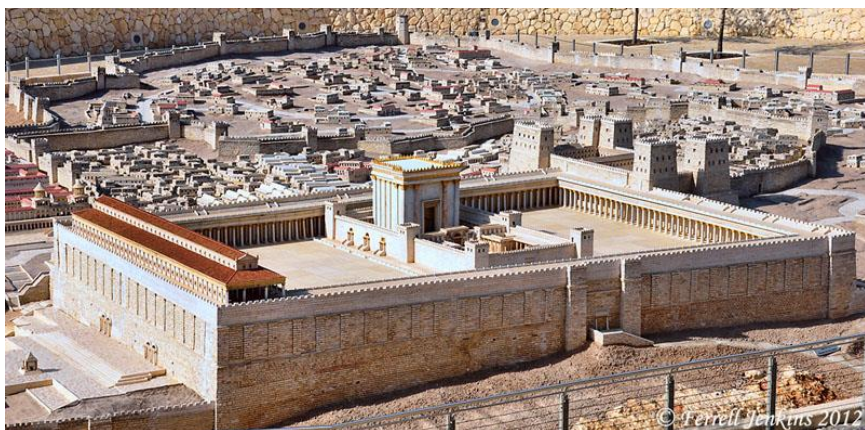




St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jesus in Jerusalem - Mark 11:20-13:37

March 17, 2024

10:30 Service of the Word

Today we cover almost three chapters of Mark's gospel. Even though this is a lot of material it all takes place in one day – Tuesday of Holy Week. Jesus is challenged by many of the religious leaders but he always comes out on the winning side of the argument. This is an interesting contrast to the way he will act on Friday when he barely responds at all.

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

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.

C: Amen.

P: Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P: Holy God,

**C: we confess that we are caught in snares of sin
and cannot break free.**

We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold.

We speak in ways that silence others.

We are silent when we should speak up.

We keep score in our hearts.

We let hurts grow into hatred.

**For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord.
Amen.**

P: Here is a flood of grace:

Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow
(For music see Hymn 327 in the Red Hymnal)

- 1. Through the night of doubt and sorrow,
onward goes the pilgrim band,
singing songs of expectation,
marching to the promised land.
Clear before us through the darkness
gleams and burns the guiding light;
pilgrim clasps the hand of pilgrim
stepping fearless through the night.**
- 2. One the light of God's own presence
on the ransomed people shed,
chasing far the gloom and terror,**

**bright'ning all the path we tread.
One the object of our journey,
one the faith which never tires,
one the earnest looking forward,
one the hope of God inspires.**

**3. One the strain that lips of thousands
lift as from the heart of one;
one the conflict, one the peril,
one the march in God begun.
One the gladness of rejoicing
on the far eternal shore,
where the one almighty Father
reigns in love forevermore.**

**4. Onward, therefore, sisters, brothers;
onward, with the cross our aid.
Bear its shame, and fight its battle
till we rest beneath its shade.
Soon shall come the great awak'ning;
soon the rending of the tomb!
Then the scatt'ring of all shadows,
and the end of toil and gloom.**

Text: Berhardt S. Ingemann, 1789-1862; tr. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924, alt. Music: Thomas J. Williams, 1869-1944; arr. Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923. Arrangement copyright 1969 Concordia Publishing House

Greeting (2 Corinthians 13:13, Romans 10)

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.

A: The word is near you,

C: on your lips and in your heart.

A: If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,

C: and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

A: Faith comes from what is heard,

C: and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruit of the Spirit,

that through life and death we may live in 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 †

Bible Reading Mark 11:20-25

B: In the morning as they passed by, they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots. ²¹Then Peter remembered and said to him, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered.” ²²Jesus answered them, “Have faith in God. ²³Truly I tell you, if you say to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea,’ and if you do not doubt in your heart, but believe that what you say will come to pass, it will be done for you. ²⁴So I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. ²⁵“Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.”

Discussion 1 A Pharisee, a Sadducee, and a Herodian

Bible Reading Continued Mark 11:27-33

D: Again they came to Jerusalem. As he was walking in the temple, the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders came to him ²⁸and said, “By what authority are you doing these things? Who gave you this authority to do them?” ²⁹Jesus said to them, “I will ask you one question; answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things. ³⁰Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin? Answer me.” ³¹They argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ ³²But shall we say, ‘Of human origin?’” —they were afraid of the crowd, for all regarded John as truly a prophet. ³³So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And Jesus said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.”

Discussion 2 A Pharisee, a Sadducee, and a Herodian

Bible Reading Continued Mark 12:1-12

E: Then he began to speak to them in parables. “A man planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a pit for the wine press, and built a watchtower; then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. ²When the season came, he sent a slave to the tenants to collect from them his share of the produce of the vineyard. ³But they seized him,

and beat him, and sent him away empty-handed. ⁴And again he sent another slave to them; this one they beat over the head and insulted.⁵Then he sent another, and that one they killed. And so it was with many others; some they beat, and others they killed. ⁶He had still one other, a beloved son. Finally he sent him to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ⁷But those tenants said to one another, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’ ⁸So they seized him, killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard. ⁹What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the tenants and give the vineyard to others. ¹⁰Have you not read this scripture: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; ¹¹this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes?’” ¹²When they realized that he had told this parable against them, they wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowd. So they left him and went away.

Discussion 3 A Pharisee, a Sadducee, and a Herodian

Bible Reading Continued Mark 12:13-17

B: Then they sent to him some Pharisees and some Herodians to trap him in what he said. ¹⁴And they came and said to him, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality, but teach the way of God in accordance with truth. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not? ¹⁵Should we pay them, or should we not?” But knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, “Why are you putting me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me see it.” ¹⁶And they brought one. Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” They answered, “The emperor’s.” ¹⁷Jesus said to them, “Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” And they were utterly amazed at him.

Discussion 4 A Pharisee, a Sadducee, and a Herodian

Bible Reading Continued Mark 12:18-27

D: Some Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him and asked him a question, saying, ¹⁹“Teacher, Moses wrote for us that ‘if a man’s brother dies, leaving a wife but no child, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother.’ ²⁰There were seven brothers; the first married and, when he died, left no children; ²¹and the second married her and died, leaving no children; and the third

likewise; ²²none of the seven left children. Last of all the woman herself died. ²³In the resurrection whose wife will she be? For the seven had married her.”

²⁴Jesus said to them, “Is not this the reason you are wrong, that you know neither the scriptures nor the power of God? ²⁵For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. ²⁶And as for the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the story about the bush, how God said to him, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? ²⁷He is God not of the dead, but of the living; you are quite wrong.”

Discussion 5 A Pharisee, a Sadducee, and a Herodian

Bible Reading Continued Mark 12:28-37

E: One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” ²⁹Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one;’ ³⁰you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ ³¹The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” ³²Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’; ³³and ‘to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,’ and ‘to love one’s neighbor as oneself,’ —this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” ³⁴When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that no one dared to ask him any question.

Discussion 6 A Pharisee, a Sadducee, and a Herodian

Hymn Christ, the Life of All the Living

(For music see Hymn 339 in the Red Hymnal)

**1. Christ, the life of all the living,
Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Christ, yourself for me once giving
to the darkest depths of woe:
through your suff’ring, death, and merit
life eternal I inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks are due,
dearest Jesus, unto you.**

- 2. You have suffered great affliction
and have borne it patiently,
even death by crucifixion,
fully to atone for me;
for you chose to be tormented
that my doom should be prevented.
Thousand, thousand thanks are due,
dearest Jesus, unto you.**
- 3. Then, for all that bought my pardon,
for the sorrows deep and sore,
for the anguish in the garden,
I will thank you evermore;
thank you for the groaning, sighing,
for the bleeding and the dying,
for that last triumphant cry,
praise you evermore on high.**

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605-1681; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt. Music: *Das grosse Cantional*, Darmstadt, 1687

Bible Reading Continued Mark 12:38-44

B: While Jesus was teaching in the temple, he said, “How can the scribes say that the Messiah is the son of David? ³⁶David himself, by the Holy Spirit, declared, ‘The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet.’”

³⁷David himself calls him Lord; so how can he be his son?” And the large crowd was listening to him with delight.

³⁸As he taught, he said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, ³⁹and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! ⁴⁰They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”

He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴²A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. ⁴³Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. ⁴⁴For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

Response

Bible Reading Continued Mark 13:1-37

D: As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!” ²Then Jesus asked him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.”

³When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴“Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?” ⁵Then Jesus began to say to them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. ⁶Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. ⁷When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. ⁸For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birthpangs.

⁹“As for yourselves, beware; for they will hand you over to councils; and you will be beaten in synagogues; and you will stand before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them. ¹⁰And the good news must first be proclaimed to all nations. ¹¹When they bring you to trial and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say; but say whatever is given you at that time, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. ¹²Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death;¹³and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

E: “But when you see the desolating sacrilege set up where it ought not to be (let the reader understand), then those in Judea must flee to the mountains; ¹⁵the one on the housetop must not go down or enter the house to take anything away; ¹⁶the one in the field must not turn back to get a coat. ¹⁷Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing infants in those days! ¹⁸Pray that it may not be in winter. ¹⁹For in those days there will be suffering, such as has not been from the beginning of the creation that God created until now, no, and never will be. ²⁰And if the Lord had not cut short those days, no one would be saved; but for the sake of the elect, whom he chose, he has cut short those days. ²¹And if anyone says to you at that time, ‘Look! Here is the Messiah!’ or ‘Look! There he is!’ —do not believe it. ²²False messiahs and false prophets will appear and produce signs and omens, to lead astray, if possible, the elect. ²³But be alert; I have already told you everything.

²⁴“But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power
and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from
the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

B: “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes
tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also,
when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the
very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all
these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my
words will not pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven,
nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not
know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey,
when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work,
and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep
awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in
the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may
find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say
to all: Keep awake.”

Response

Hymn of the Day My Lord, What a Morning
(For music turn to Hymn 438 in the Red Hymnal)

Refrain

**My Lord, what a morning;
my Lord, what a morning;
oh my Lord, what a morning,
when the stars be-gin to fall.**

- 1. You’ll hear the trumpet sound,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God’s right hand,
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain***
- 2. You’ll hear the sinner cry,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God’s right hand,**

when the stars begin to fall. Refrain

3. **You'll hear the Christian shout,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand,
when the stars begin to fall. Refrain**

Text and music: African American Spiritual

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 †

Thanksgiving Prayer

P: Let us pray. Merciful God,

C: we offer to you what is already your own: ourselves, our time and our possessions. Guide us so that we may use your gifts in the service of your will; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. 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: Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed.

God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn In Christ There Is No East or West
(For music see Hymn 650 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one community of love
throughout the whole wide earth.**
2. **In Christ shall true hearts ev'rywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord
close binding humankind.**
3. **Join hands, disciples of the faith,
whate're your race may be.
All children of the living God
and surely kin to me.**
4. **In Christ now meet both east and west,
in him meet south and north;
all Christly souls are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth.**

Text: John Oxenham, 1852-1941, alt. Music: African American spiritual; adapt. Henry T. Burleigh, 1866-1949

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: God's work. Our hands.

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	John and Linda Thompson
Acolyte	Thomas Bullwinkle
Counters	Sue Kaufmann and Linda Flood
Coffee Hour	St. Patrick's Day Potluck Lunch

Worship assistants for next Sunday, March 24

Greeters and Ushers	Tom and Carol Urbanic
Acolyte	Alyssa Young
Altar Care	Emma Deibler
Communion Assistant	

Counters Michele Myers and Helen Crown

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The Rev. Jonathan Deibler, Pastor - William Shi, Pianist