



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



*"Let the
little children
come to me"*

Children of God – Mark 10:13-31

February 28, 2021

10:30 Service of the Word

How do you get to heaven and how hard is the way? These are the questions many people ask. Our gospel reading will give us the answer – it's impossible! But God can do the impossible, so it is to God we turn and upon God that we rely.

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.

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 What Wondrous Love Is This
(For music turn to Hymn 666 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!**
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this
that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?
2. **When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,**
when I was sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down
beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.
3. **To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,**
to God and to the Lamb I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb,
who is the great I Am,
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme, I will sing.
4. **And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;**
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free,
I'll sing his love for me,
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
And through eternity I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt. Music: W Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835; arr. Paul J. Christiansen, 1914-1997, alt.
Arr. copyright 1955 Augsburg Publishing House

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...

O God, by the death of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us a means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading Romans 3:21-26

B: ²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 53 (*read together*)

C: Fools tell themselves,

“There is no God.”

**Their actions are corrupt,
none of them does good.**

**The Lord looks down
to see if anyone is wise,
if anyone seeks God.**

**But all are worthless,
all are depraved.**

**No one does good,
not even one.**

Are these evil-doers mad?

They eat up my people

**like so much bread;
they never pray.
They should cringe in fear
as never before,
since God will scatter their bones.
Your attackers may shame you,
but God rejects them.
Let God send victory from Zion
and restore the people's fortunes!
Then Jacob will sing,
and Israel rejoice.**

Gospel Acclamation (Mark 10:27)

C: For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.

Gospel Reading Mark 10:13-31

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 10th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

¹³People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." ¹⁶And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

¹⁷As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁸Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.'" ²⁰He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." ²¹Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." ²²When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

²³Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" ²⁴And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵It is easier for a

camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”²⁶ They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?”²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

²⁸Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.”²⁹ Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news,³⁰ who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life.³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

After the reading:

P: The gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Will You Come and Follow Me

For music turn to Hymn 798 in the Red Hymnal

1. **“Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?”**
2. **“Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare,
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer pray'r in you and you in me?”**
3. **“Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the pris'ners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?”**
4. **“Will you love the you you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?”**

**Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"**

- 5. Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.**

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949, copyright 1987 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. Music: Scottish Traditional

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.

D: 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.**

D: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

C: pray in the Holy Spirit.

(Jude 20)

D: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

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

D: 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: Bless the earth. Save the animals and their habitats from wild and uncontrolled weather. Teach humanity to live respectful of nature and to join you in tending to creation's well-being. We also thank you for the delight we have in exploring the universe you created. Guide us to put to good use the things we learn from the current Mars mission. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

B: God of mercy and might, bless your church throughout the world. Uphold those believers who suffer for the sake of your gospel. Strengthen the faith of all the baptized, and make your presence felt by those unable to assemble for worship. 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.

D: Bless the nations of the world. Raise up advocates for peace and justice within and between nations. Give life where hope seems dead; call into existence new realities we cannot even imagine. Lead all people around the world to receive the COVID-19 vaccine with gratitude to you. Grant to our Congress the wisdom and the will to improve the lives of all our residents. 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 Go, My Children, with My Blessing
(For music see Hymn 543 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **“Go, my children, with my blessing,
never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you,
you are my own.
In my love’s baptismal river
I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing,
you are my own.”**

2. **“Go, my children, sins forgiven,
at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you,
what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son’s story,
here you touched him, saw his glory.
God, my children, sins forgiven,
at peace and pure.”**

3. **“Go, my children, fed and nourished,
closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving,
joyful and free.
Here my Spirit’s power filled you,
here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished,
joyful and free.”**

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt. Copyright 1983 Concordia Publishing House. Music: Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958, Copyright Oxford University Press

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **God’s Work. Our Hands.**

Live Streaming Church



The more things change, the more they remain the same!

Announcements

Office Hours

Pastor Jon anticipates being in the office:

Monday –morning and 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!

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.

Scripture readings from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible* copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States. Psalm from *The Psalter* copyright 1994, Liturgical Training Publications. Variable worship texts from *Sundays and Seasons 2021* copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress.

St. John's Lutheran Church

888 County Road 9, Victor, NY 14564
stjohnsvictor.com (585) 924-5192

The Rev. Jonathan Deibler, Pastor
Nathan Cheung, Pianist