



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



The Fifth Sunday in Lent

April 6, 2025

10:30 Holy Communion

Fear, Chaos, Calamity, Death... These are powerful forces at work in today's reading from Luke's gospel. We'll look at three different scenes and discover how Jesus' power dominates them all. Sometimes our own lives feel out of control. Even so, Jesus is with us in the midst of it and he is providing help to restore peace and calm.

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 available in the nursery.

✠ GATHERING ✠

Prelude and Announcements

Gathering Hymn I Want Jesus to Walk With Me
(For music turn to Hymn 325 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **I want Jesus to walk with me;
I want Jesus to walk with me;
all along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**
2. **In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
in my trials, Lord, walk with me;
when my heart is almost breaking,
Lord I want Jesus to walk with me.**
3. **When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when my head is bowed in sorrow,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

Text and music: African American Spiritual, arr. J. Jefferson Cleveland, Verolga Nix; copyright 1981 Abingdon Press

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's
abiding love.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P: Compassionate One,

**C: you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
but our lives do not always reflect you
and your love for the world.**

**We do not show others the tender compassion
you have shown to us.**

**We do not welcome others with the hospitality
you grant to all people.**

**Our lives end up oppressing others,
even though you have set us free again and again.
We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.**

**Transform our lives
and guide us again in the way of the cross.
Amen.**

P: Beloved in Christ,
God's arms are always stretched wide
to welcome the wandering ones home.
In Christ your sins are forgiven.
You have a place in God's house forever.
C: Amen.

Hymn of Praise Kyrie Eleison
"Kyrie Eleison" is Greek for "Lord have mercy."
(For music turn to Hymn 19 in the Songbook binder)

Refrain

**Kyrie Eleison on our world and on our way.
Kyrie Eleison ev'ry day**

- 1. For peace in the world, for the health of the church,
for the unity of all.
For this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord! *Refrain***
- 2. That we may live out your impassioned response to the
hungry and the poor.
That we may live out truth and justice and grace,
let us pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord! *Refrain***
- 3. For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes,
for friends and family.
For life and for love, for our work and our play,
let us pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord! *Refrain***
- 4. For your spirit to guide, that you center our lives
in the water and the Word
That you nourish our souls with your body and blood
let us pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord! *Refrain***

Text and music: Larry Olson, copyright 1989, Dakota Road Music, CCLI #1765776

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

Mighty God, all of creation is subject to you and under your care. When
the world around us rages in chaos pour out your peace and restore

stability. Let us ever rejoice in the goodness you provide, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

Scripture Poetry Psalm 89:6-19 (*read responsively*)

A: The skies tell your wonders, Lord,
the stars, your constant love.

**C: In the heavens what equals you?
What god compares with you?**

A: Great and dreaded God,
you strike terror among the holy ones.

**C: Who is like you, Lord of might,
clothed in truth, a God of power?**

A: You rule the storming seas,
you calm the roaring waves.

**C: Yes! You split the sea monster
and scatter your enemies.**

A: Yours the sky, yours the earth,
yours the world of creatures.

**C: You created north and south
Mount Tabor and Mount Hermon
sing out your name.**

A: Yours, a mighty arm,
yours, a powerful hand
raised in triumph.

**C: Justice and right anchor your throne,
fidelity and love attend you.**

A: How your people rejoice!
you summon us into your light.

**C: Lord, your name is our joy,
and your justice, our strength.**

A: You, our glory and power,
favor us with victory,

**C: you, the Holy One of Israel,
our shield, our Lord, our King.**

Bible Reading Luke 8:22-56

B: One day [Jesus] got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side of the lake.” So they put out, ²³and while they were sailing he fell asleep. A windstorm swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. ²⁴They went to him and woke him up, shouting, “Master, Master, we are perishing!” And he woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and there was a calm. ²⁵He said to them, “Where is your faith?” They were afraid and amazed, and said to one another, “Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him?”

D: Then they arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. ²⁷As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. ²⁸When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me”— ²⁹for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) ³⁰Jesus then asked him, “What is your name?” He said, “Legion”; for many demons had entered him. ³¹They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

³²Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. ³³Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

³⁴When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. ³⁵Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. ³⁶Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. ³⁷Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. ³⁸The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹“Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

E: Now when Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed him, for they were all waiting for him. ⁴¹Just then there came a man named Jairus, a leader of the synagogue. He fell at Jesus' feet and begged him to come to his house, ⁴²for he had an only daughter, about twelve years old, who was dying.

P: As he went, the crowds pressed in on him. ⁴³Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years; and though she had spent all she had on physicians, no one could cure her. ⁴⁴She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his clothes, and immediately her hemorrhage stopped. ⁴⁵Then Jesus asked, "Who touched me?" When all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the crowds surround you and press in on you." ⁴⁶But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; for I noticed that power had gone out from me." ⁴⁷When the woman saw that she could not remain hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before him, she declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed. ⁴⁸He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace."

E: While he was still speaking, someone came from the leader's house to say, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the teacher any longer." ⁵⁰When Jesus heard this, he replied, "Do not fear. Only believe, and she will be saved." ⁵¹When he came to the house, he did not allow anyone to enter with him, except Peter, John, and James, and the child's father and mother. ⁵²They were all weeping and wailing for her; but he said, "Do not weep; for she is not dead but sleeping." ⁵³And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. ⁵⁴But he took her by the hand and called out, "Child, get up!" ⁵⁵Her spirit returned, and she got up at once. Then he directed them to give her something to eat. ⁵⁶Her parents were astounded; but he ordered them to tell no one what had happened.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Abide With Me
(For music turn to Hymn 629 in the Red Hymnal)

**1. Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens, Lord, with me abide.**

**When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.**

- 2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
change and decay in all around I see;
O thou who changest not, abide with me.**
- 3. I need thy presence ev'ry passing hour;
what but thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, oh, abide with me.**
- 4. I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me!**
- 5. Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes,
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;
heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.**

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847.. Music: William H. Monk, 1823-1889

Nicene Creed

P: We 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.**

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.

Special Music and Gathering of Prayers and Offerings

You are invited to write a prayer concern on the small blank slip of paper in your worship bulletin. This slip will be collected by the ushers in the offering plates. The concerns raised will be prayed for later in the service.

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray: Gracious Provider,

**C: you set your immense treasures among us,
opening your heart to the world.**

**As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,
deepen our commitment to sharing those
treasures with others,
though our Savior, Jesus Christ.
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.

Issues raised by the congregation are prayed for.

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.

† MEAL †

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, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and 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 joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

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)

625 *Come, We That Love the Lord (Red Hymnal)*

624 *Jesus Still Lead On (Red Hymnal)*

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: Generous Host,
You have shared your feast with us and made us new.
Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,
that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,
in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

Blessing

P: God our tender parent,
God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit,
Bless you now and forever.
C: Amen.

Sending Hymn Lamb of God
(For music see Hymn 336 in the Red Hymnal)

**1. Your only Son, no sin to hide,
but you have sent him from your side
to walk upon this guilty sod
and to become the Lamb of God.**

Refrain **O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God.
Oh, wash me in your precious blood,
my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.**

**2. Your gift of love we crucified.
We laughed and scorned him as he died.
The humble king we named a fraud
and sacrificed the Lamb of God. *Refrain***

**3. I was so lost, I should have died,
but you have brought me to your side
to be led by your staff and rod
and to be called a lamb of God. *Refrain***

Text and Music: Twila Paris, b. 1958, Copyright 1985 Straightway Music/Mountain Spring Music

Dismissal

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

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	Janice Lockwood
Acolyte	Charlotte Stroup
Altar Care	Gary Boisseau
Communion Assistant	Sally Mansfield
Counters	Bill and Katy Stimmel
Coffee Hour	

Worship assistants for next Sunday, April 13, 2025

Greeters and Ushers	Tom and Carol Urbanic
Acolyte	Thomas Bullwinkle
Altar Care	Gary Boisseau
Communion Assistant	Gary Boisseau
Counters	Bruce and Connie Stevenson
Coffee Hour	

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St. John's Lutheran Church

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The Rev. Jonathan Deibler, Pastor
William Shi, Pianist