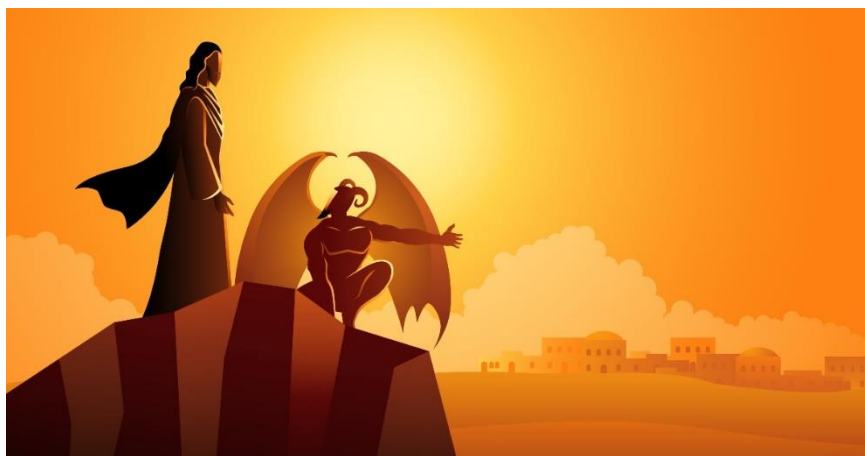




St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Beginning of Jesus' Ministry

January 8, 2023 10:30 Service of the Word

Last week we read about Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist in the Jordan River. We continue the story this week and discover Jesus has been driven into a wilderness to be tested by evil. It is a full and true test. Will Jesus obey the will of the Father or will he decide to go with the ways of the world? We know the end of the story. Jesus wins! He then goes on to call his first disciples and he begins his work. However he doesn't work where we'd expect. That place would be Jerusalem. No, instead he makes Capernaum his home base, a small obscure community on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee.

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 Rock of Ages

(For music turn to Hymn 28 in the Songbook binder)

**There is no rock, there is no god like our God;
no other name worthy of all our praise.**

**The rock of salvation that cannot be moved,
He's proven himself to be faithful and true.**

There is no rock, there is no god like ours. (Repeat)

**Rock of ages, Jesus is the rock.
Rock of ages, Jesus is the rock.
Rock of ages. Jesus is the rock.
There is no rock, there is no god like ours.**

Text and Music: Rita Baloché, copyright 1997 Maranatha Praise, Inc. Admin: The Copyright Company; CCLI Song #2240547

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, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

Presentation of Bibles to Third Graders

First Reading Exodus 24:9-18

B: ⁹Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, ¹⁰and they saw the God of Israel. Under his feet there was something like a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. ¹¹God did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; also they beheld God, and they ate and drank.

¹²The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." ¹³So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. ¹⁴To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you

again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.” ¹⁵Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. ¹⁷Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. ¹⁸Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 91 (read responsively)

D: All you sheltered by the Most High,
who live in Almighty God’s shadow,

**C: say to the Lord, “My refuge, my fortress,
my God in whom I trust!”**

D: God will free you from hunters’ snares,
will save you from deadly plague,

**C: will cover you like a nesting bird.
God’s wings will shelter you.**

D: No nighttime terror shall you fear,
no arrows shot by day,

**C: no plague that prowls the dark,
no wasting scourge at noon.**

D: A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand.

**C: But you shall live unharmed:
God is sturdy armor.**

D: You have only to open your eyes
to see how the wicked are repaid.

**C: You have the Lord as refuge,
have made the Most High your stronghold.**

D: No evil shall ever touch you,
no harm come near your home.

**C: God instructs angels
to guard you wherever you go.**

D: With their hands they support you,
so your foot will not strike a stone.

**C: You will tread on lion and viper,
trample tawny lion and dragon.**

D: “I deliver all who cling to me,

raise the ones who know my name,
answer those who call me,
stand with those in trouble.

**C: These I rescue and honor,
satisfy with long life,
and show my power to save.”**

Gospel Acclamation (Matthew 4:16)

C: Alleluia. The people who lived in darkness have seen a great light. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading Matthew 4

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 4th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

⁷Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; ⁹and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’”

¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

¹²Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,

on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—
¹⁶the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned.”

¹⁷From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

¹⁸As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

²³Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people. ²⁴So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought to him all the sick, those who were afflicted with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, and paralytics, and he cured them. ²⁵And great crowds followed him from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

After the reading:

P: The gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Help Us Oh Lord

(For music turn to Hymn 15 in the Songbook binder)

- 1. Help us, oh Lord to do what is right and wise.
Help us to see our brother's needs that are in disguise.
Help us, oh lord to feel the pain in our sister's eyes.**
- 2. Teach us to live your Kingdom come here on earth.
Open our lives to treat each person with equal worth.
Remind us we're family; we're bound by baptismal birth.**
- 3. We offer in joy what you first to us gave:
Ourselves, our time, the very things that our hands have made.**

Receive them all now, this is our prayer in Jesus' name.

Text and music: Hans Peterson; Copyright 1997 Dakota Road Music; CCLI #2527370

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 your 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 Sent Forth by God's Blessing
(For music see Hymn 547 in the Red Hymnal)

1. Sent forth by God's blessing,
our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended,
Oh, now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of Christ's teaching,
receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
Your grace shall incite us,
your love shall unite us
to work for your kingdom
and answer your call.

2. With praise and thanksgiving
to God ever-living,
the tasks of our ev'ry day life we will face –
our faith ever sharing,
in love ever caring,
embracing God's children, the whole human race.
With your feast you feed us,
with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living
with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ
and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt. Text copyright 1964 World Library Publications Music: Welsh folk tune

Text and music: American Traditional

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: God's work. Our hands.





campbell

"I think I was borderline."

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers Gary Wood
Acolyte Owen Young
Counters Michele Myers and Helen Crown
Coffee Hour

Worship assistants for next Sunday, January 15

Greeters and Ushers Bruce and Connie Stevenson
Acolyte Thomas Bullwinkle
Altar Care Gary Boisseau
Communion Assistants Adele Garvey
Counters Burdie Gillern and Babette Huber
Coffee Hour

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