



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



The 3rd Sunday After Pentecost

June 18, 2023

10:30 Holy Communion

Nicodemus is a Pharisee who comes to Jesus by night. As we read his story we realize that he is not only in literal darkness, but also in spiritual darkness. He cannot seem to understand what Jesus is saying. Jesus, for his part, is trying to open Nicodemus to understanding God in ways he never thought possible.

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

† GATHERING †

Prelude and Announcements

Gathering Hymn Waterlife

(for music turn to Hymn 457 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Before I can remember, the covenant was sealed
with Father, Son and Spirit, in water was revealed.
The cleansing was for certain, with water and the Word;
gentle words were spoken, in heaven they were heard.**

Chorus **They were singing water life, beginning life,
water life, all my life, water life, Spirit life, water life.**

2. **A simple sweet beginning, a loving place to start:
Christ began the singing that swells within my heart.
His love became my calling, His life my ministry.
His name is my adoption into His family. *Chorus***

3. **My hope and expectation for true community
begins with resurrection, His death and life in me.
His Spirit fills the body; His church through water sees
promise for tomorrow, His water life in me. *Chorus***

Text and music: Handt Hanson, Copyright 1991 Changing Church Forum, Inc., CCLI #806124

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 greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.
Merciful God,

C: we confess that we have sinned.

We have hurt our community.

We have squandered your blessings.

We have hoarded your bounty.

In the name of Jesus,

forgive us and grant us mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Righteous God,

C: we confess that we have sinned.

We have failed to be honest.

We have lacked the courage to speak.

We have spoken falsely.

In the name of Jesus,

forgive us and grant us mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God is a cup of cold water when we thirst.

God offers boundless grace when we fail.

Claim the gift of God's mercy:

you are freed and forgiven in the name of Jesus the Christ.

C: Amen

Hymn of Praise Kyrie Eleison

"Kyrie Eleison" is Greek for "Lord have mercy." (For music turn to Hymn 19 in the Songbook binder)

Refrain

Kyrie Eleison on our world and on our way.

Kyrie Eleison ev'ry day

- 1. For peace in the world, for the health of the church,
for the unity of all.
For this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord! *Refrain***
- 2. That we may live out your impassioned response to the
hungry and the poor.
That we may live out truth and justice and grace,
let us pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord! *Refrain***
- 3. For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes,
for friends and family.
For life and for love, for our work and our play,
let us pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord! *Refrain***
- 4. For your spirit to guide, that you center our lives
in the water and the Word
That you nourish our souls with your body and blood
let us pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord! *Refrain***

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world 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 †

First Reading Genesis 12:1-4

B: Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 121 (*read together*)

**C: If I look to the mountains,
will they come to my aid?
My help is the Lord,
who made earth and the heavens.
May God, ever wakeful,
keep you from stumbling;
the guardian of Israel
neither rests nor sleeps.
God shields you,
a protector by your side.
The sun shall not harm you by day
nor the moon at night.
God shelters you from evil,
securing your life.
God watches over you near and far,**

now and always.

Second Reading Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

D: [Paul writes] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. ¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”) —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (John 3:14-15)

C: The Son of Man must be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

Gospel Reading John 3:1-17

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 3rd chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” ³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of

the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”

¹¹“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

After the reading:

P: The gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness
(for music see Hymn 396 in the Red Hymnal)

**Refrain Spirit, spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness
calling and free;
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness,**

wind, wind on the sea.

1. **You moved on the waters,
you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains
from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons you called to each thing;
“Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.”**

Refrain

2. **You swept through the desert,
you stung with the sand
and you goaded your people
with a law and a land;
and when they were blinded with idols and lies,
then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes.**

Refrain

3. **You sang in the stable,
you cried from a hill,
then you whispered in silence
when the whole world was still;
and down in the city you called once again,
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind.**

Refrain

4. **You call from tomorrow,
you break ancient schemes,
From the bondage of sorrow
all the captives dream dreams;
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes,
With bold new decisions, your people arise.**

Refrain

Text and music: James K. Manley; Copyright 1978 James K. Manley

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.

Prayers of the Church

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.

Peace

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

C: And also with you.

P: We share that peace with one another.

The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

† MEAL †

Special Music

Hymn of Thanksgiving Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful Lord

For music turn to page 35 in the Blue Hymnal

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.**

Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,

**that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer now.
Grace our table with your presence, Lord,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray: God of field, forest, sea, and sky,

**C: you are the giver of all good things.
Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,
and multiply your graciousness in us,
that the world may be fed with your love,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus of Nazareth; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with church of yesterday, today and tomorrow; and the church here in this place and all churches throughout the world, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(Isaiah 6:3, spoken)

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

P: In the night in which he was handed over our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take and eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you

and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

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.**

Invitation to Communion

P: All people are called to Christ's table.
Come, eat what is good.

Communion Distribution

Welcome to the Lord's Supper! All who are baptized are invited to receive communion. We use wheat bread and wine for communion. If you would prefer a gluten free wafer instead of bread please tell the communion assistant. Also, if you prefer grape juice to wine, it is available pre-filled in the individual glasses. As we commune together everyone is invited to sing the following hymns:

Lamb of God (Page 39 of the Blue Hymnal)

398 *Holy Spirit, Truth Divine (Red Hymnal)*

397 *Loving Spirit (Red Hymnal)*

Communion Blessing *After all have communed the pastor will say:*

P: The body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray:

We thank you, generous God,
for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table.
Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,
through the one who is our dearest treasure,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

Blessing

P: The God who calls across the cosmos
and speaks in the smallest seed
bless, keep, and sustain you
now and to the end of the age.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn Lift High the Cross
(For music turn to Hymn 660 in the Red Hymnal)

Refrain **Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.**

1. **Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God.** *Refrain*
2. **All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.** *Refrain*
3. **O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As thou hast promised, draw us all to thee.** *Refrain*
4. **So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory!** *Refrain*

Text: George W. Kitchin; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, Music: Sydney Nickolson, Copyright 1974 Hope Publishing Company

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers Linda Flood
Acolyte Thomas Bullwinkle
Altar Care Mary Zuege
Communion Assistants Rob Stroup
Counters Babette Huber and Burdie Gillern
Coffee Hour Father's Day Treats

Worship assistants for next Sunday, June 25

Greeters and Ushers Tom and Carol Urbanic
Acolyte
Counters Michele Myers and Helen Crown
Coffee Hour

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