



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## *4th Sunday after Pentecost*

*July 6, 2025 8:30 & 10:30 Service of the Word*

Talking about demons and exorcisms makes us uncomfortable. They feel like things that unenlightened people believed in. Yet they play a role in many scripture passages, including our gospel reading today. No matter how you understand them, there are many forces opposed to God's will. God equips us to work against them.

### *Welcome to worship today!*

If you are visiting with us we invite you to sign the Guest Book in the back of the sanctuary.

Large print bulletins are available on the usher's stand.

The Zoom feed for this service is shown in the nursery.

# † GATHERING †

## Prelude and Announcements

### Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection.*

P: Most merciful God,

**C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**C: Amen**

Gathering Before You, Lord, We Bow  
*(For music see Hymn 893 in the Red Hymnal)*

**1. Before you, Lord, we bow,  
our God who reigns above  
and rules the world below  
with boundless pow'r and love.  
Our thanks we bring in joy and praise,**

our hearts we raise, to you we sing!

2. May ev'ry mountain height,  
each vale and forest green,  
shine forth in wisdom's light  
and its rich fruits be seen!  
May ev'ry tongue be tuned to praise  
and joy to raise a grateful song.
3. Earth, hear your maker's voice;  
your great redeemer own;  
believe, obey, rejoice,  
and worship God alone.  
Cast down your pride, your sin deplore,  
and bow before the Crucified.
4. And when in pow'r he comes,  
oh, may then ev'ry land  
from all its rending tombs  
send forth a glorious band,  
a countless throng, with joy to sing  
to heav'n's high king salvation's song!

Text: Francis Scott Key, 1779-1843, alt. Music: John Darwall, 1731-1789

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 (Deuteronomy 26, 11, 8)

A: You are the treasured people of the Lord,

**C: a people holy to the Lord our God.**

A: Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children.

**C: Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away,  
when you lie down and when you rise.**

A: One does not live by bread alone,

**C: but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.**

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

God our creator, the resurrection of your Son offers life to all the peoples of the earth. By your Holy Spirit, kindle in us the fire of your love,

empowering our lives for service and our tongues for praise, 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* Jonah 3:1-5

B: The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” <sup>3</sup>So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. <sup>4</sup>Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!”

<sup>5</sup>And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Scripture Poetry* Jonah 2:2-9 (*read responsively*)

D: From the belly of the great fish Jonah prayed:

“I called to the Lord out of my distress,  
and he answered me;

**C: out of the belly of Sheol I cried,  
and you heard my voice.**

D: You cast me into the deep,  
into the heart of the seas,  
and the flood surrounded me;

**C: all your waves and your billows  
passed over me.**

D: Then I said, ‘I am driven away from your sight;  
how shall I look again upon your holy temple?’

**C: The waters closed in over me;  
the deep surrounded me;**

D: weeds were wrapped around my head  
<sup>6</sup>at the roots of the mountains.

**C: I went down to the land  
whose bars closed upon me forever;**

D: yet you brought up my life from the Pit,  
O Lord my God.

**C: As my life was ebbing away,  
I remembered the Lord;**

D: and my prayer came to you,  
into your holy temple.

**C: Those who worship vain idols  
forsake their true loyalty.**

D: But I with the voice of thanksgiving  
will sacrifice to you;

**C: what I have vowed I will pay.  
Deliverance belongs to the Lord!”**

*Second Reading* 1 Peter 1:3-9

E: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

<sup>6</sup>In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, <sup>7</sup>so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup>Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup>for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Acclamation* (1 Peter 1:3b)

**C: Alleluia. By God’s great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope. Alleluia.**

*Gospel Reading* Luke 11:14-26

*The gospel is announced:*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you O Lord.**

<sup>14</sup>Now [Jesus] was casting out a demon that was mute; when the demon had gone out, the one who had been mute spoke, and the crowds were amazed. <sup>15</sup>But some of them said, “He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons.” <sup>16</sup>Others, to test him, kept demanding from him

a sign from heaven. <sup>17</sup>But he knew what they were thinking and said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself becomes a desert, and house falls on house. <sup>18</sup>If Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? —for you say that I cast out the demons by Beelzebul. <sup>19</sup>Now if I cast out the demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your exorcists cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. <sup>20</sup>But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out the demons, then the kingdom of God has come to you. <sup>21</sup>When a strong man, fully armed, guards his castle, his property is safe. <sup>22</sup>But when one stronger than he attacks him and overpowers him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his plunder. <sup>23</sup>Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. <sup>24</sup>“When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it wanders through waterless regions looking for a resting place, but not finding any, it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ <sup>25</sup>When it comes, it finds it swept and put in order. <sup>26</sup>Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and live there; and the last state of that person is worse than the first.” <sup>27</sup>While he was saying this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, “Blessed is the womb that bore you and the breasts that nursed you!” <sup>28</sup>But he said, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it!” <sup>29</sup>When the crowds were increasing, he began to say, “This generation is an evil generation; it asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah. <sup>30</sup>For just as Jonah became a sign to the people of Nineveh, so the Son of Man will be to this generation. <sup>31</sup>The queen of the South will rise at the judgment with the people of this generation and condemn them, because she came from the ends of the earth to listen to the wisdom of Solomon, and see, something greater than Solomon is here! <sup>32</sup>The people of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the proclamation of Jonah, and see, something greater than Jonah is here! <sup>33</sup>“No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar, but on the lampstand so that those who enter may see the light. <sup>34</sup>Your eye is the lamp of your body. If your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light; but if it is not healthy, your body is full of darkness. <sup>35</sup>Therefore consider whether the light in you is not darkness. <sup>36</sup>If then your whole body is full of light, with no part of it in darkness, it will be as full of light as when a lamp gives you light with its rays.”

*After the reading:*

P: The Gospel of the Lord

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

Excerpts and Adaptations from The Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis

Hymn of the Day      Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus  
(for music, please turn to Hymn 802 in the Red Hymnal)

1. Let us ever walk with Jesus,  
follow his example pure,  
through a world that would deceive us  
and to sin our spirits lure.  
Onward in his footsteps treading,  
trav'lers here, our home above,  
full of faith and hope and love,  
let us do our Savior's bidding.  
Faithful Lord, with me abide;  
I shall follow where you guide.
2. Let us suffer here with Jesus,  
and with patience bear our cross.  
Joy will follow all our sadness;  
where he is there is no loss.  
Though today we sow no laughter,  
we shall reap celestial joy;  
All discomforts that annoy  
shall give way to mirth here after.  
Jesus, here I share your woe;  
help me there your joy to know.
3. Let us gladly die with Jesus.  
Since by death he conquered death,  
he will free us from destruction,  
give to us immortal breath.  
Let us mortify all passion  
that would lead us into sin;  
and the grave that shuts us in  
shall but prove the gate of heaven.  
Jesus, here with you I die,  
there to live with you on high.
4. Let us also live with Jesus.  
He has risen from the dead  
that to life we may awaken,  
Jesus, you are now our head,  
we are your own living members;

**where you live, there we shall be  
in your presence constantly,  
living there with you forever.  
Jesus, let me faithful be;  
life eternal grant to me.**

Text: Sigmund von Birken, 1626-1681; tr. Luthlean Book of Worship, alt. Music: Georg G. Boltze, 18<sup>th</sup> cent.

*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.**

P: 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.**

A: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

**C: pray in the Holy Spirit.** *(Jude 20)*

A: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

**C: look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.** *(Jude 21)*

A: 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)*

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.*

† THANKSGIVING †

Special Music

Hymn of Thanksgiving

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.

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray: Blessed are you, O God,

**C: ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Prayer of Intercession from *Lutheran Book of Worship* Page 75.

P: Let us pray:

O Lord our God, you have commanded light to shine out of darkness, and you have again brought us to your house of prayer to praise your goodness and ask for your gifts. Accept now in your endless mercy the

sacrifice of our worship and thanksgiving, and grant us those requests which will be wholesome for us. Make us to be children of the light and of the day and heirs of your everlasting inheritance. Remember, O Lord, according to the multitude of your mercies, your whole Church, all who join with us in prayer, all our sisters and brothers wherever they may be in your vast kingdom who stand in need of your help and comfort. Pour out upon them the riches of your mercy, so that we, redeemed in soul and body and steadfast in faith, may ever praise your wonderful and holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and always through all ages of ages.

**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 Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.  
**C: Amen.**

Sending Hymn This Is My Song  
(For music see Hymn 887 in the Red Hymnal)

**1. This is my song. O God of all the nations,  
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.**

**This is my home, the country where my heart is;  
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;  
but other hearts in other lands are beating  
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.**

**2. My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,  
and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.  
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,  
and skies are ev'rywhere as blue as mine.  
So hear my song, O God of all the nations,  
a song of peace for their land and for mine.**

**3. This is my prayer, O God of all earth's kingdoms,  
your kingdom come; on earth your will be done.  
O God, be lifted up till all shall serve you,  
and hearts united learn to live as one.  
So hear my prayer, O God of all the nations;  
myself I give you, let your will be done.**

Text: Lloyd Stone, 1912-1993, sts. 1-2; Georgia Harkness, 1891-1974, st.3. Music: Jean Sibelius, 1865-1957. Text sts. 1-2 copyright 1934, 1962 Lorenz Publishing Co., st. 3 copyright 1964 Lorenz Publishing Company. Music copyright Breitkopf @ Hartel

**Dismissal**

**P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.**

**C: God's Work. Our Hands.**

**Worship assistants TODAY:**

Greeters and Ushers Tom and Carol Urbanic  
Acolyte Elijah Young  
Counters  
Coffee Hour

**Worship assistants for next Sunday, July 13**

Greeters and Ushers Bruce and Connie Stevenson  
Acolyte Thomas Bullwinkle  
Counters  
Coffee Hour

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**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
888 County Road 9, Victor, NY 14564  
stjohnsvictor.com (585) 924-5192  
The Rev. Jonathan Deibler, Pastor  
Dr. William Shi, Pianist