

**THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN, PLAINVIEW, MN.**  
**SAT. JUNE 20, 5 PM & SUN. JUNE 21, 2009, 9 AM**

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**MESSAGE 'PEACE! BE STILL!'**

Think of a time you were really, really scared, frightened. It could have been as a child scared of the dark or at least what you imagined was in the dark. Or as an adult you learned you had lost your job. Or a relationship you were in was falling apart. Or a Drs. diagnosis of surgery or disease. Or have you ever been in one of those slow motion moments when you realize you're going to be in a car accident and there is absolutely nothing you can do to prevent it. Think of our young men and women over in Iraq and Afghanistan. They know the terror as they are shot at of the distinct possibility of dying.

Now put yourself in that boat with Jesus' disciples of our Gospel lesson. They were afraid, we're told, because 'a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling'. That is like the temporal fears we all face in this sinful old world. But, our lesson also looks at another fear these disciples face, much deeper than the sea in which they were fearing drowning in. These disciples of Jesus feared Him. Yes, they feared Jesus asking 'Who then is this, that even wind and sea obey Him?' And that is what I want to talk to you about a little bit today.

How Jesus addresses our temporal and our eternal fears of Him, saying: PEACE! BE STILL!'

I. These disciples you need to remember were seasoned fishermen. They knew all about boats and seas and winds and weather conditions. Yet, they were terrified. This must have been quite a storm to upset such seasoned fishermen. The Sea of Galilee is like Lake Pepin, you see, relatively shallow and located in a bowl shaped valley. So when the wind comes up it can become very choppy, ruff very quickly. And when a 'great windstorm' comes up it becomes very, very agitated and dangerous in a short time. In their terror Jesus' disciples complained, 'Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?'. How foolish to actually turn on the One who could help them. But, isn't that what we do, also. We're really in the same boat, so to speak, as these disciples.

When frustrated, hurt, angry don't we crab and complain and lash out at the people closest to us, people we love, people who are there for us become our targets.

When we fear illness or even a Drs. diagnosis and treatment we often turn in frustration on those who are trying their human best to help us. But, how many times haven't I heard people complain and criticize the Drs. and nurses and therapists.

When we fear a relationship, a marriage for example, getting rocky, we turn to distrust instead of devotion, blame instead of bond. In fear we pull away instead of together.

Don't we behave that same way towards God, also, when we think He doesn't care, when we think He is too removed, alien to our needs.

Sometimes even in a moment of immediate hurt or danger, as simple as hitting our thumb with a hammer, the first words out of our mouth is using God's name in vain = God dammit!

But, even in our passive aggression which I am an expert at, clamming up, quiet brooding, pouting, other people, people who love us and care about us and even God who loves us and cares about us become our victims of self pity, our fears. Wavering faith, tossing and turning faith, misdirected faith, false faith is the center of it all, isn't it? But, of course sin rules and we doubt.

II. But, with Jesus present, the disciples and we really have nothing to fear. Jesus we're told was at complete peace in that boat, 'He was in the stern, asleep on the cushions'. Asleep like a baby, now that's peace. And then as matter-a-fact He gets up and simply speaks 'Peace! Be still!'. And the wind and waves cease with a great calm. Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh! It's just peaceful hearing those events. Well, that same Jesus is truly present in our lives, too, speaking peace and calm in our temperal fears whatever they may be. 'Peace! Be still' Jesus speaks in the Holy Absolution, all your sinful doubts and anger and verbal abuse towards people who love you, your passive aggressive pouting, your false faith are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh! 'Peace! Be still' Jesus speaks in this message you are hearing right now. Jesus Christ is your personal Savior who took your sinful place upon the cross to forgive you in God's sight of your blaming and accusing and your simple misusing of God's name in vain when you miss that nail with the hammer. Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh! 'Peace! Be still' Jesus speaks in the service of Holy Baptism for Harper Sheerer this weekend and in the invocation of our baptisms. You are a child of the Triune God, 'born again' in God's image. Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh! 'Peace! Be still!' Jesus speaks in the service of Holy Communion, 'this is My body, this is My blood, My real presence among you for the forgiveness of all your sins. Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!

