



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Life of Discipleship—Mark 9:14-10:12

February 21, 2021

10:30 Service of the Word

Our gospel reading today may appear to be a hodge-podge of topics. In some ways it is, but the stories do connect. They are all about the cost of discipleship and a life oriented toward God's purposes.

Welcome to worship today!

This order of worship is designed to accompany what is happening live on Zoom. In order to make things work smoothly please keep your computer's microphone off unless you have a speaking part. It may be helpful to use a headset or earbuds to minimize feedback. You are welcome to use the chat feature to ask questions or provide feedback. Following worship we will have a time for those who would like to chat.

† GATHERING †

Announcements

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.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,
the keeper of the covenant,
the source of steadfast love,
our rock and our redeemer.

C: Amen.

P: God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Those who wish are invited to kneel. Silence for reflection and self-examination

P: Fountain of living water,

C: pour out your mercy over us.

Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free.

**Rebuild what we have ruined
and mend what we have torn.**

Wash us in your cleansing flood.

Make us alive in the Spirit

to follow in the way of Jesus,

as healers and restorers of the world you so love.

Amen.

P: Beloved, God's word never fails.

The promise rests on grace:

by the saving love of Jesus Christ,

the wisdom and power of God,

your sins are forgiven, and God remembers them no more.

Journey in the way of Jesus.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love
(For music turn to Hymn 708 in the Red Hymnal)

Refrain **Jesu, Jesu,
fill us with your love,
show us how to serve
the neighbors we have from you.**

- 1. Kneels at the feet of his friends
silently washes their feet,
master who acts as a slave to them. *Refrain***
- 2. Neighbors are wealthy and poor,
varied in color and race,
neighbors are nearby and far away. *Refrain***
- 3. These are the ones we will serve,
these are the ones we will love;
all these are neighbors to us and you. *Refrain***
- 4. Kneel at the feet of our friends,
silently washing their feet:
this is the way we will live with you. *Refrain***

Text: Tom Colvin; Music: Ghanaian fold tune, adapt. Tom Colvin, arr. Jane Marshall; Copyright 1982 Hope Publishing Co

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...

Lord Jesus, your teachings reveal how much you love us. Your teachings also challenge us and confuse us. Give us insight into your plans and help us to live in confidence that what we do reflects your will. In your name we pray.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading Colossians 3:1-11

B: So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, ³for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

⁵Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. ⁷These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life.

⁸But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices¹⁰and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. ¹¹In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 4 (read together)

C: Answer me when I call, faithful God.

**You cleared away my trouble;
be good to me, listen to my prayer.**

**How long, proud fools,
will you insult my honor,
loving lies and chasing shadows?**

**Look! God astounds believers,
the Lord listens when I call.**

Tremble, but do not despair.

**Attend to your heart,
be calm through the night,
worship with integrity,
trust in the Lord.**

**Cynics ask, “Who will bless us?
Even God has turned away.”**

**You give my heart more joy
than all their grain and wine.
I sleep secure at night,
you keep me in your care.**

Second Reading Mark 9:14-10:12

D: When they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and some scribes arguing with them. ¹⁵When the whole crowd saw him, they were immediately overcome with awe, and they ran forward to greet him. ¹⁶He asked them, “What are you arguing about with them?” ¹⁷Someone from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought you my son; he has a spirit that makes him unable to speak; ¹⁸and whenever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, but they could not do so.” ¹⁹He answered them, “You faithless generation, how much longer must I be among you? How much longer must I put up with you? Bring him to me.” ²⁰And they brought the boy to him. When the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. ²¹Jesus asked the father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. ²²It has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you are able to do anything, have pity on us and help us.” ²³Jesus said to him, “If you are able! —All things can be done for the one who believes.” ²⁴Immediately the father of the child cried out, “I believe; help my unbelief!” ²⁵When Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You spirit that keeps this boy from speaking and hearing, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again!” ²⁶After crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, “He is dead.” ²⁷But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he was able to stand. ²⁸When he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” ²⁹He said to them, “This kind can come out only through prayer.”

E: They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” ³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

F: Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” ³⁴But they were

silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” ³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

D: John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.”³⁹ But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. ⁴⁰Whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

E: “If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. ⁴³If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. ⁴⁵And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. ⁴⁷And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched. ⁴⁹“For everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

F: He left that place and went to the region of Judea and beyond the Jordan. And crowds again gathered around him; and, as was his custom, he again taught them.

²Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” ³He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” ⁴They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.” ⁵But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. ⁶But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ⁷‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, ⁸and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

¹⁰Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. ¹¹He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; ¹²and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

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 Have No Fear, Little Flock
(For music see Hymn 764 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Have no fear, little flock;
have no fear, little flock,
for the Father has chosen
to give you the kingdom;
have no fear, little flock!**

2. **Have good cheer, little flock;
have good cheer, little flock,
for the Father will keep you
in his love forever;
have good cheer, little flock!**

3. **Praise the Lord high above;
praise the Lord, high above,
for he stoops down to heal you,
uplift and restore you;
praise the Lord high above!**

4. **Thankful hearts raise to God;
thankful hearts raise to God,
for he stays close beside you,
in all things works with you;
thankful hearts raise to God!**

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.

B: 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.**

B: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

C: pray in the Holy Spirit.

(Jude 20)

B: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

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

B: 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: Relying on you, O God of our salvation, we pray for the church throughout the world, that strengthened by the promises of baptism, we discern your way of truth and justice, and reject the attractive lures of evil. Sustain those Christians who are beset with temptations or hardship. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

F: Distressed by injustice and violence, we pray for leaders who govern in our nation and around the world, that they strive for equality and concord in all things. Visit the people of Myanmar and Sudan and stem the might of tyrants the world over. Be with the missionaries we support: the Rev. Karen Anderson in Chile and the Rev. Matthew Nickoloff in Rochester. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

F: Alert to the difficulties of wintertime, we pray for all who are cold, for all the homeless, for refugees awaiting assistance, and for all whose employment requires them to endure brutal weather. Surround them with a community of concern. 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: You are what God made you to be:
created in Christ Jesus for good works,
chosen as holy and beloved,
freed to serve your neighbor.

God bless you that you may be a blessing,
in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

C: Amen.

Sending 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

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

Announcements

Office Hours

Pastor Jon anticipates being in the office:

Monday –afternoon

Tuesday –afternoon

Wednesday –morning and afternoon

Thursday - morning

He can be available other times by appointment. Please call the church:
(585) 924-5192 or pastor's cell: (585) 281-3595

Church Playground – Girl Scout Gold Project Can & Bottle Collection

Kelsey Sackett is working to replace the church playground for her Girl Scout Gold Award project. Please consider donating your deposit bottles and cans to help pay for it. A collection bin is in the old entrance room.

Giving Up Lint for Lent

This annual collection is the easiest thing you'll have to "give up" for Lent. Save your dryer lint, candle stubs, and worn down crayons and drop them off in the collection box at church. We usually melt the wax into the lint and use it for the fire on Easter Sunday. We may or may not do that this year, but we will use the collected materials for a fun fire sometime in the year!

March Newsletter Deadline

The March newsletter will be put out this week. If you have something for the newsletter please submit it to the church office by Wednesday.

Mid-Week Lenten Worship

Wednesdays in Lent the Genesee Finger Lakes Conference pastors are putting together an online worship series called Created for Community. The worship service itself at 7:00pm and goes until about 7:30. After that the worshippers will be split into two groups. One group will have time for questions and discussion with the worship leaders. The other group will explore a different prayer technique or discipline. The services will use the Zoom platform and our own Jim Spawton will be managing it. You will receive the Zoom link in your email during the weeks of Lent.

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St. John's Lutheran Church

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The Rev. Jonathan Deibler, Pastor
Nathan Cheung, Pianist