



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Truth and Wisdom

April 18, 2021

10:30 Holy Communion

Today we begin a five part series on themes from John's gospel. The first is the theme of truth and wisdom. We think we know what truth and wisdom are, but John's gospel challenges us to redefine them around God. When we do that we see everything in life through different eyes.

Welcome to worship today!

Please observe social distancing and remain conscious of the need to prevent the spread of infectious disease. In this bulletin is an insert that will be used to determine today's attendance. It will also help to identify who was here if contact tracing is necessary. Please fill it out and place it in the offering plate.

† GATHERING †

Prelude and Announcements

Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

The worship leader stands by the baptismal font. Water may be poured into it.

P: We thank you, risen Christ,
for these waters where you make us new,
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,
like rains to our thirsting earth,
like streams that revive our souls,
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

**C: Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.
Send us as companions on our journey as we share your life.**

P: Make us one, risen Christ.

Cleanse our hearts.

Shower us with life.

**C: To you be given all praise,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God,
now and forever.**

Amen.

Gathering Hymn Christ, Be Our Light

(For music turn to Hymn 715 in the Red Hymnal)

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

**Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.**

Refrain **Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.**

**2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice. *Refrain***

**3. Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed. *Refrain***

**4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone. *Refrain***

**5. Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
signs of your kingdom come. *Refrain***

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957; Music: Bernadette Farrell

Greeting (2 Corinthians 13:13)

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.

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading Isaiah 42:5-9

B: ⁵Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
⁶I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
⁷to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
⁸I am the LORD, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.
⁹See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.
After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord
C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Proverbs 3:13-20 (*read responsively*)

D: ¹³Happy are those who find wisdom,
and those who get understanding,
C: ¹⁴**for her income is better than silver,
and her revenue better than gold.**
D: ¹⁵She is more precious than jewels,
and nothing you desire can compare with her.
C: ¹⁶**Long life is in her right hand;
in her left hand are riches and honor.**
D: ¹⁷Her ways are ways of pleasantness,
and all her paths are peace.
C: ¹⁸**She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her;
those who hold her fast are called happy.**
D: ¹⁹The LORD by wisdom founded the earth;
by understanding he established the heavens;

**C: ²⁰by his knowledge the deeps broke open,
and the clouds drop down the dew.**

Second Reading 1 John 4:7-21

E: Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (John 1:5)

C: Alleluia. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading John 1:1-18

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 1st chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came

into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

After the reading:

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day God, Whose Almighty Word
(For music see Hymn 673 in the Red Hymnal)

**1. God, whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard
and took their flight:
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light.**

2. **Christ, who once came to bring,
on your redeeming wing,
healing and sight;
health to the troubled mind,
sight where illusions blind;
oh, now to humankind
let there be light.**
3. **Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy dove,
speed forth your flight;
move on the water's face
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light.**
4. **Holy and blessed three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might:
boundless as ocean's tide,
rolling in fullest pride,
through the earth, far and wide,
let there be light.**

Text: John Marriott, 1780-1825 alt. Music: Felice de Giardini, 1716-1796

Nicene Creed

P: Let us confirm our faith with the Nicene Creed

**C: We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the virgin Mary**

and became truly human.

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again,
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

P: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

The pastor will begin the prayer with a petition and then invites the congregation to add additional petitions and thanksgivings. These three petitions will be read by people in the congregation:

A: For all who are sick and suffering,
for those who have no access to the coronavirus vaccines,
for everyone who fears receiving medical advice and assistance,
for those who live with chronic pain,
for those whose pain is known only to you. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

B: Holy and righteous God, for the church, we pray:
for our own congregation,
for the churches of all our neighbors and around the globe,
and especially for Christians in Nigeria and wherever martyrdoms threaten. Be with our missionaries, the Rev. Matthew Nickoloff and the Rev. Karen Anderson. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

E: For the earth we pray:
for the well-being of terrains, plants, and animals wild and tame,
for the birds, especially songbirds whose numbers are decreasing,
and for this week's Earth Day, that good will come from the worldwide observance. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

The pastor concludes the prayer:

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

† MEAL †

Special Music

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray:

C: God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has embodied the promise of eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with all the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

(Isaiah 6:3, spoken)

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

P: In the night in which he was handed over our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take and eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Lord's Prayer

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

**C: 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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

P: Now let us feast this Easter day on Christ, the bread of heaven.
Alleluia

Communion Distribution

Welcome to the Lord's Supper! All who are baptized are invited to receive communion. The pastor will bring a wafer to you and place it in your hands. The communion assistant will follow with a tray of grape juice or wine. If you need a gluten free option please tell the pastor.

Communion Blessing After all have communed the pastor will say:

P: The body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

E: Let us pray: Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

Blessing

P: May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.

The God of life,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!
(For music see Hymn 373 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **“Christ the Lord is ris’n today!”**
All on earth with angels say;
raise your joys and triumphs high;
sing, O heav’ns; and earth, reply.
2. **Love’s redeeming work is done,**
fought the fight, the battle won.
Lo! The sun’s eclipse is o’er.
Lo! He sets in blood no more.
3. **Vain in stone, the watch, the seal;**
Christ has burst the gates of hell.
Death in vain forbids his rise;
Christ has opened paradise.

4. **Lives again our glorious king!
Where, O death, is now thy sting?
Once he died our souls to save;
where your victory, O grave?**
5. **Hail the Lord of earth and heav'n!
Praise to thee by both be giv'n
Thee we greet triumphant now:
hail, the resurrection, thou!**
6. **King of glory, soul of bliss,
everlasting life is this:
thee to know, thy pow'r to prove,
thus to sing, and thus to love!**

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt. Music: Pierre de Corbeil, d. 1222, arr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*. Arr copyright 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the risen Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

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