeremiah's day didn't want to listen to what Jeremiah had to say either. Who wants to hear about coming death and destruction and seventy years of exile in Babylon? We plug our ears to that kind of preaching.

We want something other than a Cross. It's amazing how much of Christianity is willing to shove the Cross of Jesus aside for "more **important** things," "more **relevant** things," "things that **make a difference** in my life(?)" C'mon, we already know the old, old story, so why bother repeating it? We need to move on to bigger and better things, right?

Well, that's not the way the preacher **to the Hebrews** puts it. Faith is **single-minded**, tunnel-visioned, narrow, **focused**. Like a runner (or a swimmer) zeroing in on the finish line, straining forward, not looking down, or back, or to the side. You know what happens to runners who look anywhere but to the finish line? They **trip over their own shoelaces and fall short of the finish**.

*"Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to **Jesus, the Author and Perfector of our faith**."* Look to Jesus, the One who died and rose again. Look to Jesus, the One who endured the Cross with your sin to save you. Look to Jesus, the way a runner looks to the finish line, and don't take the eyes of your faith off of Jesus. Keep everything else in the periphery of your visual field; the **Center belongs to Jesus**. Because, without Jesus in the center, **nothing else will be in focus**.

Now this isn't some Lazyboy recliner kind of faith that puts its feet up, clicks on the TV, and says, *"Jesus did it all for me, so I ain't gotta do nothing."* This is a **race not a slumber party**. And you're in the race, not in the grandstands. The life of faith is not a spectator sport where you admire the running of others. You have **YOUR race to run**, and it is uniquely **yours** to run. No one else can do it for you. In the grandstands are all those who have gone before you, those who **endured in the faith**, who **trusted the promise** of God in Christ to their dying breath, who clung to the promise even when it appeared that God had failed, or who didn't even receive the promise in this life but hung on to it anyway for no other reason than that God is true to His Word.

(SOME OF THOSE IN THE "GRANDSTAND" OF HEAVEN) **1.** There is **Abraham**, cheering us on. **Father Abraham**, who was told by God that he would be the **father of nations**, and when his son Isaac finally miraculously appeared in the world, Sarah was old enough to be a great grandmother, God tells Abraham to take the knife and offer his only son, the son of the promise, on an altar with fire. And what did Abraham do? He **trusted God**, that even if Isaac was dead, God could **raise him from the dead**, which in a sense He did, **providing a substitute sacrifice**.

There is **2. Isaac**, who trusted the Promise of God and blessed his sons on the basis of that Promise. We have **3. Jacob**, wrestling with God and **trusting**

God's Promise/s that God would see him through whatever might come in the **(fight of or) race of his life of faith.**

There are **4. Moses' parents** who trusted God and disobeyed the king's order to expose their infant son. And **5. Moses** himself, who chose to be identified with his own enslaved people rather than live in the luxury of Pharaoh's household. In trust, Moses bore the reproach and exhibited the life of Christ in his own life, standing up to the king of Egypt, leading God's people through the sea and the wilderness and to freedom, with the Passover sprinkled blood that saved them (their first-borns) the way **Jesus' shed blood saves US eternally.**

There are the **6. Israelites** who stood before a wall of water and in trust walked through it to freedom and life. They are **all** cheering us on, like a relay race or swim team in which the baton has come to us and now it's **our turn to do our lap** while they **cheer from** (the grandstand of) **heaven.**

(DROP THE DEAD WEIGHT) You know how it is with runners and swimmers. They run and swim aerodynamically, sleekly, lightly. Every ounce of excess weight is dropped. "Set aside every weight," **Hebrews** says. Whatever gets in the way of trust in Jesus. Consider it **dead weight.** "...and sin which clings so closely." (Heb.12:1) The preacher to the Hebrews recognizes that we always have the dead weight of sin clinging closely. That is the reality of this race. But we need not run as though we had two 50 pound bags of guilt on our shoulders. Jesus didn't die on a Cross so that **WE would bear the burden. No. HE did.** Unload it. Confess it, be forgiven of it, live in freedom. Sin is dead weight. **Let Jesus take it away.**

CONCLUSION **And run.** Run the race of faith with **joy**, with **exhilaration**, with **hope.** Focus on Jesus. His focus and His joy **was to save YOU.** Your joy is to receive the salvation He won for you, to **be welcomed at the end of your race** into the open arms of the Savior, to have Him put the victor's wreath on your head. And when you get weary or become discouraged, **fix your faith-eyes on Jesus** and let everything else blur into the background where it belongs. **Jesus will sustain you;** He will give you **strength;** He will see you through from death to life. The apostle **Paul** wrote these words from a dark Roman dungeon as he awaited his own impending execution:

*I have **fought the good fight**, I have **finished the race**, I have **kept the faith.** Henceforth there is laid up for me the **Crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also **to all who have loved His appearing.***

He or she who runs like this, runs well. Grant this, Lord, to us all. **In Jesus' Name, Amen. SDG**

*The **Peace** of God, which passes All understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus to life everlasting, Amen.*

Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL, USA
13th Sunday of Pentecost-C  August 18th 2013
SERMON:  "Run the Relay Race of Faith"

Prayer of the Church + 13th Sunday after Pentecost + August 18 2013

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Holy Lord, in this world filled with **so much division and discord**, grant **true unity** to Your Church. When division is necessary so that Your Word is not compromised, grant us discernment, faithfulness and courage. Turn our hearts when we stray from Your truth, and turn the hearts of others when they stray from Your truth, so that all of Your children hold fast to the one faith. *Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

Holy Lord, our fallen natures desire to be liked, and we are tempted to say **what others want to hear instead of what You** tell us is True. Preserve the pastors You call into the ministry. Let those who have Your Word speak it faithfully. Grant them compassionate hearts and courageous voices. At the same time, fill Your people with patience, support and forgiveness for those who serve, so that both those who preach and those who hear know the joy of Your promises. *Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

Holy Father, You called **Jeremiah as a youth** and used Him in Your service. We give You thanks for the young Christians You have made Your children. By Your Word strengthen them for daily life and help them **to grow** as Your people. **Keep them and all youth** in Your care. *Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

Holy Father, grant to our nation and our world faithful leaders, good government, useful education, responsible citizens, honest industry, plentiful food, protection from all natural disasters and peace. *Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

Holy Father, **You created all things good** (perfect). Give us grateful hearts for this world You have made for us, and grant us a zeal that works to protect the environment and all of Your creation. Prevent us from taking Your gifts for granted, but teach us to treasure and watch over **everything You have made.** *Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

Holy Father, look with compassion on the sick, the suffering, the recovering, the mourning and the dying. [*Especiallly we pray for _____+OSL+_____.*] Preserve them from the temptations of Satan, comfort them with Your promises and provide help to each of them in the way You know is best. *Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

Holy Father, as we come to **the Table of Your Son**, prepare us to receive His Body and Blood. Grant to us **true repentance, a sincere desire to amend** our sinful ways and a confident trust in You. By this Meal, forgive our sins and renew our lives. *Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

Holy Father, when we grow weary, remind us of Your Son who for the joy that was set before Him **endured the Cross, scorning the shame.** Assure us that for our salvation He endured hostility from sinners, so that even when we face hostility for the faith, we do not become fainthearted but rely on Your promises, looking forward to the better life You have waiting for us. *Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**