

**St. John’s Lutheran Church**

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*Mark 2-3*

*January 10, 2021 10:30 Service of the Word*

Today we move into the second and third chapters of Mark’s gospel. We’ll discover that Jesus is doing great work. He’s healing many, preaching good news and sharing the love of God. Nevertheless he’s upsetting many people, especially the religious leaders. It is easy to scoff at the hypocrisy of these leaders, but when we discover their motives we realize they are a lot like ourselves. May we be able to rejoice in the work of our savior even when it threatens our way of life.

*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.

OPENING 

*Welcome and Announcements*

*Confession and Forgiveness*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who stretches out the heavens, who sends light to the nations, who gives breath to us all.

**C: Amen.**

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

*(A moment of silence for reflection)*

P: Loving God,

**C: we confess that we have turned from your way**

**to follow our own ways.**

**Forgive us for the times**

**we have spoken too quickly;**

**we have not spoken or acted at all;**

**we have hurt those closest to us;**

**we have hurt those we have yet to know;**

**we have thought more about ourselves than others;**

**we have thought less of ourselves than we ought.**

**Turn us around and give us a fresh start,**

**so that we can live again as your children. Amen.**

P: Even when we have done wrong, God makes us right.

Even when we have messed up, God puts us together.

God’s love never runs out.

God never tires of calling us beloved children.

Hear God say to you now:

Your sins are forgiven,

for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen**

*Opening Hymn* I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

*For music turn to Hymn 815 in the Red Hymnal*

*1.* **I want to walk as a child of the light.**

**I want to follow Jesus.**

**God set the stars to give light to the world.**

**The star of my life is Jesus.**

*Refrain* **In him there is no darkness at all.**

**The night and the day are both alike.**

**The Lamb is the light of the city of God.**

**Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

*2.* **I want to see… the brightness of God.**

**I want to look at Jesus.**

**Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,**

**and show me the way to the Father.** *Refrain*

*3.* **I’m looking for… the coming of Christ.**

**I want to be with Jesus.**

**When we have run… with patience the race,**

**we shall know the joy of Jesus.** *Refrain*

Text and music: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934, copyright 1970,1975 Celebration

*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 (John 1)*

P: In the beginning was the Word,

**C: and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

P: In the Word was life,

**C: and the life was the light of all people.**

P: The Word became flesh and lived among us,

**C: and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.**

*Prayer of the Day*

A: Let us pray...

Eternal God, amid all the turmoil and dangers of the world your love is steadfast and your strength never fails. In this time be to us a sure guardian and rock of defense. Guide the leaders of our nation with your wisdom, comfort those in distress, and grant us courage and hope to face the future; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

WORD 

*Scripture Poetry* Psalm 3:1-7 *(read responsively)*

**C: Lord, how daunting the armies**

**massed against me!**

**All of them jeer at me,**

**“God will not save you.”**

**But you are my shield, Lord,**

**my reason to boast;**

**you hold my head high.**

**When I call, you answer**

**from your holy mountain.**

**I rest easy at night**

**and rise in the morning**

**sure of God’s protection.**

**I do not fear thousands**

**standing against me.**

*Bible Reading* Mark 2-3

B: When [Jesus] returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. 2So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. 3Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. 4And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay.5When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” 6Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, 7“Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” 8At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, “Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? 9Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Stand up and take your mat and walk’? 10But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins” —he said to the paralytic— 11“I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home.” 12And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

D: Jesus went out again beside the sea; the whole crowd gathered around him, and he taught them. 14As he was walking along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him. 15And as he sat at dinner in Levi’s house, many tax collectors and sinners were also sitting with Jesus and his disciples—for there were many who followed him. 16When the scribes of the Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, they said to his disciples, “Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?” 17When Jesus heard this, he said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.”

E: Now John’s disciples and the Pharisees were fasting; and people came and said to him, “Why do John’s disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?” 19Jesus said to them, “The wedding guests cannot fast while the bridegroom is with them, can they? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. 20The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast on that day.

21“No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak; otherwise, the patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made.22And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins; but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins.”

P: One sabbath he was going through the grainfields; and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. 24The Pharisees said to him, “Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?”25And he said to them, “Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need of food? 26He entered the house of God, when Abiathar was high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and he gave some to his companions.” 27Then he said to them, “The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath; 28so the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath.”

B: Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. 2They watched him to see whether he would cure him on the sabbath, so that they might accuse him. 3And he said to the man who had the withered hand, “Come forward.” 4Then he said to them, “Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to kill?” But they were silent. 5He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. 6The Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

D: Jesus departed with his disciples to the sea, and a great multitude from Galilee followed him; 8hearing all that he was doing, they came to him in great numbers from Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, beyond the Jordan, and the region around Tyre and Sidon. 9He told his disciples to have a boat ready for him because of the crowd, so that they would not crush him; 10for he had cured many, so that all who had diseases pressed upon him to touch him. 11Whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and shouted, “You are the Son of God!” 12But he sternly ordered them not to make him known.

E: He went up the mountain and called to him those whom he wanted, and they came to him. 14And he appointed twelve, whom he also named apostles, to be with him, and to be sent out to proclaim the message,15and to have authority to cast out demons. 16So he appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); 17James son of Zebedee and John the brother of James (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder); 18and Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Cananaean, 19and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

P: Then he went home; 20and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. 21When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, “He has gone out of his mind.” 22And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, “He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.” 23And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? 24If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. 25And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. 26And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. 27But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

28“Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; 29but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”— 30for they had said, “He has an unclean spirit.”

31Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. 32A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.” 33And he replied, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” 34And looking at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! 35Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

*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*  Lord of the Dance

*(for music, see Hymn 24 in the Songbook)*

*1.* **I danced in the morning when the world was begun**

**and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun**

**and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth;**

**at Bethlehem I had my birth.**

*Refrain:*

**Dance, dance wherever you may be;**

**I am the Lord of the dance said he.**

**“And I’ll lead you all, wherever you may be,**

**and I’ll lead you all in the dance,” said he.**

*2.* **I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,**

**and they would not dance and they wouldn’t follow me.**

**I danced for the fishermen and James and John;**

**They came with me and the dance went on.** *Refrain*

*3.* **I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;**

**the holy people said it was a shame;**

**they whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high,**

**they left me there on the cross to die.** *Refrain*

*4.* **I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;**

**it’s hard to dance with the devil on your back.**

**They buried my body and they thought I’d gone,**

**but I am the dance and I still go on.** *Refrain*

*5.* **They cut me down and I leapt up high;**

**I am the life that will never, never die,**

**And I’ll live in you if you live in me,**

**for I am the Lord of the dance, said he.** *Refrain*

Text: Sydney Carter. Music: American Folk Tune. Copyright 1963 Stainer and Bell, Ltd. (Admin. by Hope Publishing Company)

*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.**

E: 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.**

E: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

**C: pray in the Holy Spirit.** *(Jude 20)*

E: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

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

E: 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: For the nations of the world and their leaders; for international efforts to prevent war and reduce violence; for the armed forces; for police officers; and for peacemakers: that God inspire all people to work for the well-being of others. Lord in your mercy…  
**C: Hear our prayer.**

B: Be with the worldwide church; for those who minister in the church; for all who will be baptized this year; and for their godparents and sponsors; and for the missionaries we support: the Rev. Karen Anderson and the Rev. Matthew Nickoloff - that the Holy Spirit will empower all the faithful for lives of service. Lord in your mercy…  
**C: Hear our prayer.**

E: For students; for teachers and school administrators; for parents assisting their children in home schooling; and for young people who are finding a way toward graduation: that as the academic year resumes, God give resilience to everyone in the search for education. 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: May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*Sending Hymn* Shine, Jesus, Shine

*For music turn to Hymn 671 in the Red Hymnal*

*Refrain*

**Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father’s glory;**

**blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.**

**Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;**

**send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!**

*1.* **Lord, the light of your love is shining,**

**in the midst of the darkness, shining;**

**Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us,**

**set us free by the truth you now bring us.**

**Shine on me,**

**shine on me:**  *Refrain*

*2.* **As we gaze on your kingly brightness,**

**so our faces display your likeness,**

**ever changing from glory to glory,**

**mirrored here, may our lives tell your story.**

**Shine on me,**

**shine on me:** *Refrain*

Text and Music: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950, copyright 1987 Make Way Music, admin. Music Services in the Western Hemisphere

*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

Thursday – morning and afternoon

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.

**2021 Annual Meeting**

The 2021 annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday January 31th after the 10:30 worship service. It will take place via Zoom; being a continuation of the same link we used for worship. There will be the usual items on the agenda: review of reports, elections for church council, and the church budget. If you have any questions please talk to Pastor Jon before the meeting.

**Church Council Positions**

We will have three open Council positions to elect at our upcoming annual meeting. Council meets once a month (except no meeting in July) from 7:00-9:00 PM traditionally on the third Monday of the month, but that date can be changed to suit the schedules of the council members. If you are interested in serving on this team, please see Gary Wood or Pastor Jon.

**Offering Envelopes**

2021 offering envelopes are available on a table in the gathering area. You can stop by church and pick yours up. If you need access to the building and don’t remember the code for the key please ask Pastor Jon.

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The Rev. Jonathan Deibler, Transitional Pastor

Lawrence Dapolito, Organist