



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Mark 1

January 3, 2021 10:30 Service of the Word

Today we begin a journey through the Gospel of Mark. By Easter we will have read all of it during worship. Mark's gospel has been challenging its readers for almost 2000 years. It is unpredictable, fast paced, and leaves its readers scratching their heads many times. That appears to be Mark's intention. He wants us to realize that God's love is so radical that it cannot ever be confined to conventions. Fasten your seatbelt for a wild ride!

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
the Maker of heaven and earth,
the Word made flesh,
the Lord and giver of life.

C: Amen

P: Let us come into the light of Christ, confessing our need for God's mercy.

Silence for reflection.

P: God of peace,

**C: we confess that we are not at peace – with others or with ourselves. We bring to you all that tears us apart:
discord in our families,
violence in our world,
our own conflicted hearts.**

**In your mercy, mend us. Reconnect us to one another and to you.
Let peace reign over all the earth, through the Prince of Peace, our Savior Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

P: In the Word who has come to dwell with us, God have given us grace upon grace:

forgiveness that is stronger than our sins,
love that can heal every broken heart.

Hear this word of God's pardon and peace:

in the name of Jesus our Savior, you are free from all your sins.

Rise, shine, for your light has come.

C: Amen.

Opening Hymn Angels, from the Realms of Glory
For music turn to Hymn 275 in the Red Hymnal

**1. Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:**

Refrain

**Come and worship,
come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

**2. Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night.
God with us is now residing
yonder shines the infant light. *Refrain***

**3. Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations,
you have seen his natal star. *Refrain***

**4. All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One. *Refrain***

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4. Music: Henry T Smart, 1813-1879

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...

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

† WORD †

First Reading Mark 1:1-13

B: The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” ¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 91 (read together)

**C: All you sheltered by the Most High,
who live in Almighty God’s shadow,
say to the Lord, “My refuge, my fortress,
my God in whom I trust!”**

**God will free you from hunters’ snares,
will save you from deadly plague,
will cover you like a nesting bird.**

**God’s wings will shelter you.
No nighttime terror shall you fear,
no arrows shot by day,
no plague that prowls the dark,
no wasting scourge at noon.**

**A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand.
But you shall live unharmed:
God is sturdy armor.
You have only to open your eyes
to see how the wicked are repaid.
You have the Lord as refuge,
have made the Most High your stronghold.
No evil shall ever touch you,
no harm come near your home.
God instructs angels
to guard you wherever you go.
With their hands they support you,
so your foot will not strike a stone.
You will tread on lion and viper,
trample tawny lion and dragon.
“I deliver all who cling to me,
raise the ones who know my name,
answer those who call me,
stand with those in trouble.
These I rescue and honor,
satisfy with long life,
and show my power to save.”**

***Second Reading* Mark 1:14-31**

D: ¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.” ¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him. ²¹They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶And the

unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him.²⁷ They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.”²⁸ At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

²⁹As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John.³⁰ Now Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once.³¹ He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Third Reading Mark 1:32-45

E: ³²That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons.³³ And the whole city was gathered around the door.³⁴ And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.³⁵ In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed.³⁶ And Simon and his companions hunted for him.³⁷ When they found him, they said to him, “Everyone is searching for you.”³⁸ He answered, “Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.”³⁹ And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

⁴⁰A leper came to him begging him, and kneeling he said to him, “If you choose, you can make me clean.”⁴¹ Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, “I do choose. Be made clean!”⁴² Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean.⁴³ After sternly warning him he sent him away at once,⁴⁴ saying to him, “See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.”⁴⁵ But he went out and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the word, so that Jesus could no longer go into a town openly, but stayed out in the country; and people came to him from every quarter.

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 Of the Father's Love Begotten (vs. 1-4)

2018 performance presented by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to the Lutheran World Federation

The Gustavus Symphony Orchestra, cond. by Dr. Ruth Lin. Three choirs at Gustavus: The Gustavus Choir, cond. Dr. Gregory Aune, Choir of Christ Chapel & the Lucia Singers, cond. Dr. Brandon Dean. Christ Chapel Ringers, cond. Dr. Chad Winterfeldt. *(for music, turn to Hymn 295 in the Red Hymnal)*

1. **Of the Father's love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending he,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore**

2. **Oh, that birth forever blessed,
When the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world's redeemer,
First revealed his sacred face,
Evermore and evermore.**

3. **This is he whom seers in old time
Chanted of with one accord,
Whom the voices of the prophets
Promised in their faithful word;
Now he shines, the long-expected;
Let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.**

4. **Let the heights of heav'n adore him;
Angel hosts, his praises sing;
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before him
And extol our God and King;
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Ev'ry voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.**

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: All through 2021, O loving God, give us wisdom in our resolutions and strength during hardships. Console those who are afraid or lonely. Give jobs to the unemployed. Direct us toward the solution to the world's problems, to feed the hungry, to house the homeless, to serve the neighbor. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

B: All through 2021, O redeeming God, bless your church. Renew the strength of bishops, pastors, deacons, musicians, and all servants of the church. Assist congregations in paying their bills. Be with missionaries we support as they share your love: the Rev. Karen Anderson and the Rev. Matthew Nickoloff. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

E: All through 2021, O ruling God, bless the nations of the world. Bring peace and justice where there is violence and abuse of power. Inspire those in authority to serve the common good, and preserve stability in the United States. Protect those who risk danger for the sake of others. 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 The Bells of Christmas
(For music turn to Hymn 298 in the Red Hymnal)

- 1. The bells of Christmas chime once more;
the heav'nly guest is at the door.
He comes to earthly dwellings still
with new year gifts of peace, good will.**
- 2. This world, though wide and far outspread,
could scarcely find for you a bed.
Your cradle was a manger stall,
No pearls nor silk nor kingly hall.**
- 3. Now let us go with quiet mind,
the swaddled babe with shepherds find,
to gaze on him who gladdens them,
the loveliest flow'r of Jesse's stem.**

4. **Oh, join with me, in gladness sing,
to keep our Christmas with our king,
until our song, from loving souls,
like rushing mighty water rolls!**
5. **O patriarchs' Joy, O prophets' Song,
O Dayspring bright, awaited long,
O Son of Man, incarnate Word,
great David's Son, great David's Lord:**
6. **Come, Jesus, glorious heav'nly guest,
and keep your Christmas in our breast;
Then David's harpstrings, hushed so long,
Shall swell our jubilee of song.**

Text: Nikolai F.S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872; tr. Charles Porterfield Krauth, 1823-1883, alt.
Music: Carl C. N. Balle, 1806-1855

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 – morning and 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

Returning Candles

If you borrowed candles from church for Christmas Eve please return them to the bin where you got them.

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.

Annual Reports

All committee reports for the Annual Report are due to the church office by December 31st. Email or electronic versions are preferred. You can email your report to: sjlcvector@gmail.com

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.

Scripture readings from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible* copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States. Variable worship texts from *Sundays and Seasons 2016* copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress.

St. John's Lutheran Church

888 County Road 9, Victor, NY 14564
stjohnsvictor.com (585) 924-5192
The Rev. Jonathan Deibler, Pastor
Nathan Cheung, Pianist

-and-

St. John's Lutheran Church

50 Spencer St, Lyons, NY 14489
(315) 946-6748
The Rev. Jonathan Deibler, Transitional Pastor
Lawrence Dapolito, Organist