



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## *Feeding of the 5000 – Mark 6:30-44*

*February 4, 2024*

*10:30 Holy Communion*

In today's first reading God invites all who are hungry or thirsty to receive food and drink without cost. Jesus feeds the hungry multitude and reveals the abundance of God. At the Eucharistic table we remember all who are hungry or poor in our world today. As we share the bread of life, we are sent forth to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry.

### *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

Gathering Hymn Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak  
(For music see Hymn 676 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Lord, speak to us, that we may speak  
in living echoes of your tone;  
as you have sought, so let us seek  
your straying children, lost and lone.**
2. **Oh, lead us, Lord, that we may lead  
the wand'ring and the wav'ring feet;  
oh, feed us, Lord, that we may feed  
your hung'ring ones with manna sweet.**
3. **Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach  
the precious truths which you impart;  
and wing our words, that they may reach  
the hidden depths of many-a heart.**
4. **Oh, fill us with your fullness, Lord,  
until our very hearts o'erflow  
in kindling thought and glowing word,  
your love to tell, your praise to show.**

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, alt. Music: Robert Schumann, 1810-1856.

## 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,  
creator of darkness and light,  
word of truth,  
wind sweeping over the waters.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

## Silence for reflection and self-examination

P: God, our rock and refuge,

**C: we pour out our hearts before you.  
We have known you but have not always loved you.  
We have wounded one another  
and sinned against you.  
We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit  
dwelling in each of us.  
Remember your covenant.  
Renew your creation.  
Restore us,  
that we might proclaim your good news to all.  
Amen.**

P: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.  
God has spoken:  
The time of grace is now.  
In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.  
By the authority of Jesus Christ,  
your sins are forgiven.  
You are God's beloved.  
**C: Amen.**

*Hymn of Praise* Now the Feast and Celebration  
(For music turn to Hymn 789 in the Blue Hymnal)

*Refrain*

**Now the feast and celebration,  
all of creation sings for joy  
to the God of life and love and freedom  
praise and glory forevermore!**

- 1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain,  
whose blood has freed and united us  
to be one great people of God.** *Refrain*
- 2. Power and riches, wisdom and might,  
all honor and glory to Christ forever.** *Refrain*
- 3. For God has come to dwell with us,  
to make us people of God;  
to make all things new.** *Refrain*

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray.

Glorious God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

† WORD †

First Reading Isaiah 55:1-5

B: Ho, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;

and you that have no money,  
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.

<sup>2</sup>Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.

<sup>3</sup>Incline your ear, and come to me;  
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.

<sup>4</sup>See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.

<sup>5</sup>See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Scripture Poetry Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21 (*read responsively*)

D: Gracious and merciful is the Lord,  
slow to anger, full of love.

**C: The Lord is good in every way,  
merciful to every creature.**

D: The Lord supports the fallen,  
raises those bowed down.

**C: The eyes of all look to you,  
you give them food in due time.**

D: You open wide your hand  
to feed all living things.

**C: The Lord is just in every way,  
loving in every deed.**

D: The Lord is near to those who call,  
who cry out from their hearts.

**C: God grants them their desires,  
hears their cry and saves them.**

D: Those who love God are kept alive;  
the wicked, the Lord destroys.

**C: I will sing the Lord's praise,  
all flesh will bless God's Name,  
holy, both now and forever.**

*Gospel Acclamation (Matthew 4:4)*

**C: Alleluia. One does not live by bread alone, but from every word  
that comes from the mouth of God. Alleluia.**

*Gospel Reading* Mark 6:30-44

*The gospel is announced:*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you O Lord.**

<sup>30</sup>The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. <sup>31</sup>He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. <sup>32</sup>And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. <sup>33</sup>Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. <sup>34</sup>As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. <sup>35</sup>When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; <sup>36</sup>send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat." <sup>37</sup>But he answered them, "You give them something to eat." They said to him, "Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread, and give it to them to eat?" <sup>38</sup>And he said to them, "How many loaves have you? Go and see." When they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish." <sup>39</sup>Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. <sup>40</sup>So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. <sup>41</sup>Taking the five loaves and

the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and he divided the two fish among them all. <sup>42</sup>And all ate and were filled; <sup>43</sup>and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. <sup>44</sup>Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

*After the reading:*

P: The gospel of the Lord

**C: Praise to you O Christ.**

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ  
(For music turn to Hymn 674 the Red Hymnal)

1. **Let us talents and tongues employ,  
Reaching out with a shout of joy;  
Bread is broken, the wine is poured,  
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.**

*Refrain (sung twice after each verse)*

**Jesus lives again,  
earth can breathe again,  
Pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

2. **Christ is able to make us one,  
At the table he sets the tone,  
Teaching people to live to bless,  
Love in word and in deed express.** *Refrain*

3. **Jesus calls us in, sends us out  
Bearing fruit in a world of doubt,  
Gives us love to tell, bread to share:  
God (Immanuel) ev'rywhere!** *Refrain*

Text: Frank Kaan, b. 1929, Music: Jamaican Folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925-1980, Copyright 1975 Hope Publishing Company

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.

*The pastor will begin the prayer with a petition and then invites the congregation to add additional petitions and thanksgivings. Please conclude your petition with: Lord in your mercy,*

*The congregation will respond: **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*

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.*

† MEAL †

Special Music

Hymn of Thanksgiving Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful Lord  
*For music turn to page 35 in the Blue Hymnal*

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,  
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.  
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,  
that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;  
unite them with the prayers we offer now.  
Grace our table with your presence, Lord,  
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray: Blessed are you, Holy One,  
**C: for all good things come from you.  
In bread and cup you open heaven to us.  
Meet us at this table,  
that we may receive what we seek  
and follow you Son, Jesus,  
in whose name we pray. Amen.**

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. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son, and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. 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: At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one.  
Come and see.

### Communion Distribution

*Welcome to the Lord's Supper! All who are baptized are invited to receive communion. Please pick up a communion glass as you come forward to the altar. You will receive bread from the communion assistant. (If you need a gluten free wafer please tell the assistant.) The pastor will pour wine into your glass. If you prefer grape juice it is prefilled 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)*

**87** *There Is None Like You (Songbook Binder)*

**102** *Beauty for Brokenness (Songbook Binder)*

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: Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

### Blessing

P: God who names you,  
Christ who claims you,  
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,  
bless you and remain with you always.

**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.**

**Worship assistants TODAY:**

Greeters and Ushers     Janice Lockwood  
Acolyte                     Alyssa Young  
Altar Care                 Linn Griffo  
Communion Assistant     Christine Campbell  
Counters                    Bill and Katy Stimmel  
Coffee Hour

**Worship assistants for next Sunday, February 11**

Greeters and Ushers     Phyllis Henderson  
Acolyte                     Thomas Bullwinkle  
Counters                    Babette Huber and Nancy Shuler  
Coffee Hour

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