



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## *The Fourth Sunday of Easter*

*April 21, 2024*

*10:30 Holy Communion*

Our gospel reading for today is from Mark 7. Prior to this Jesus' ministry has been growing significantly. By this point it has grown such that the religious leaders from Jerusalem are taking notice. They send representatives to question Jesus first hand. We won't be surprised to find that they do not like what they see! Jesus will reorient their thinking to be based in the depths of their thoughts, and not the technicalities of their actions.

### *Welcome to worship today!*

If you are visiting with us we invite you to sign the Guest Book in the back of the sanctuary.

Large print bulletins are available on the usher's stand.

The Zoom feed for this service is shown on a screen in the nursery.

# † GATHERING †

## Prelude and Announcements

Gathering Hymn Come Let Us Worship and Bow Down  
(For music turn to Hymn 7 in the Songbook binder)

Verse

**Come let us worship and bow down  
Let us kneel before the Lord  
Our God our maker  
Come let us worship and bow down  
Let us kneel before the Lord  
Our God our Maker  
For He is our God  
And we are the people of His pasture  
And the sheep of His hand  
Just the sheep of His hand** *Repeat*

Text and music: Dave Doherty; Copyright 1980 Maranatha Praise, Inc.; CCLI #27329

## Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God,  
the wellspring of grace,  
our Easter and our joy.

**C: Amen.**

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

P: Look, here is water!

**C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

P: Immersed in the promises of baptism,  
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered  
over the deep and water became the essence of life.

Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.

The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.

Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into  
freedom's, land.

In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal  
life.

Look, here is water!

**C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

P: At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, though the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Look, here is water!

**C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Hymn of Praise I Am the Resurrection and the Life  
(For music turn to Hymn 16 in the Songbook binder)

*Chorus*

**I am the resurrection and the life  
all who believe in Me will never die  
I am the resurrection and the life  
all who believe in Me will live a new life.**

1. **I have come to bring the truth  
I have come to bring you life  
if you believe then you shall live.** *Chorus*
2. **In My word all men will come to know  
it is love which makes the spirit grow  
if you believe then you shall live.** *Chorus*
3. **Keep in mind the things that I have said  
remember Me in the breaking of the bread  
if you believe then you shall live.** *Chorus*

Text and music: Ray Repp, CCLI #9189, Copyright 1967 K & R Music Publishing

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

† WORD †

*First Reading* Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

B: So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. <sup>2</sup>You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you. <sup>6</sup>You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!” <sup>7</sup>For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? <sup>8</sup>And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today? <sup>9</sup>But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children’s children—

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Scripture Poetry* Psalm 15 (*read responsively*)

D: Lord, who is welcome in your house?

Who can rest on your holy mountain?

**C: Those who walk with integrity  
and do only what is right,  
speaking the truth with courage.**

D: They never spread slander  
or abuse their friends  
or condemn their neighbors.

**C: They disdain the godless,  
but honor those who believe.  
Before God, they give their word  
and keep it at any cost.**

D: They neither lend for gain  
nor take bribes against the guiltless.

**C: These are the just:  
they stand forever unshaken.**

Second Reading James 1:17-27

E: Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. <sup>18</sup>In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

<sup>19</sup>You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup>for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. <sup>21</sup>Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. <sup>22</sup>But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. <sup>23</sup>For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; <sup>24</sup>for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. <sup>25</sup>But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. <sup>26</sup>If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup>Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation (James 1:18)

**C: Alleluia. God gave us birth by the word of truth so that we would become a kind of first fruits of creation. Alleluia.**

Gospel Reading Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

*The gospel is announced:*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you O Lord.**

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, <sup>2</sup>they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. <sup>3</sup>(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; <sup>4</sup>and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) <sup>5</sup>So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your

disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” <sup>6</sup>He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far from me;

<sup>7</sup>in vain do they worship me,  
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

<sup>8</sup>You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

<sup>9</sup>Then he said to them, “You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition! <sup>10</sup>For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘Whoever speaks evil of father or mother must surely die.’ <sup>11</sup>But you say that if anyone tells father or mother, ‘Whatever support you might have had from me is Corban’ (that is, an offering to God)— <sup>12</sup>then you no longer permit doing anything for a father or mother, <sup>13</sup>thus making void the word of God through your tradition that you have handed on. And you do many things like this.”

<sup>14</sup>Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: <sup>15</sup>there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”

<sup>17</sup>When he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about the parable. <sup>18</sup>He said to them, “Then do you also fail to understand? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile, <sup>19</sup>since it enters, not the heart but the stomach, and goes out into the sewer?” (Thus he declared all foods clean.) <sup>20</sup>And he said, “It is what comes out of a person that defiles. <sup>21</sup>For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup>adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. <sup>23</sup>All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

*After the reading:*

P: The gospel of the Lord

**C: Praise to you O Christ.**

*Children’s Sermon*

*Sermon*

*Hymn of the* Open Your Ears, O Faithful People  
(For music see Hymn 519 in the Red Hymnal)

**1. Open your ears, O faithful people,  
open your ears to hear God's word.  
Open your hearts, O royal priesthood,  
God has come to you.**

*Refrain* **God has spoken to the people hallelujah!  
God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!  
God has spoken to the people hallelujah!  
God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!**

**2. They who have ears to hear the message,  
they who have ears, now let them hear;  
they who would learn the way of wisdom,  
let them hear God's word. *Refrain***

Text: Hasidic traditional; Williard F. Jabusch, b. 2930, English version. Text copyright 1966, 1982 Williard F. Jabusch s.d.m.n. OCP Publications. Music: Hasidic tune.

*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 the Church*

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. Please conclude your petition with:* Lord in your mercy,

*The congregation will respond:* **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.**

*Peace*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

P: We share that peace with one another.

*The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.*

† MEAL †

*Special Music*

*Hymn of Thanksgiving* Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful Lord

*For music turn to page 35 in the Blue Hymnal*

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,  
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.  
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,  
that we may be fed with the bread of life.**



**Gather the hopes and dreams of all;  
unite them with the prayers we offer now.  
Grace our table with your presence, Lord,  
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

*Offering Prayer*

P: Let us pray: Risen One,

**C: you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. 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: The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.  
Come and eat at God's table.

Communion Distribution

*Welcome to the Lord's Supper! All who are baptized are invited to receive communion. We use wheat bread and wine for communion. If you would prefer a gluten free wafer instead of bread please tell the communion assistant. Also, if you prefer grape juice to wine, it is available pre-filled in the individual glasses. As we commune together everyone is invited to sing the following hymns:*

*Lamb of God (Page 39 of the Blue Hymnal)*

**27 Purify My Heart (Songbook Binder)**

**47 Into Your Courts (Songbook Binder)**

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

A: Let us pray:

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

**C: Amen.**

† SENDING †

*Blessing*

P: The God of resurrection power,  
the Christ of unending joy,  
and the Spirit of Easter hope  
bless you now and always.

**C: Amen.**

*Sending Hymn* Send Us Out

(For music turn to Hymn 29 in the Songbook binder)

1. **We have been called by the Lord.  
We have been saved by the Word.  
Now let the Word be restored.  
Now let the Gospel be heard**

*Refrain*

**Send us out to teach what God has done.  
Send us out to reach ev'ry single one.  
Send us out. Send us out.**

2. **We who were bound by our shame,  
ruled by our fears within.  
Stand and declare by the name,  
freedom from all of our sin. *Refrain***

3. **Teach what God has done.  
Reach ev'ry single one.  
Teach what God has done.  
Reach ev'ry single one. *Refrain***

4. **We have been called by the Lord.  
We have been saved by the Word.  
Now let the Word be restored.  
Now let the Gospel be heard *Refrain***

Text and Music by James Hersch; Copyright 1994 Dakota Road Music; CCLI# 1790882

*Dismissal*

P: Go in peace. Serve the risen Lord.  
**C: God's Work. Our Hands.**

**Worship assistants TODAY:**

Greeters and Ushers     John and Linda Thompson  
Acolyte                     Thomas Bullwinkle  
Altar Care                 Sue Kaufmann  
Communion Assistants   Greg Zuege  
Counters                    Linda Flood and Sue Kaufmann  
Coffee Hour

**Worship assistants for next Sunday, April 28, 2024**

Greeters and Ushers     Sue Kaufmann  
Acolyte                     Alyssa Young  
Counters                    John and Linda Thompson  
Coffee Hour

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