



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Matthew 11:20-30 Wisdom

February 5, 2023

10:30 Holy Communion

What would it take to convince you that God is active? Some people demand high levels of proof. Other people seek to find patterns and meanings in earthly events that can be used to point to God. In today's gospel reading we'll hear about several communities that received Jesus' presence and his miracles but did not respond. What will be the consequences for their ignorance?

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 Give Me Jesus

(For music see Hymn 770 in the Red Hymnal)

**1. In the morning when I rise,
in the morning when I rise,
in the morning when I rise,
give me Jesus.**

*Refrain: Give me Jesus,
give me Jesus.
You may have all the rest,
give me Jesus.*

**2. Dark midnight was my cry,
dark midnight was my cry,
dark midnight was my cry,
give me Jesus. *Refrain***

**3. Just about the break of day,
just about the break of day,
just about the break of day,
give me Jesus. *Refrain***

**4. Oh, when I come to die,
oh, when I come to die,
oh, when I come to die,
give me Jesus. *Refrain***

**5. And when I want to sing,
and when I want to sing,
and when I want to sing,
give me Jesus. *Refrain***

Text: African American spiritual. Music: African American spiritual; arr. hymnal version, copyright 2006 Augsburg Fortress

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,
who makes all things new,
whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P: Holy One, source of our renewal,

**C: we confess that we are wrapped up in sin,
and cannot free ourselves.**

We have not practiced your righteousness.

Our hearts have turned away from you.

**For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us,
that we may be reconciled to one another
for the glory of your holy name.**

Amen.

P: Thus says our God:

“The former things have come to pass
and new things I now declare.”

God's mercy makes us new.

We are forgiven in the name of Christ our Savior.

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.

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading Proverbs 8

Does not wisdom call,
and does not understanding raise her voice?

²On the heights, beside the way,
at the crossroads she takes her stand;

³beside the gates in front of the town,
at the entrance of the portals she cries out:

⁴“To you, O people, I call,
and my cry is to all that live.

⁵O simple ones, learn prudence;
acquire intelligence, you who lack it.

⁶Hear, for I will speak noble things,
and from my lips will come what is right;

⁷for my mouth will utter truth;
wickedness is an abomination to my lips.

⁸All the words of my mouth are righteous;
there is nothing twisted or crooked in them.

⁹They are all straight to one who understands
and right to those who find knowledge.

¹⁰Take my instruction instead of silver,
and knowledge rather than choice gold;

¹¹for wisdom is better than jewels,
and all that you may desire cannot compare with her.

¹²I, wisdom, live with prudence,
and I attain knowledge and discretion.

¹³The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil.
Pride and arrogance and the way of evil
and perverted speech I hate.

¹⁴I have good advice and sound wisdom;
I have insight, I have strength.

¹⁵By me kings reign,

and rulers decree what is just;

¹⁶by me rulers rule,

and nobles, all who govern rightly.

¹⁷I love those who love me,

and those who seek me diligently find me.

¹⁸Riches and honor are with me,

enduring wealth and prosperity.

¹⁹My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold,

and my yield than choice silver.

²⁰I walk in the way of righteousness,

along the paths of justice,

²¹endowing with wealth those who love me,

and filling their treasuries.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Proverbs 8:22-31 (read responsively)

D: The LORD created me at the beginning of his work,
the first of his acts of long ago.

**C: Ages ago I was set up,
at the first, before the beginning of the earth.**

D: When there were no depths I was brought forth,
when there were no springs abounding with water.

**C: Before the mountains had been shaped,
before the hills, I was brought forth—**

D: when he had not yet made earth and fields,
or the world's first bits of soil.

**C: When he established the heavens, I was there,
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,**

D: when he made firm the skies above,
when he established the fountains of the deep,

**C: when he assigned to the sea its limit,
so that the waters might not transgress his command,
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,**

D: then I was beside him, like a master worker;

**C: and I was daily his delight,
rejoicing before him always,
rejoicing in his inhabited world
and delighting in the human race.**

Second Reading Proverbs 8:32-36

³²“And now, my children, listen to me:

happy are those who keep my ways.

³³Hear instruction and be wise,
and do not neglect it.

³⁴Happy is the one who listens to me,
watching daily at my gates,
waiting beside my doors.

³⁵For whoever finds me finds life
and obtains favor from the LORD;

³⁶but those who miss me injure themselves;
all who hate me love death.”

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Matthew 11:25)

C: Alleluia. Blessed are you Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed these things to infants. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading Matthew 11:20-30

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 11th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

²⁰Then he began to reproach the cities in which most of his deeds of power had been done, because they did not repent. ²¹“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. ²²But I tell you, on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon than for you. ²³And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? No, you will be brought down to Hades. For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. ²⁴But I tell you that on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom than for you.”

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn

from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

After the reading:

P: The gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Come, Join the Dance of Trinity
(For music see Hymn 412 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Come, join the dance of Trinity,
Before all worlds begun-
the interweaving of the Three,
the Father, Spirit, Son.
The universe of space and time
did not arise by chance,
but as the Three, in love and hope,
made room within their dance.**
2. **Come, see the face of Trinity,
newborn in Bethlehem;
then bloodied by a crown of thorns
outside Jerusalem.
The dance of Trinity is meant
for human flesh and bone;
when fear confines the dance in death,
God rolls away the stone.**
3. **Come, speak aloud of Trinity,
as wind and tongues of flame
set people free at Pentecost
to tell the Savior's name.
We know the yoke of sin and death,
our necks have worn it smooth;
go tell the world of weight and woe
that we are free to move!**
4. **Within the dance of Trinity,
before all worlds begun,
we sing the praises of the Three,**

**the Father, Spirit, Son.
Let voices rise and interweave,
by love and hope set free,
to shape in song this joy, this life;
the dance of Trinity.**

Text: Richard Leach, b. 1953, copyright 2001 Selah Publishing Co., Inc. Music: English folk tune

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: Liberating God,

**C: you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free.
Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful
power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we
magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior. 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.**

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 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)

9 Communion Response (Songbook Binder)

75 Feed Us Now (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:

Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you.

C: Amen.

† SENDING †

Blessing

P: The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn In the Secret/Do Justice Medley
(For music turn to Hymn 59 in the Songbook binder)

1. **In the secret, in the quiet place,
In the stillness You are there.
In the secret, in the quiet hour I wait
Only for You, 'cause I want to know You more.**

Refrain (1) **I want to know You. I want to hear Your voice.
I want to know You more.
I want to touch You. I want to see Your face.
I want to know You more.**

2. **I am reaching for the highest goal
That I might receive the prize.
Pressing onward, pushing ev'ry hindrance aside,
Out of my way, 'cause I want to know You more. *Refrain (1)***

3. **Racing around, chasing idols,
unfulfilled, empty vessels.
World on the edge, out of control,
will we survive, God only knows.**

Refrain (2): **Do justice, love mercy,
Walk humbly, with our God, with our God.**

4. **People broken, falling pieces,
dignity lost, loving ceases.**

**Hopeless eyes, lonely faces,
Yearning hearts, hurting places. Refrain (2)**

**3. Deadly hunger, desp'rate crying,
Wounded living, children dying.
Nails in the flesh, piercing fear,
Why can't we see Christ hanging here? Refrain (2)**

**Refrain (1) I want to know You. I want to hear Your voice.
I want to know You more.
I want to touch You. I want to see Your face.
I want to know You more.**

Text and music: Andy Park, Copyright 1995 Mercy/Vinyard Publishing, CCLI #1810119

Dismissal

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

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	Sue Kaufmann
Acolyte	Thomas Bullwinkle
Altar Care	Mary Zuege
Communion Assistant	Linda Flood
Counters	Bill and Katy Stimmel
Coffee Hour	

Worship assistants for next Sunday, February 12

Greeters and Ushers	Gray Wood
Acolyte	Own Young
Counters	Burdie Gillern and Sue Kaufmann
Coffee Hour	

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