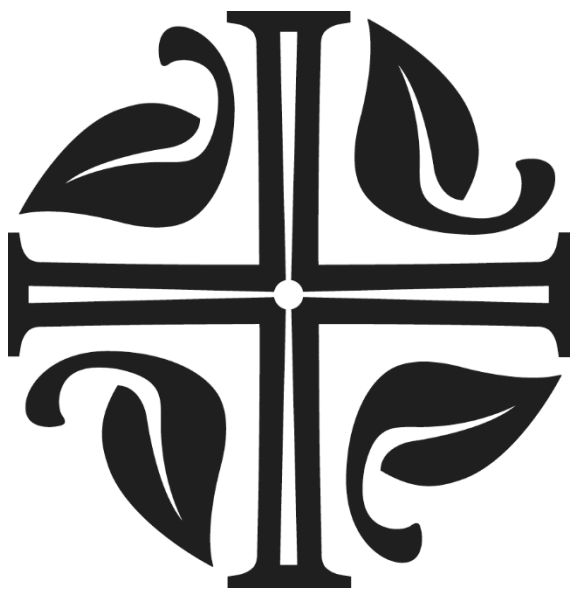




St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



The 11th Sunday After Pentecost

August 13, 2023

10:30 Service of the Word

John 8 is a difficult chapter of the Bible to read. It is complicated and filled with deep theological truths. Yet we will approach it today with new eyes. We will read it as the original readers did. In it we will find comfort and boldness in the midst of life's struggles. It will give us the freedom and the light that only God can give.

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

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.
Merciful God,

C: we confess that we have sinned.

We have hurt our community.

We have squandered your blessings.

We have hoarded your bounty.

In the name of Jesus,

forgive us and grant us mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Righteous God,

C: we confess that we have sinned.

We have failed to be honest.

We have lacked the courage to speak.

We have spoken falsely.

In the name of Jesus,

forgive us and grant us mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God is a cup of cold water when we thirst.

God offers boundless grace when we fail.

Claim the gift of God's mercy:

you are freed and forgiven in the name of Jesus the Christ.

C: Amen

Gathering Hymn Wade in the Water

(For music see Hymn 459 in the Red Hymnal)

Refrain **Wade in the water,**

wade in the water, children,

wade in the water,

God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.

1. See that host all dressed in white,

God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.

the leader looks like the Israelite.
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. *Refrain*

2. **See that band all dressed in red,**
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
looks like the band that Moses led.
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. *Refrain*

3. **Look over yonder, what do I see?**
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
the Holy Ghost a-coming on me.
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. *Refrain*

4. **If you don't believe I've been redeemed,**
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
just follow me down the Jordan stream.
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. *Refrain*

Text and Music: African American spiritual

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 (Deuteronomy 26, 11, 8)

A: You are the treasured people of the Lord,

C: a people holy to the Lord our God.

A: Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children.

**C: Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away,
when you lie down and when you rise.**

A: One does not live by bread alone,

C: but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

Almighty God, gracious Lord, pour out your Holy Spirit upon your people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against their enemies, and bestow on your Church your saving peace; that your love may reign on earth, through you Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

Introduction to the Reading

Bible Reading John 8:12-59

B: Again Jesus spoke to them, saying,

D: “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”

B: ¹³Then the Pharisees said to him,

C: “You are testifying on your own behalf; your testimony is not valid.”

B: ¹⁴Jesus answered,

D: “Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid because I know where I have come from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. ¹⁵You judge by human standards; I judge no one. ¹⁶Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is valid; for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. ¹⁷In your law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is valid. ¹⁸I testify on my own behalf, and the Father who sent me testifies on my behalf.”

B: ¹⁹Then they said to him,

C: “Where is your Father?”

B: Jesus answered,

D: “You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also.”

B: ²⁰He spoke these words while he was teaching in the treasury of the temple, but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.

²¹Again he said to them,

D: “I am going away, and you will search for me, but you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come.”

B: ²²Then the Jews said,

C: “Is he going to kill himself? Is that what he means by saying, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come’?”

B: ²³He said to them,

D: “You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world. ²⁴I told you that you would die in your sins, for you will die in your sins unless you believe that I am he.”

B: ²⁵They said to him,

C: “Who are you?”

B: Jesus said to them,

D: “Why do I speak to you at all? ²⁶I have much to say about you and much to condemn; but the one who sent me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from him.”

B: ²⁷They did not understand that he was speaking to them about the Father. ²⁸So Jesus said,

D: “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will realize that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own, but I speak these things as the Father instructed me. ²⁹And the one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what is pleasing to him.”

B: ³⁰As he was saying these things, many believed in him.

³¹Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him,

D: “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

B: ³³They answered him,

C: “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

B: ³⁴Jesus answered them,

D: “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. ³⁷I know that you are descendants of Abraham; yet you look for an opportunity to kill me, because there is no place in you for my word. ³⁸I declare what I have seen in the Father’s presence; as for you, you should do what you have heard from the Father.”

B: ³⁹They answered him,

C: “Abraham is our father.”

B: Jesus said to them,

D: “If you were Abraham’s children, you would be doing what Abraham did, ⁴⁰but now you are trying to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. ⁴¹You are indeed doing what your father does.”

B: They said to him,

C: “We are not illegitimate children; we have one father, God himself.”

B: ⁴²Jesus said to them,

D: “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now I am here. I did not come on my own, but he sent me. ⁴³Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot accept my word. ⁴⁴You are from your father the devil, and you choose to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks according to his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of

lies. ⁴⁵But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. ⁴⁶Which of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? ⁴⁷Whoever is from God hears the words of God. The reason you do not hear them is that you are not from God.”

B: ⁴⁸The Jews answered him,

C: “Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?”

B: ⁴⁹Jesus answered,

D: “I do not have a demon; but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. ⁵⁰Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is one who seeks it and he is the judge. ⁵¹Very truly, I tell you, whoever keeps my word will never see death.”

B: ⁵²The Jews said to him,

C: “Now we know that you have a demon. Abraham died, and so did the prophets; yet you say, ‘Whoever keeps my word will never taste death.’ ⁵³Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? The prophets also died. Who do you claim to be?”

B: ⁵⁴Jesus answered,

D: “If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, he of whom you say, ‘He is our God,’ ⁵⁵though you do not know him. But I know him; if I would say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you. But I do know him and I keep his word. ⁵⁶Your ancestor Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day; he saw it and was glad.”

B: ⁵⁷Then the Jews said to him,

C: “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?”

B: ⁵⁸Jesus said to them,

D: “Very truly, I tell you, before Abraham was, I am.”

B: ⁵⁹So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Baptized in Water
(For music turn to Hymn 456 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
cleansed by the blood of Christ our king:
heirs of salvation, trusting his promise,
faithfully now God's praise we sing.**

2. **Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
dead in the tomb with Christ our king:
one with his rising, freed and forgiven,
thankfully now God's praise we sing.**

3. **Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ our king:
born of the Spirit, we are God's children;
joyfully now God's praise we sing.**

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953; Music: Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950

‡ BAPTISM ‡

Baptism of Ariana Barbara Barnes

Please turn to the Service of Holy Baptism on page 227 in the front of the Red Hymnal.

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: The God who calls across the cosmos
and speaks in the smallest seed
bless, keep, and sustain you
now and to the end of the age.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn The Lord Now Sends Us Forth
(For music see Hymn 538 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **The Lord now sends us forth
with hands to serve and give,
to make of all the earth
a better place to live. (Repeat Verse)**

2. **The angels are not sent
into our world of pain
to do what we were meant
to do in Jesus' name;
that falls to you and me
and all who are made free.
Help us, O Lord, we pray,
to do your will today. (Repeat Verse)**

Text: Jose Aguiar; tr. Gerhard Cartford. Music: Attr. Pedro Infante

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.



"Actually, what it costs depends on whose prayer is answered...yours or mine."

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers Linda Flood
Acolyte
Counters Nancy Shuler
Coffee Hour

Worship assistants for next Sunday, August 21

Greeters and Ushers Gary Wood
Acolyte Thomas Bullwinkle
Altar Care Linda Thompson
Communion Assistant Gary Boisseau
Counters Mary and Greg Zuege
Coffee Hour

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St. John's Lutheran Church
888 County Road 9, Victor, NY 14564
stjohnsvictor.com (585) 924-5192
The Rev. Jonathan Deibler, Pastor
William Shi, Pianist