



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



The Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

10:30 Service of the Word

How do we approach God in prayer? Are we angry? Humble? Arrogant? Demanding? Thankful? It probably varies from day to day, and is some mix of those things. In the gospel reading for today we meet a non-Jewish woman who has barged in on Jesus while his is in a house and trying to get some much needed rest. He pushes her away but she is persistent, demanding his help for her daughter. The scene is controversial to this day, but we discover this woman's persistence gets her what she needs.

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 in the nursery.

† GATHERING †

Prelude and Announcements

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!

Gathering Hymn Lord, Be Glorified
(For music turn to Hymn 744 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **In my Life, Lord,
be glorified, be glorified;
in my life, Lord,
be glorified today.**
2. **In our song, Lord,
be glorified, be glorified;
in our song, Lord,
be glorified today.**
3. **In your church, Lord,
be glorified, be glorified;
in your church, Lord.
be glorified today.**
4. **In your world, Lord,
be glorified, be glorified;
in your world, Lord,
be glorified today.**

Text: Bob Kilpatrick, Music: Bob Kilpatrick

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.

A: The word is near you,

C: on your lips and in your heart.

A: 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.

A: 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, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading Isaiah 35:4-7a

B: ⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 146 (*read responsively*)

D: Hallelujah!

Praise the Lord, my heart!

C: My whole life, give praise.

**Let me sing to God
as long as I live.**

D: Never depend on rulers:
born of earth, they cannot save.

**C: They die, they turn to dust.
That day, their plans crumble.**

D: They are wise who depend on God,
who look to Jacob’s Lord,

**C: creator of heaven and earth,
maker of the teeming sea.**

D: The Lord keeps faith for ever
giving food to the hungry,
justice to the poor,
freedom to captives.

**C: The Lord opens blind eyes
and straightens the bent,**

**comforting widows and orphans,
protecting the stranger.**

D: The Lord loves the just
but blocks the path of the wicked.

**C: Zion, praise the Lord!
Your God reigns for ever,
from generation to generation.
Hallelujah!**

Second Reading James 2:1-17

E: My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. ¹¹For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Philippians 4:4)

C: Alleluia. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading Mark 7:24-30

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 7th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

²⁴From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, ²⁵but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

After the reading:

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

(For music turn to Hymn 858 in the Red Hymnal)

- 1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!**
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear
Now to his temple draw near,
Joining in glad adoration!
- 2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning.**
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen
All that is needful has been
Sent by his gracious ordaining?

3. **Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you.
Surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew
What the Almighty can do
If with his love he befriend you.**
4. **Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen
Sound from his people again.
Gladly forever adore him!**

Text – Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829-1878; Tune Erneverten Gesangbuch, Stralsund, 1665

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.**

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: 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 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

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the risen Lord.

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

JESUS SEEMS TO
HAVE **GIVEN** IN
TO THE CULTURE
OF INCIVILITY!



EVEN THOSE WHO HAVE
NO CLAIM OF FAVOR
RECEIVE MERCY FROM
GOD.



WELL SURE! BUT HE
DOESN'T HAVE TO BE
MEAN ABOUT IT!



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MARK 7:24-37

Worship assistants TODAY:

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

Worship assistants for next Sunday, May 5, 2024

Greeters and Ushers Phyllis Henderson
Acolyte Thomas Bullwinkle
Altar Care Mary Zuege
Communion Assistant Sue Kaufmann
Counters Babette Huber and Burdie Gillern
Coffee Hour

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