



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## *God and Christ*

*April 25, 2021*

*10:30 Service of the Word*

A basic belief of our faith is that Jesus is the Son of God. At the same time we say that Jesus is God incarnate – the full embodiment of God. But how can this be? How can Jesus be both God and the Son of God? There's no easy answer but it is something John's gospel dives into. We look at that today. Even though we may not get an easy answer we will learn from the exploration.

### *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 Beautiful Savior

*(Music for this may be found as Hymn 838 in the Red Hymnal)*

- 1. Beautiful Savior, King of creation,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee,  
light of my soul, my joy, my crown.**
- 2. Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,**

**robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,  
he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.**

**3. Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,  
bright the sparkling stars on high;  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer  
than all the angels in the sky.**

**4. Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration,  
now and forevermore be thine!**

Text: Gesangbuch, Munster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, Music: Silesian fold tune 1842

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.**

Gathering Dialog (Romans 10)

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...

Gracious God, your blessed Son came down from heaven to be the true bread that gives life to the world. Give us this bread always, that he may live in us and we in him, and that, strengthened by this food, we may live as his body in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## † WORD †

### **First Reading** Exodus 16:2-4, 13-18, 31

**B:** <sup>2</sup>The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.” <sup>4</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. <sup>14</sup>When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. <sup>15</sup>When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat. <sup>16</sup>This is what the LORD has commanded: ‘Gather as much of it as each of you needs, an omer to a person according to the number of persons, all providing for those in their own tents.’” <sup>17</sup>The Israelites did so, some gathering more, some less. <sup>18</sup>But when they measured it with an omer, those who gathered much had nothing over, and those who gathered little had no shortage; they gathered as much as each of them needed.

<sup>31</sup>The house of Israel called it manna; it was like coriander seed, white, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Scripture Poetry** Psalm 34:1-10, 22 (*read responsively*)

**D:** I will never stop thanking God  
with constant words of praise.

**C: My soul will boast of God;  
the poor will hear me and be glad.**

D: Join me in praising the Lord,  
together tell of God’s name.

**C: I asked and the Lord responded,  
freed me from all my fears.**

D: Turn to God, be bright with joy;  
you shall never be let down.

**C: I begged and God heard,  
took my burdens from me.**

D: God’s angel defends the faithful,

guards them on every side.

**C: Drink in the richness of God,  
enjoy the strength of the Lord.**

D: Live in awe of God, you saints:

you will want for nothing.

Even if lions go hungry,

those seeking God are fed.

**C: God saves those who keep faith;  
no trusting soul is doomed.**

*Second Reading* Ephesians 4:25-5:2

**E:** <sup>25</sup>So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. <sup>26</sup>Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup>and do not make room for the devil. <sup>28</sup>Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. <sup>29</sup>Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. <sup>30</sup>And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup>Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, <sup>32</sup>and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, <sup>2</sup>and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Acclamation* (John 6:51)

**C: Alleluia. I am the living bread that came down from heaven.  
Whoever eats of this bread will live forever. Alleluia**

Gospel Reading John 6:41-59

*The gospel is announced:*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>41</sup>Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." <sup>42</sup>They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" <sup>43</sup>Jesus answered them, "Do not complain among yourselves. <sup>44</sup>No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. <sup>45</sup>It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. <sup>46</sup>Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. <sup>47</sup>Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. <sup>48</sup>I am the bread of life. <sup>49</sup>Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. <sup>50</sup>This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. <sup>51</sup>I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." <sup>52</sup>The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" <sup>53</sup>So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. <sup>54</sup>Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; <sup>55</sup>for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. <sup>56</sup>Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup>Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup>This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." <sup>59</sup>He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

*After the reading:*

P: The Gospel of the Lord

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

Children's Sermon

Sermon

*Hymn of the Day* Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness  
(For music see Hymn 843 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Praise the One who breaks the darkness  
with a liberating light;  
praise the One who frees the pris'ners,  
turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the One who preached the gospel,  
healing ev'ry dread disease,  
calming storms and feeding thousands  
with the very bread of peace.**
  
2. **Praise the One who blessed the children  
with a strong yet gentle word;  
praise the One who drove out demons  
with a piercing, two-edged sword.  
Praise the One who brings cool water  
to the desert's burning sand;  
from the well comes living water  
quenching thirst in ev'ry land.**
  
3. **Praise the one true love incarnate:  
Christ, who suffered in our place;  
Jesus died and rose for many  
that we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness,  
seeing what our God has done.  
Praise the one redeeming glory;  
praise the One who makes us one.**

Response to the Word

P: In Christ you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

**C: We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.**

E: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**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.**

E: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

**C: pray in the Holy Spirit.** *(Jude 20)*

E: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

**C: look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.** *(Jude 21)*

E: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

**C: Everything old has passed away;  
behold, everything has become new!** *(2 Corinthians 5:17)*



## † PRAYER †

### 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:** We pray for the nations of the earth: that governments cease aggression against their neighbors; that peace come to Afghanistan, Syria, and Myanmar. Lord in your mercy...

**C: Hear our prayer.**

**B:** Build the church as a faith-filled world wide community. Help us to build it among our friends and neighbors. Be with our missionaries, the Rev. Matthew Nickoloff in Rochester and the Rev. Karen Anderson in Chile. Lord in your mercy...

**C: Hear our prayer.**

**E:** We pray for those who are hungry: the unemployed, the underemployed, those living in refugee camps or on our streets, the migrants seeking a better life; that they be fed. 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.**

### Peace

**A:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

**A:** We share that peace with one another.

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

### Special Music

*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: May God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy.  
Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*Sending Hymn All People That on Earth Do Dwell*  
(For music see Hymn 883 in the Red Hymnal)

- 1. All people that on earth do dwell,  
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;  
him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell;  
come ye before him and rejoice.**
- 2. Know that the Lord is God indeed;  
without our aid he did us make.  
We are his folk, he doth us feed,  
and for his sheep he doth us take.**
- 3. Oh, enter then his gates with praise;  
approach with joy his courts unto;  
praise, laud, and bless his name always,  
for it is seemly so to do.**
- 4. For why? The Lord our God is good;  
his mercy is forever sure;**

**his truth at all times firmly stood,  
and shall from age to age endure.**

**5. To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
the God whom heav'n and earth adore,  
from us and from the angel host  
be praise and glory ever more.**

Text: William Kethe, d.c. 1594. Music: Louis Bourgeois, 1510-1561

*Dismissal*

**P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.**

**C: God's Work. Our Hands.**



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