

## WE CONFESS OUR NEED

All: Father, it is so easy to be like Jonah and try to run from you. There are times we just want to enjoy what you've given us by grace and not worry about everyone else. So now make us more like Jonah! By faith in his distress he trusted in your care. In his repentant heart we see a renewed willingness to follow your leading. Give us faith like Jonah when we are in the belly of the whale. Forgive us. Renew us. Restore us by your grace. Amen.

## Scripture Readings

June 29, 2008

### Jonah 2

From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God. He said:

"In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me.

From the depths of the grave I called for help,  
and you listened to my cry.

You hurled me into the deep, into the very heart of the seas,  
and the currents swirled about me;  
all your waves and breakers swept over me.

I said, 'I have been banished from your sight;  
yet I will look again toward your holy temple.'

The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me;  
seaweed was wrapped around my head.

To the roots of the mountains I sank down;  
the earth beneath barred me in forever.

But you brought my life up from the pit, O LORD my God.

"When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, LORD,  
and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple.

"Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs.

But I, with a song of thanksgiving, will sacrifice to you.

What I have vowed I will make good.

Salvation comes from the LORD."

And the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!

### Matthew 12:38-42

#### *The Sign of Jonah*

Then some of the Pharisees and teachers of the law said to him, "Teacher, we want to see a miraculous sign from you." He answered, "A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a miraculous sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now one greater than Jonah is here. The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon's wisdom, and now one greater than Solomon is here.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Outline - June 29, 2008  
*The Book of Jonah • "In the Belly of the Whale"*  
Jonah 2

Introduction: "In the belly of the whale..."

"...and Jonah was inside the fish three days and three nights." 1:17

Jonah, the Comeback Kid!

1. Avoid the blame game.

*"In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me. From the depths of the grave I called for help, and you listened to my cry. You hurled me into the deep, into the very heart of the seas, and the currents swirled about me; all your waves and breakers swept over me." v.2-3*

• Principle: \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Embrace authenticity.

*"I said, 'I have been banished from your sight; yet I will look again toward your holy temple.' The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head. To the roots of the mountains I sank down; the earth beneath barred me in forever. But you brought my life up from the pit, O LORD my God." v.4-6*

• Principle: \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Jonah: More than a metaphor.

*"Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs. But I, with a song of thanksgiving, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. Salvation comes from the LORD." v.8-9*

*For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." Matthew 12:40*

• Principle: \_\_\_\_\_.

Answers to Sermon Outline:

When you know God is author of your circumstance, you look to Him for correction, not blame.

Our repentance comes before others can repent.

You can't invest in a metaphor. Invest in Christ.

#### THE BENEDICTION

Leader: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

People: And the people took the blessing and held it in their hearts.

Leader: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!