



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



The Third Sunday of Easter

April 23, 2023

10:30 Service of the Word

We read the ending of Matthew's gospel today with Matthew 28:16-20. It's just five short verses, but in these five verses Matthew summarizes the whole of his gospel. Through them we are also commissioned to carry out the work of the disciples.

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.

† GATHERING †

Prelude and Announcements

Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God,
by whose hand we are given new birth,
by whose speaking we are given new life.

C: Amen.

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are welcomed, restored, and supported
as citizens of the new creation.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

**C: Holy God,
holy and merciful,
holy and mighty,
you are the river of life,
you are the everlasting wellspring.**

In mercy and might you have freed us from death
and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead.
In baptismal waters our old life is washed away,
and in them we are born anew.

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

P: Glory to you for oceans and lakes,
for rivers and streams.

Honor to you for waters that wash us clean,
quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures.

Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism,
the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

**C: Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.
Empower our witness to your resurrection.
Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.**

P: Satisfy the world's needs through this living water.
Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment.
Where despair prevails, grant hope.
Where chaos reigns, bring peace.
We ask this through Christ,
who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn Listen, God Is Calling
(For music see Hymn 513 in the Red Hymnal)

Refrain

L: Listen,

**C: listen, God is calling,
through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness,
comfort and joy.**

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**C: listen, God is calling,
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1. L: Jesus gave his mandate:

C: share the good news

L: that he came to save us

C: and set us free. Refrain

2. L: Let none be forgotten

C: throughout the world.

L: In the triune name of God

C: go and baptize. Refrain

3. L: Help us to be faithful,

C: standing steadfast.

L: walking in our precepts,

C: led by your Word. Refrain

Text: Tanzanian traditional; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922, copyright 1968 Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Music: Tanzanian tune; arr. Austin C. Lovelace, b. 1919, copyright Austin C. Lovelace

Greeting (2 Corinthians 13:13, Romans 10)

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.

P: The word is near you,

C: on your lips and in your heart.

P: If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,

C: and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

P: Faith comes from what is heard,

C: and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

God of heaven and earth, before the foundation of the universe and the beginning of time, you are God. Guide us all to your truth by your Spirit, that we may proclaim all that Christ has revealed and rejoice in the glory he shares with us. Glory and praise to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

First Reading Isaiah 52:7-10

B: ⁷How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

⁸Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.

⁹Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 144:9-15 (*read responsively*)

D: I sing you a new song, Lord,
I play my ten-stringed harp,

**C: for you give victory to kings,
you rescue your servant, David.**

D: Save me from the bitter sword,
deliver me from strangers,
who speak lies

and then swear to them.

**C: God, you shape our sons
like tall, sturdy plants,
you sculpt our daughters
like pillars for a palace.**

D: You fill our barns
with all kinds of food,

**C: you bless our fields
with sheep by the thousands
and fatten our cattle.**

D: There is no breach in the walls,
no outcry in the streets, no exile.

**C: We are a people blest with these gifts,
blest with the Lord as our God!**

Second Reading Romans 10:9-17

E: [Paul writes] If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.”

¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” ¹⁴But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” ¹⁶But not all have obeyed the good news; for Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our message?” ¹⁷So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Matthew 28:19)

C: Alleluia. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading Matthew 28:16-20

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 28th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

¹⁶Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

After the reading:

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day You Servants of God

(For music see Hymn 825 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **You servants of God, your Master proclaim,
and publish abroad his wonderful name;
the name, all-victorious, of Jesus extol;
his kingdom is glorious and rules over all!**
2. **Ascended on high, almighty to save,
yet still he is nigh, his presence we have.
The great congregation his triumph shall sing,
ascribing salvation to Jesus, our King!**
3. **Salvation to God who sits on the throne!
Let all cry aloud and honor the Son.
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.**
4. **Then let us adore and give him his right,
all glory and pow'r and wisdom and might,
all honor and blessing, with angels above,**

and thanks never ceasing, and infinite love!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt. Music: attr. Johann Michael Haydn, 1737-1806

Apostles' Creed

P: We confirm our faith with the Apostles' Creed

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. 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.

After each portion of the prayer: P: Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

The prayer concludes:

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: Let us share that peace with one another.

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

✠ THANKSGIVING ✠

Special Music

Hymn of Thanksgiving

Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil

For music turn to Hymn 713 in the Blue Hymnal

**Lord, let my heart be good soil,
open to the seed of your Word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil,
where love can grow and peace is understood.
When my heart is hard,
break the stone away.
When my heart is cold,
warm it with the day.
When my heart is lost,
lead me on your way.
Lord, let my heart,
Lord, let my heart,
Lord, let my heart be good soil.**

Text and music: Handt Hanson, b. 1950, Copyright 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing/Changing Church, Inc.

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray:

C: Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen

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.**

† SENDING †

Blessing

P: Almighty God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

C: Amen

Sending Hymn My Life Flows On in Endless Song
(for music please turn to Hymn 763 in the Red Hymnal)

- 1. My life flows on in endless song;
above earth's lamentation,
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn
That hails a new creation.**

Refrain

**No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?**

- 2. Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing? *Refrain***

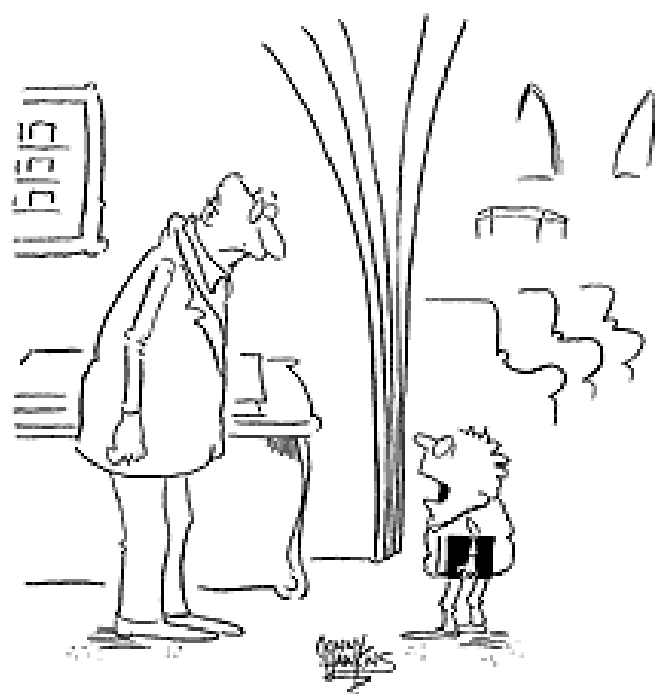
- 3. What though my joys and comforts die?
The Lord my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round?
Songs in the night he giveth. *Refrain***

- 4. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his!
How can I keep from singing? *Refrain***

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.



"I slept in church because I'm striving
to be more like God, and on the
seventh day He rested."

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers Mary and Greg Zuege
Acolyte Owen Young
Counters Babette Huber and Burdie Gillern
Coffee Hour

Worship assistants for next Sunday, April 30, 2023

Greeters and Ushers John and Linda Thompson
Acolyte Creed White
Counters Michele Myers and Helen Crown
Coffee Hour

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St. John's Lutheran Church

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The Rev. Jonathan Deibler, Pastor
William Shi, Pianist