



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Jesus & John the Baptist

January 29, 2023 10:30 Service of the Word

In today's gospel John the Baptist will ask of Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Apparently Jesus isn't living up to John's expectations. In reply Jesus asks the crowds who they think John is. John isn't fitting into people's expectations either! God's is at work in both men even if the world didn't see it.

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 Sanctuary

(For music turn to Hymn 90 in the Songbook binder)

Chorus

**Lord prepare me
To be a sanctuary
Pure and holy
Tried and true**

**With thanksgiving
I'll be a living
Sanctuary for You**

- 1. It is You, Lord,
who came to save
the heart and soul of
every one.
It is You, Lord,
who knows my weakness,
who gives me strength with
Thine own hand.**
- 2. Lead me on Lord,
from temptation.
Purify me
from within.
Fill my heart, Lord,
with Your Holy Spirit.
Take away
all my sin. *Chorus***

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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...

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading Isaiah 35:3-6

B: Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 146:5-10 (*read responsively*)

D: They are wise who depend on God,
who look to Jacob’s Lord,

**C: creator of heaven and earth,
maker of the teeming sea.**

D: The Lord keeps faith for ever,
giving food to the hungry,

**C: justice to the poor,
freedom to captives.**

D: The Lord opens blind eyes
and straightens the bent,

**C: comforting widows and orphans,
protecting the stranger.**

D: The Lord loves the just
but blocks the path of the wicked.

**C: Zion, praise the Lord!
Your God reigns for ever,
from generation to generation.
Hallelujah!**

Second Reading James 5:7-10

E: Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it

until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Matthew 11:10)

C: Alleluia. I am sending my messenger before you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia

Gospel Reading Matthew 11:1-20

The gospel is announced:

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

C: Glory to you O Lord.

Now when Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and proclaim his message in their cities. ²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” ⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John came; ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵Let anyone with ears listen!

¹⁶“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;

we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

After the reading:

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate
(For music see Hymn 722 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **O Christ, your heart, compassionate,
bore ev’ry human pain.
Its beating was the pulse of God;
its breadth, God’s vast domain.
The heart of God, the heart of Christ
Combined in perfect rhyme
to write God’s love in human deeds,
eternity in time.**
2. **As once you welcomed those cast down
and healed the sick, the blind,
so may all bruised and broken lives
through us your help still find.
Lord, join our hearts with those who weep
that none may weep alone,
and help us bear another’s pain
as though it were our own.**
3. **O Christ, create new hearts in us
that beat in time with yours,
that, joined by faith with your great heart,
become love’s open doors.
We are your body, risen Christ;
our hearts, our hands we yield
that through our life and ministry
your love may be revealed.**
4. **O Love that made the distant stars,
yet marks the sparrow’s fall,**

**whose names stretched wide upon the cross
embrace and bear us all:
come, make your church a servant church
that walks your servant ways,
whose deeds of love rise up to you,
a sacrifice of praise!**

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr. 1923-2007. Music: German melody, 18th century, adapt.

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 We are a Chosen People of God
For music please turn to Hymn 79 in the Songbook binder

Refrain

**We are a chosen people of God;
called into light and gathered in love;
redeemed and held by the holy one.
We are a chosen people of God.**

1. **Look around you and see
people in your neighborhood;
endless variety
God has created good.
We're a part of it all, chosen and called. *Refrain***
2. **Look around you and see
the blessing given us;
earth, sky, and sea;
they're all placed in our trust.
We're a part of it all, chosen and called. *Refrain***
3. **Look around you and see
not all is going right.
In this mystery;**

We're called to be a light.

We're a part of it all, chosen and called. *Refrain*

Text and music: David Lee Brown, Larry Olson, Karol Baer; copyright 1990 Dakota Road Music, used by permission

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: **God's work. Our hands.**



"What do you mean 'Creamed
spinach isn't scriptural'?"

Worship assistants TODAY:

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

Worship assistants for next Sunday, February 5

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

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