SERMON NOTES — June 23, 2024

One of the scariest things for ancient peoples? Being on a large body of water at night:
Genesis 1:1-2: In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, [2]the earth was a formless void [chaos!] and *darkness* covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the *waters*.

Deep water connected with human violence:
Genesis 6:11-13: Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. [13]And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence because of them."
The Flood followed by the *rainbow* as a promise that God would never again try to solve the problem of human violence with violence.

We experience scapegoating violence like drowning. Think of a teenager today being beat up on social media when reading **Psalm 69**:
[1]Save | me, O God,
for the waters have risen up | to my neck.
[2]**I am sinking in deep mire, and there | is no foothold.**
I have come into deep waters, and the torrent washes | over me.
[3]I have grown weary with my crying; my | throat is parched;
my eyes are worn out from looking | for my God.
[4]**Those who hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of my head;**
my lying foes who would destroy | me are mighty.
[7]Surely, for your sake I have suf- | fered reproach,
and shame has cov- | ered my face.
[8]**I have become a stranger to | my own kindred,**
an alien to my | mother's children.
[9]Zeal for your house has eat- | en me up;
the scorn of those who scorn you has fall- | en upon me.
[12]**Those who sit at the gate mur- | mur against me,**
and the drunkards make | songs about me.
[14]Save me from the mire; do not | let me sink;
let me be rescued from those who hate me
and out of | the deep waters.
[15]**Let not the torrent of waters wash over me. . . .**

Mark connecting Jesus to the story of Jonah?

God sends Jonah to Ninevah, capitol of the Assyrian Empire; instead Jonah tries to run away:
Jonah 1:4-6 But the LORD hurled a great wind upon the sea, and such a mighty storm came upon the sea that the ship threatened to break up. [5]Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried to his god. . . . *Jonah* had gone down into the hold of the ship, and was *fast asleep*. [6]The captain came and said to him, "What are you doing sound asleep? Get up, call on your god! Perhaps the god will spare us a thought *so that we do not perish*."
The sailors cast lots and Jonah's number comes up: So they picked Jonah up and threw him into the sea; and the *sea ceased* from its raging.

God sends Jesus to his people suffering in the Roman Empire:
Mark 4:35-40 [35]On that day, when evening had come, [Jesus] said to [the disciples], "Let us go across to the other side." [37]A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. [38]But *Jesus* was in the stern, *asleep* on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care *that we are perishing*?" [39]He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the *wind ceased*, and there was a dead calm. [40]He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?"

Why are the disciples afraid when Jesus will be the one thrown overboard and be swallowed by death for three days in the tomb? They must learn courage and faithfulness from him.

One more connection: **Daniel 7**
Daniel has a vision of the last four violent empires rising up out of the sea as great and terrible monsters. Who will ultimately reign? The Son of Man, the New Human Being. Jesus calls himself the "Son of Man" because he has come to lead us into a new way of being human based on love and forgiveness rather than on scapegoating, on accusing others and casting them out.

You and I are baptized into that new way of being human in what? Water! St. Paul compares it to drowning in Romans 6. In the waters of baptism we die to the old way of being human and rise to the new way of being human.