

11th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, August 9, 2026

Introduction to the day

Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says: “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.” Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing bread and cup of the eucharist, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God’s presence to others.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST LESSON: 1 Kings 19:9-18

On Mount Horeb, where God had appeared to Moses with typical signs of God’s presence—earthquake, wind, and fire—Elijah now experienced God in “sheer silence.” God assured Elijah that he is not the only faithful believer. Seven thousand Israelites are still loyal. God instructed Elijah to anoint two men as kings and to anoint Elisha as his own successor.

PSALM: Psalm 85:8-13

I will listen to what the LORD God is saying. (Ps. 85:8)

SECOND LESSON: Romans 10:5-15

A right relationship with God is not something we achieve by heroic efforts. It is a gift received in the proclamation whose content is Jesus Christ. This proclaimed word creates our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Hence Christian proclamation is an indispensable component of God’s saving actions.

GOSPEL: Matthew 14:22-33

Matthew’s gospel typically portrays Jesus’ disciples as people of “little faith,” who fail despite their best intentions. In this story, Matthew shows how Jesus comes to the disciples when they are in trouble and sustains them in their time of fear and doubt.

GOSPEL MESSAGE - Take Heart

Can you recall a time in your life when something happened that was so strange or out of place that your initial reaction was fear? Maybe you doubted what you were experiencing or seeing and even thought, *This is not possible. This can’t be.*

The disciples must have been terrified when they saw something so strange that it should have been impossible—someone walking on water, toward their boat, during a storm. They thought they were seeing a ghost until Jesus said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid” (Matthew 14:27).

Some say seeing is believing, but sometimes belief comes through experiencing. So, with Jesus’ encouragement, Peter stepped out of the boat and began to walk on the water. But when he realized how hard

the wind was blowing, Peter started sinking and shouted, “Lord, save me!” Jesus reached out, steadied Peter, and said, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” (vv. 30-31). Then the storm ended.

We may be more like Peter than we realize. Maybe there are times when it’s relatively easy to trust in God—until we face something unexpected, frightening, or out of our control. Then doubts immediately overwhelm us.

The good news is that Jesus hears our cries and saves us. He is with us in our weakest moments, holding us even as our spirits sink. Take heart—Jesus is always with you, bringing peace amid the storms, faith amid your doubts, and new life out of death.

SERMON

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With bold trust in God’s unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God’s creation.

We pray for the servants of your gospel in every place, that your word may be heard. Where your voice is scorned and your people persecuted, strengthen the church in its faithful witness. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For this world you have created, that all life may flourish. Preserve biodiversity in all its variety and help ecosystems to survive the extremes of a changing climate. Move our hearts with compassion to join in this work. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For leaders of towns, provinces, nations, and organizations, and all who are in positions of authority, that they lead with justice and integrity. Teach us to respond with Christlike mercy to all who are afraid or in danger. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For all who struggle amid the storms of life, that they find peace and hope in your loving presence. Comfort any who are lonely and grieving and all who suffer especially Chris Burchat, Natasha Gagnon-Burchat, Claude Jeannotte, Lillian Jeannotte, Glenda Panke, Joanne Robinson, Bernadette Schueneman, Adam Schroeder, Heather Schruder, Doug Sell, Roy Zadow, those in long term care facilities and senior residences. In this moment of silence, we name out loud or in the quiet of our hearts, those who need your healing touch. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For this congregation and its ministries, that they reflect your love and life amid a turbulent world. Guide council members, and other church leaders with your still, calm voice. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for the faithful who have gone before us. Guide us in our earthly journey, that we may one day join them in your eternal kingdom. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

LORD’S PRAYER (WOV p. 52)

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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.

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen

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Announcements:

Sunday, August 9th – 11th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 AM – Grace – Service of the Word - WOV

Grace – Helpers – Greeters: Marc and Angela Mercier

Reader: Brian Weckwerth

Witness Meeting following church.

Monday, August 10th

9: 00 AM to 3:00 PM - Grace Quilters

Tuesday, August 11th

10:00 AM – Bible Study

11:00 AM – Grace Cemetery – Burial of Keith Weckwerth

Saturday, August 15th

11: 00 AM - Funeral Service for Elaine Scott-Thomas

Sunday, August 16th - Pentecost 12

9:00 AM – Grace – Holy Communion

Grace – Helpers – Greeter: Brenda Collins

Reader: Haylee Felhaber

Communion Assistants: Carl and Rachel Dittburner

10:30 AM – Bonnechere – Holy Communion

St. John's, Bonnechere's Cemetery Service on **August 23rd, 2026** (4th Sunday) followed by a potluck luncheon. As usual the service will be in the church and members can go up to the Cemetery before or after the service.

Fellowship - August 30, 2026

The Ladies Aid of Grace, Eganville would like to invite everyone to an "**End of Summer Potluck Social**" on August 30, 2026, in the Fellowship Hall following worship. Hot dogs and condiments will be provided. Please bring your favourite salad or dessert or any other food item you might like for this event. Everyone is welcome. Please join us on this fifth Sunday in August.