



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Jesus' First Missionaries

January 22, 2023 10:30 Service of the Word

In today's gospel we hear Jesus' words of advice to his disciples as he sends them out on their first missionary journey. They are heading out with the amazing news of God's love. This is good news! People will greet them with open arms, right? Maybe not. Maybe this missionary work won't be so easy. The world is still just as much in need of the gospel as ever. We discover some of the same challenges the disciples faced. Therefore we have been warned, but we continue undaunted because of God's great faithfulness.

Welcome to worship today!

If you are a visitor 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

Apostles' Greeting

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.

Gathering Hymn Give Thanks

(For music turn to Hymn 12 in the Songbook binder)

Verse

Give thanks with a grateful heart,

Give thanks to the Holy One,

Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, His Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart,

**Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, His Son.**

Chorus

**And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"
Let the poor say, "I am rich,
Because of what the Lord has done for us."
And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"
Let the poor say, "I am rich,
Because of what the Lord has done for us."**

Repeat Verse and Chorus

Text and music: Henry Smith, Copyright 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music; CCLI #20285

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...

Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

B: ²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification

and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Proverbs 11:23-30 (*read responsively*)

D: The desire of the righteous ends only in good;
the expectation of the wicked in wrath.

**C: Some give freely, yet grow all the richer;
others withhold what is due, and only suffer want.**

D: A generous person will be enriched,
and one who gives water will get water.

**C: The people curse those who hold back grain,
but a blessing is on the head of those who sell it.**

D: Whoever diligently seeks good seeks favor,
but evil comes to the one who searches for it.

**C: Those who trust in their riches will wither,
but the righteous will flourish like green leaves.**

D: Those who trouble their households will inherit wind,
and the fool will be servant to the wise.

**C: The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life,
but violence takes lives away.**

Gospel Acclamation (*Matthew 10:37*)

**C: Alleluia. The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;
³⁸therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his
harvest Alleluia.**

Gospel Reading Matthew 9:35-11:1

The gospel is announced:

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

C: Glory to you O Lord.

³⁵Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every

sickness. ²These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

⁵These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ ⁸Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. ⁹Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, ¹⁰no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food. ¹¹Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. ¹²As you enter the house, greet it. ¹³If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

¹⁶“See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. ¹⁷Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; ¹⁸and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. ¹⁹When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; ²⁰for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. ²¹Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; ²²and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ²³When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes. ²⁴“A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; ²⁵it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! ²⁶“So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body

in hell. ²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. ³²“Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; ³³but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven. ³⁴“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; ³⁶and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household. ³⁷Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; ³⁸and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ⁴⁰“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; ⁴²and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

Now when Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and proclaim his message in their cities.

After the reading:

P: The gospel of the Lord

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

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day This Little Light of Mine

(For music see Hymn 677 in the Red Hymnal)

- 1. This little light of mine, I’m goin’ a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I’m goin’ a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I’m goin’ a let it shine;
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**
- 2. Ev’rywhere I go, I’m goin’ a let it shine;
ev’rywhere I go, I’m goin’ a let it shine;**

ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine;
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

3. Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'a let it shine;
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Text and music: African American Spiritual

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.**

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.

Special Music

Hymn of Thanksgiving As the offering is brought forward:

Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil

For music turn to Hymn 713 in the Blue Hymnal

Lord, let my heart be good soil,

open to the seed of your Word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil,

where love can grow and peace is understood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone away.

When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.

When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,

Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text and music: Handt Hanson, b. 1950, Copyright 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing/Changing Church, Inc.

‡ PRAYER ‡

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 justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior. 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.

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: 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 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?"**

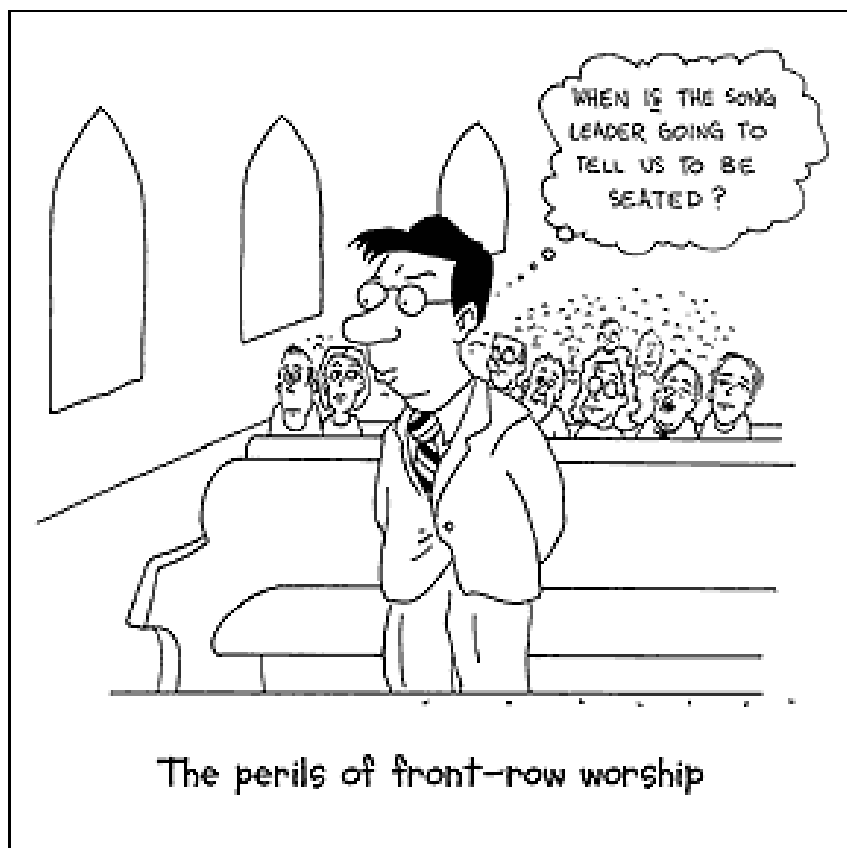
- 5. Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.**

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

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: God's work. Our hands.



The perils of front-row worship

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers Mary and Greg Zuege
Acolyte Creed White
Counters John and Linda Thompson
Coffee Hour Annual Meeting - Sandwiches

Worship assistants for next Sunday, January 29

Greeters and Ushers John and Linda Thompson
Acolyte Owen Young
Counters Bill and Katy Stimmel
Coffee Hour

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