



Ephphatha!

Mark 7:34

**September 1, 2024
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
9:30 AM Worship**

First Lutheran Church
709 5th Ave. – P.O. Box 218
Washburn, North Dakota 58577
www.flcwashburn.com
701-462-3775

PRELUDE AND BELLS

AS WE GATHER

(In each Scripture reading for today, we see how new actions, flowing from a new heart, bring healing, wholeness into the lives of ourselves and others. The Lord's salvation changes everything for those who believe. Welcome to God's house today.)

WELCOME

(put prayer requests on yellow cards)

HYMN LBW #315 **"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"**

CHRISTIAN HOPE

315

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to ev - 'ry trou - bled
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; Let us all thy life re -
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, Pure and spot - less let us

down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, All thy faith - ful
breast; Let us all in thee in - her - it; Let us find thy
ceive; Sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, Nev - er - more thy
be; Let us see thy great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly re -

mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
 prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
 tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
 stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

Pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; Vis - it us with
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; End of faith, as
 Serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, Pray, and praise thee
 Till in heav'n we take our place, Till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788
Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

HYFRYDOL
 87 87 D

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESSp. 56

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen

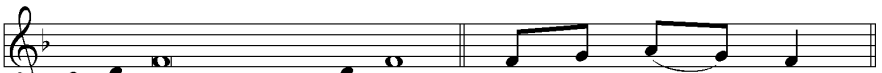
P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

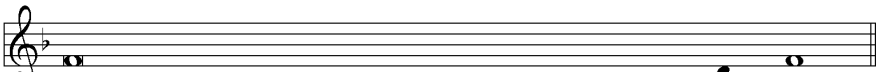
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

KYRIEp. 57



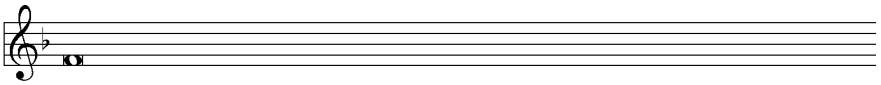
♩ In peace, let us pray to the Lord. ♪ Lord, have mer - cy.



♩ For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



♩ Lord, have mer - cy.



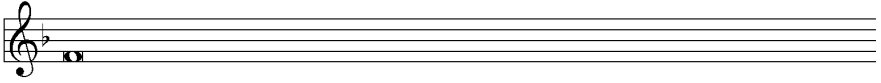
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

G Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **G** A - men

HYMN OF PRAISEp. 58



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



G Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa- ther; re- ceive our prayer.



For you a- lone are the Ho- ly One, you a- lone are the Lord,

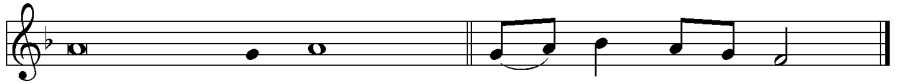


you a- lone are the Most High, Je- sus Christ, with the Ho- ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa- ther. A - men

SALUTATION



☩ The Lord be with you.

☩ And al - so with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: Merciful God, from generation to generation your healing and life-giving power has been made manifest. Empower us to let the glory of your mercy and forgiveness shine through the light of our lives; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING Isaiah 35:4-7a
(To those who are anxious, Isaiah brings words of comfort and encouragement. God will come to save his people.)

⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the

wilderness, and streams in the desert; ^{7a}the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water

PSALM (Read responsively)Psalm 146
(The psalmist says trust in the Lord alone. With the Lord there is salvation; he is faithful forever.)

¹Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!
²**I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**
³Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.
⁴**When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish.**
⁵Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God,
⁶**who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever;**
⁷who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free;
⁸**the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**
⁹The LORD watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
¹⁰**The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!**

SECOND READINGJames 2:1-10, 14-18
(James calls upon followers of Christ to live their faith by putting it into action.)

¹My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. ²For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, ³and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet," ⁴have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and

heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? ⁷Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called? ⁸If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. ⁹But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it.

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? ¹⁷So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ¹⁸But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

ALLELUIAp. 62

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 7th chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL READINGMark 7:24-37
(Jesus performs two miracles of healing. His actions invite us to believe in his care for our lives and to place our complete trust in him alone.)

²⁴{Jesus} arose and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And he entered a house and did not want anyone to know, yet he could not be hidden. ²⁵But immediately a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit heard of him and came and fell down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, a Syrophenician by birth. And she begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷And he said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸But she answered him, "Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹And he said to her, "For this statement you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰And she went home and found the child lying in bed and the demon gone. ³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. ³⁴And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." ³⁵And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶And Jesus charged them to tell no one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



HYMN **LBW #327**
"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

327

1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in thee;
2 Not the la - bors of my hands Can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; Sim - ply to thy cross I cling.
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, When mine eye - lids close in death,

Let the wa - ter and the blood, From thy riv - en side which flowed,
Could my zeal no res - pite know, Could my tears for - ev - er flow,
Na - ked, come to thee for dress; Help - less, look to thee for grace;
When I soar to worlds un - known, See thee on thy judg - ment throne,

Be of sin the dou - ble cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
All for sin could not a - tone; Thou must save, and thou a - lone.
Foul, I to the foun - tain fly; Wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740-1778
Tune: Thomas Hastings, 1784-1872

TOPLADY
777777

SERMON Pastor Paul Krueger
"Breaking the Mold" - James 2:14-18

APOSTLES' CREED p. 65

P: God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C: I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

**HYMN LBW #333
"Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me"**

333

Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me

1 Lord, take my hand and lead me Up - on life's way;
 2 Lord, when the tem - pest ra - ges, I need not fear;
 3 Lord, when the shad - ows length - en And night has come,

Di - rect, pro - tect, and feed me From day to day.
 For you, the Rock of A - ges, Are al - ways near.
 I know that you will strength - en My steps toward home,

With-out your grace and fa - vor I go a - stray;
 Close by your side a - bid - ing, I fear no foe,
 And noth - ing can im - pede me, O bless - ed Friend!

So take my hand, O Sav - ior, And lead the way.
 For when your hand is guid - ing, In peace I go.
 So, take my hand and lead me Un - to the end.

OFFERINGS ARE RECEIVED

OFFERTORYp. 75



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -
it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the
joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

C: Benevolent God, you have granted us in abundance with all the good things that life has to offer. May we be truly grateful for our daily bread, even as we return a portion of what you have first given us as a sign of our humility and thanksgiving for your bounteous gifts. Let the treasures we have received from you be used to serve the world you love. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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

LORD'S PRAYERp. 76

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, for ever and ever. Amen

BENEDICTION *Psalm 32:10*

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✕ give you peace

Numbers 6:24–26

In the name of the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

HYMN (vs. 1-5)..... LBW #345

“How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds”

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

345

1 How sweet the name of Je - sus sounds In
 2 It makes the wound - ed spir - it whole And
 3 Dear name! The rock on which I build, My
 4 By thee my prayers ac - cep - tance gain Al -

a be - liev - er's ear! It soothes our sor - rows,
 calms the heart's un - rest; 'Tis man - na to the
 shield and hid - ing place; My nev - er - fail - ing
 though with sin de - filed. The dev - il charg - es

heals our wounds, And drives a - way all fear.
 hun - gry soul And to the wea - ry, rest.
 trea - sury, filled With bound - less stores of grace.
 me in vain, And I am owned a child.

5 O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend,
 My Prophet, Priest, and King,
 My Lord, my life, my way, my end,
 Accept the praise I bring.

6 How weak the effort of my heart,
 How cold my warmest thought;
 But when I see thee as thou art,
 I'll praise thee as I ought.

7 Till then I would thy love proclaim
 With every fleeting breath;
 And may the music of thy name
 Refresh my soul in death!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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Today's Worship Leaders & Volunteers – Thank You!

PASTOR Pastor Paul Krueger
USHERS/GREETERS Brent Petersen
READER Brent Petersen
ORGANIST Theresa Petersen
VIRTUAL SERVICE Kyle Albers
ALTAR GUILD..... Sonja Bergstedt & Carla Bickert
FELLOWSHIP/COFFEE HOUR Glenda & Sarah Scholl
SERVICE GROUP COORDINATORS Emily Retterath
Suzy Jacobson & Beth Knutson

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Cell phone: 701-240-4712

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY: Jeannette Rost

Church Office: 701-462-3775

Email: flc@westriv.com

Website: www.flcwashburn.com

COORDINATOR OF STUDENT MINISTRIES: Melissa Rothe

Email: fly@westriv.com

OFFICE HOURS: T-T-F 9:00 am - 12:30 pm, 1:30 - 3:30

W – 9:00 am - 12:30 pm

ORGANISTS: Theresa Petersen and LeAnn Richard

CHOIR DIRECTOR: Randy Hall

BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR: Gwen Hall

CUSTODIAN: Jeff Schmidt

Our Mission

“Working hand in hand to know Christ and make Christ known through Worship, Christian Education, Evangelism, Fellowship, Caring Ministries, and Service.”

Welcome to all who have come to worship.

Welcome to worship this Labor Day weekend. May God be in our work and our leisure, our fellowship and our praise.

Visitors

We welcome all visitors to First Lutheran today and ask that you sign our guest book in the narthex.

Nursery

The nursery, located beside the narthex, is available for use for any parent feeling the need to use it during worship services with their child.

Thank you for your giving

Sunday, August 25th, Attendance – 99

Online Viewing – 25

General Fund & Plate Giving - \$2,907.00

Hearing Assist

First Lutheran has hearing assist systems to be used during the worship services. If you feel you could benefit from this or want to try it, please see the ushers in the narthex.

Pastoral Care

Please call Pastor Paul (701-240-4712) or the church office (701-462-3775) if you or a loved one are in the hospital or know you will be going to the hospital. The church does not get informed of your stay by any of the hospitals even if you are registered under our congregation's name. We want to make sure you get pastoral care. Thank you!

This week we pray for:

This Week's New Prayer Requests:

Prayers of Christian Sympathy:

Long Term prayer requests:

Members: Alton Krebsbach, Howard Johnson, Karen Goehring

* The person in parenthesis is who the person is related to or friends of. Please feel free to ask these individuals how best you can pray for their family/friend.

This month we pray for:

Members: Helen Samuelson, Sande Wagner, Arlene Schwarz

Friends & Family: Komal Petersen (Brent & Theresa Petersen), Clara Olson (Sharon Chrest), Steve Reynolds (Brad & Cathy Sheldon)

This Quarter we pray for:

Members and Nonmembers: Corrine Kerzmann (Donna Gunderson), Marion Narum (Peggy Moran), Ty Brown (Jody & Nicole Brown), Alice Richard, Jackie Olson

Military Prayer and Card List

We pray for the Men & Women in our Military who protect our country, especially those assigned to serve overseas or away from home.

- **Members of First Lutheran on Active Duty in the Military and the National Guard:**
SGT Bryce Rost – Army National Guard
SPC Olivia Retterath – National Guard - Deployed
SPC Cassidy Sommer – National Guard
SGT Jonathan Melvard – Army National Guard
- **Friends and Family on Active Duty in the Military and in the National Guard:**
SGT Dustin Enockson – National Guard
Emily Johnson – Air Force
Bryar Anderson – Marines
1SGT Jordan Ternes – Army National Guard
Tech. SGT Andre Austin – Air Force
Hunter Feigum – National Guard
Morris Duffy – Medical Air Guard
Adam Walsvik – National Guard

Notice of Prayer List Policy

We have a monthly /quarterly prayer list cycle. When you add someone to our prayer list the request will remain on our monthly list for four weeks and then be removed. If you would like to have the request moved to our quarterly list, please contact the office and the request will be added to our “This Quarter we pray for:” list for the next three months. Please help us keep our prayer list current by communicating updates to the office at 701-462-3775. Thank you all for your faithful prayers for all of God’s people.

Large Print Bulletins

We have large print bulletins for those wanting or needing larger print. Ask the ushers for one.

Pizza Day

Pizza Day is back and resumes this Wednesday, September 4th. Thank you to all our volunteers that makes this such a success for our youth.

Mission Trip Informational Meeting

Calling young and old to join us on a mission trip to Guatemala in June 2025! Anyone seventh grade and older is welcome (including adults)! We will have an **informational meeting on September 4th at 6:30 pm** to discuss cost, activities in Guatemala, fundraising opportunities, and answer questions! Individuals will need to commit to go by October 2nd. Questions - contact Melissa Rothe.

Bell Choir and Choir

Bell choir and choir will resume this Wednesday, September 4th. Bell choir at 7:00 pm and choir at 7:45 pm.

New Sound and Video System Training

On **Saturday, September 7th at 1 pm**, there will be a training for the new sound and video system. **Anyone interested** in learning more about the systems are welcome at the training! We are always looking for more individuals to help with streaming our services! Questions - contact Melissa Rothe.

Rally Sunday

Next Sunday, September 8th, is Rally Sunday. During the worship service we will have Sunday School teachers and subs installation, blessing of backpacks, VBS students will sing and a VBS video will be played at the beginning of communion. Sunday School will begin at 10:45 am in the sanctuary.

Rally Sunday Breakfast

Join us next Sunday, September 8th, after worship for a Rally Sunday Breakfast served by our youth. They will be serving egg bake, muffins, coffee and juice. Freewill offering.

Sunday Morning 8:30 AM Bible Study

Bible study led by Cathy Sheldon on Sunday mornings at 8:30 am will begin on September 15th. Study will be "A Life God Rewards" by Bruce Wilkinson w/David Kopp. Study guides are \$8.00 each and can be picked up in the church office from Jeannette. There are 11 books left. More information on the study can be found in the August newsletter.

Confirmation Meal Signup Sheet

We are looking for volunteers to make and serve a meal on Wednesday nights for our confirmation students and volunteers. A signup sheet is in the narthex on the big poster board. Thank you to those who have already signed up.

Altar Flower Signup Sheet

A signup sheet for altar flowers through September 29th is on the table in the narthex. Signup for that Sunday you want before it is taken. You furnish the flowers and make sure they get to the church.

Connections Magazine

The September/October issue of *Connections* is in the magazine racks in the narthex. Pick up a copy today to read updates on LCMC, NALC and other interesting articles.

Our Daily Bread and Portals of Prayer

The September/October/November issue of *Our Daily Bread* and the July - September 2024 issue of *Portals of Prayer* are in the magazine racks in the narthex. Pick up a copy to use with your daily devotions.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST LUTHERAN

TODAY	9:30 AM	Worship
	10:30 AM	Fellowship/Coffee Hour
	10:45 PM	Fireside Bible Study
	7:00 PM	AA Meeting Al-Anon Meeting
TUES.	10:00 AM	Mommy's Group
WED.		Pizza Day
	6:30 PM	Guatemala Mission Trip Informational Meeting
	7:00 PM	Bell Choir
	7:00 PM	FLY
	7:45 PM	Choir
SAT.	1:00 PM	Technology & Sound System Training
SUN.		Grandparents Day Rally Sunday
	9:30 AM	Worship w/Holy Communion Sunday School Teachers and Subs Installation Blessing of Backpacks
	10:30 AM	Rally Sunday Breakfast
	10:45 AM	Sunday School Fireside Bible Study
	7:00 PM	AA Meeting Al-Anon Meeting

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 18) – September 8, 2024

“And [Jesus] entered a house and did not want anyone to know, yet he could not be hidden. ... And Jesus charged them to tell no one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it.”

- Mark 7:24, 36 -

The Big Reveal

In Mark’s Gospel, Jesus is trying to keep a secret. Repeatedly he urges his followers not to reveal who he is or what he has done. But why? After all, Jesus is healing the sick, exorcising demons, and raising the dead. That can’t help but attract attention. People always flock to someone who listens and touches and makes things right, so it’s puzzling when Jesus enjoins his disciples not to spread the word about their miracle-working Master.

In light of the whole Gospel story, however, Jesus’ reasons for guarding his identity might be understood. For centuries before Jesus’ incarnation, God’s people had languished under oppression. The immediate context of Roman rule fueled Jewish longing for another Moses who would deliver them into political freedom. Jesus had come to save them, but not to fulfill their expectations. To avoid encouraging unrest, Jesus suppresses the crowd’s early enthusiasm and reveals his true identity sparingly.

This secret keeping is even more important because Jesus possessed a superior mandate. Managing public zeal fulfilled the divine timetable for Jesus’ ministry, death, and resurrection. Early on, Jesus had resisted his brothers’ urging to show himself in Jerusalem, saying, “My time has not yet come” (John 7:6). Later, as he prepares for a last meal with his disciples, he tells them, “My time is at hand” (Matthew 26:18).

But even as Jesus hushed the growing furor, he continued to show who he is by what he did. In that way, he is a paradox — the secretive Savior who shines as a light on a hill. His life announces: Ultimately, the kingdom of God cannot be hidden. It is not a flash in the pan but the steady, allsearching beam of a lighthouse over the vast, dark deep.

The salvation of God is an eternal, life-altering reality that upsets the ordinary order and overcomes evil. It frees the prisoner even of chains of his own making. It astonishes our expectations and delivers infinitely more than we can ask or think. So, today be strong and have no fear. Your God has come to save you. And miracles will be the sign.