



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



The Kingdom Grows The Resistance Grows

January 28, 2024

10:30 Service of the Word

Jesus is getting more famous. He's bringing the kingdom of God into reality! Good news!.. but not for everyone. Earlier in Mark's gospel we've met resistance from those who do not like what Jesus is doing. Today we see the stakes are getting higher. Those who dare to speak God's truth may end up paying the ultimate price.

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

Confession and Forgiveness

L: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God,
creator of darkness and light,
word of truth,
wind sweeping over the waters.

C: Amen.

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

Silence for reflection and self-examination

L: 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.

L: 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.

Gathering Hymn Rise Up, O Saints of God!
(For music see Hymn 669 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Rise up, O saints of God!**
From vain ambitions turn;
Christ rose triumphant that your hearts
with nobler zeal might burn.
2. **Speak out, O saints of God!**
Despair engulfs earth's frame;
as heirs of God's baptismal grace,
the word of hope proclaim.
3. **Rise up, O saints of God!**
The kingdom's task embrace;
redress sin's cruel consequence;
give justice larger place.
4. **Give heed, O saints of God!**
Creation cries in pain;
stretch forth your hand of healing now,
with love the weak sustain.
5. **Commit your hearts to seek**
the paths which Christ has trod;
and, quickened by the Spirit's pow'r,
rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936, copyright Norman O Forness, admin. Augsburg Fortress.. Music: William H. Walter, 1825-1893

Greeting (2 Corinthians 13:13)

L: 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)

A: In the beginning was the Word,

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

A: In the Word was life,

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

A: 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...

Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading Isaiah 61:1-3

B: The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;

he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;

²to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;

³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 141 (*read responsively*)

D: Hurry, Lord! I call and call!

Listen! I plead with you.

**C: Let my prayer rise like incense,
my upraised hands, like an evening sacrifice.**

D: Lord, guard my lips,
watch my every word.

**C: Let me never speak evil
or consider hateful deeds,
let me never join the wicked**

to eat their lavish meals.

D: If the just correct me,
I take their rebuke as kindness,
but the unction of the wicked
will never touch my head.
I pray and pray
against their hateful ways.

**C: Let them be thrown
against a rock in judgment,
then they will know
I spoke the truth.**

D: Then they will say,
“Our bones like broken upon the ground,
scattered at the grave’s edge.”

**C: Lord, my God, I turn to you,
in you I find safety.
Do not strip me of life.**

D: Do not spring on me
the traps of the wicked.

**C: Let evildoers get tangled
in their own nets,
but let me escape.**

Second Reading Ephesians 4:1-6

E: I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called,
²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Mark 6:2)

**C: Alleluia. On the Sabbath Jesus began to teach in the synagogue,
and many who heard him were astounded. Alleluia.**

Gospel Reading Mark 6:1-29

The gospel is announced:

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 6th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

[Jesus] left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. ²On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! ³Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. ⁴Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." ⁵And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. ⁶And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. ⁷He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; ⁹but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. ¹⁰He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. ¹¹If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." ¹²So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. ¹³They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

¹⁴King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." ¹⁵But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." ¹⁶But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

¹⁷For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. ¹⁸For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." ¹⁹And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, ²⁰for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. ²¹But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. ²²When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for

whatever you wish, and I will give it.”²³ And he solemnly swore to her, “Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom.”²⁴ She went out and said to her mother, “What should I ask for?” She replied, “The head of John the baptizer.”²⁵ Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, “I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.”²⁶ The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her.²⁷ Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John’s head. He went and beheaded him in the prison,²⁸ brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother.²⁹ When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

After the reading:

L: The gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon Thoughts from Herod and Jesus

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

Peace

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

L: 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

L: 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.

Prayers of Intercession “Draw Me to Yourself” in *Guerillas of Grace* by
Ted Loder

Lord's Prayer

L: 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

L: 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 Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing
(For music see Hymn 886 in the Red Hymnal)

- 1. Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and king,
the triumphs of his grace!**
- 2. My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honor of your name.**
- 3. The name of Jesus charms our fears**

**and bids our sorrows cease,
sings music in the sinner's ears,
brings life and health and peace.**

- 4. He speaks, and list'ning to his voice,
new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.**
- 5. Look unto him, your Savior own,
O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone,
be justified by grace!**
- 6. To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav'n.**

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt. Music: Carl G. Glaser, 1784-1928; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: God's work. Our hands.



Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers Linda Flood
Acolyte Thomas Bullwinkle
Counters John and Linda Thompson
Coffee Hour

Worship assistants for next Sunday, February 4

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

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