

Healing Sunday  
The Reverend John H. Brock

Saturday, October 17, 2009  
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

Isaiah 35:5-8; Luke 7:18-23

Grace and peace to you from God who is, who was, and who is to come. Amen

I think that it is safe for me to say that there is not a person here who is not in need of healing. Be it healing of the heart, or healing of the body, or healing of the mind. For some of us, our needs might be more visible than for others, but I know, as I am sure that I know that all of us gathered here are human beings, that we are indeed all in need of healing.

What has taken me a long time to realize though, I think often what stands in the way of my own healing. . . is Me. Now I do realize that my physical infirmities are minor when compared with other people. Without my glasses on I really wouldn't be able to recognize the folks in the first row, well maybe the second row. I've got an erratic heartbeat that has baffled every physician who has ever heard it, but I can be fairly active. I've got a knee that isn't quite in joint all the time and tonight it's the constant ringing in my ears, has been with me for decades and is slowly increasing in volume, but compared to others that I know, these aren't real big problems. I do know that I struggle with stress and I tend to lose my temper. I've had some professional people upon occasion suggest to me that I might be dealing with depression as well. Then I think of those who have difficulty walking, or those who have been diagnosed with a lifelong condition like diabetes, or fibromyalgia, or on medication for clinical depression, or have significant hearing loss, or vision loss. Still I do think that at times, "I" am a big part of my problem of being made whole. Like I have put a wall or block or a big old stone between myself and God. Between myself and being made whole.

I need to say as we gather on this annual Healing Weekend service that I do honestly and truly believe that God is completely capable of healing each and every one of us, body, heart, and mind with the laying on of hands that will be offered to all of you in a very few minutes. I also believe honestly and truly, that the Lord God Almighty gave us physicians and healthcare folks to help us deal with our difficulties as well. I did a quick search of scripture as I was preparing my message tonight and came to the understanding that with only a couple of exceptions, the only one who really heals people in the New Testament is Jesus. Peter, John, and Paul cast out a whole lot of demons from folks, and each of them did heal an individual, but primarily over and over again, the only one who heals folks throughout the New Testament is Jesus.

So the fact that I stand in the way, that I am not able to make myself whole, really shouldn't surprise me. I'd like to play a song for you all; it's by an artist named Peder Eide. He is a good Lutheran boy from Minnesota. The song is called "Roll the Stone Away."

*"Darkness Came At Sunrise  
When The Man Refused To Wake*

*Four Full Days Of Weeping  
There Must Be Some Mistake*

*How Could This Happen?  
God, Where Do You Go?*

*Jesus Said, "Where Have You Laid Him?"  
They Said, "Follow Us This Way."  
They Took Him To The Dead Man  
In A Cave Where Dead Men Lay  
He Said, "God's Glory Will Be Shown!"*

*Roll The Stone Away  
What I Say Is True  
Roll The Stone Away  
See The Wonder God Can Do  
Roll The Stone Away  
You've Got No Other Choice  
If He's Gonna Rise, Gotta Hear My Voice  
Oh, Roll, Roll The Stone Away*

*All Night She Struggles Shaking  
Through The Rat-Infested Heat  
All Day He Struggles Waking  
To Find A Bite To Eat  
How Could This Happen?  
God, Where Do You Go?*

*Jesus Says, "These Are My Children  
The Ones I Came To Save.*

*Their Poverty Has Bound Them  
And Sealed Them In A Grave  
Now, For God's Glory To Be Shown.*

*Roll The Stone Away  
What I Say Is True  
Roll The Stone Away  
See The Wonder God Can Do  
Roll The Stone Away  
You've Got No Other Choice  
If They're Gonna Rise, Gotta Hear My Voice  
Oh, Roll , Roll The Stone Away*

*They Can't Hear Me When They're Naked  
My Voice Is Covered By Their Groans  
Of Hunger, Pain, And Sickness  
You've Gotta Roll Away Those Stones*

*Roll The Stone Away  
What I Say Is True  
Roll The Stone Away  
See The Wonder God Can Do  
Roll The Stone Away  
You've Got No Other Choice  
If They're Gonna Rise, They Gotta Hear My  
Voice  
Oh, Roll, Roll The Stone Away*

In a few minutes I am going to invite you all forward to take part in receiving the bread and the wine of communion. You'll have an opportunity to before you receive, to allow me to place my hands on your head. Make the sign of the cross on your forehead and say a prayer. You aren't required to take part in this, you may simply come forward and receive communion at either of the two stations. I won't be offended if you don't. Roll The Stone Away and see the wonder God can do. I invite you in an effort to roll your Own stone away, to receive the hands and prayer and oil that together all of us might seek God's healing.

Amen.