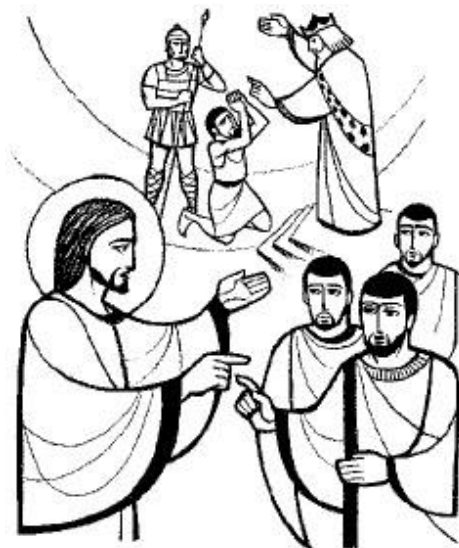




St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



2nd Sunday of Lent

March 5, 2023

10:30 Holy Communion

God loves everyone and wants everyone to know the joys of his promises. Our job is to proclaim that. It seems like a simple and straightforward task until we try to do it. What do we do about people we don't like? How do we love and forgive the people who constantly hurt us? How do you balance forgiveness and accountability? Our gospel reading today gives some answers, but more importantly it teaches us the principles underneath the answers and equips us to live 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.

† GATHERING †

Prelude and Announcements

Gathering Hymn What Wondrous Love Is This
(For music turn to Hymn 666 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!**
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this
that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?

2. **When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,**
when I was sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down
beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

3. **To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,**
to God and to the Lamb I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb,
who is the great I Am,
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme, I will sing.

4. **And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;**
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free,
I'll sing his love for me,
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
And through eternity I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt. Music: W Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835; arr. Paul J. Christiansen, 1914-1997, alt. Arr. copyright 1955 Augsburg Publishing House

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.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

C: Amen.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P: Holy God,

**C: we confess to you our faults and failings.
Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;
we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;
we spoil rather than steward your creation;
we cause hurt though you call us to heal;
we choose fear over compassion.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.**

P: Hear the good news:

God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,
So that all may receive life.

This promise is for you!

God embraces you with divine mercy,
forgives you in Christ's name;
and revives you in the Spirit's power.

C: Amen.

Hymn of Praise Kyrie

For music turn to page 28 in the Blue Hymnal

L: Kyrie eleison:

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: Christe eleison:

C: Christ, have mercy.

L: Kyrie eleison:

C: Lord, have mercy.

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 1 Corinthians 12:12-26

A: [Paul writes] For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²²On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 131 (read together)

**C: Lord, I am not proud,
holding my head too high,
reaching beyond my grasp.**

**No, I am calm and tranquil
like a weaned child
resting in its mother’s arms:
my whole being at rest.**

**Let God’s people rest in the Lord,
now and forever.**

Second Reading Matthew 18

B: At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”² He called a child, whom he put among them,³ and said, “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.⁴ Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.⁵ Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

D: ⁶“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea.⁷ Woe to the world because of stumbling blocks! Occasions for stumbling are bound to come, but woe to the one by whom the stumbling block comes!⁸ “If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to enter life maimed or lame than to have two hands or two feet and to be thrown into the eternal fire.⁹ And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into the hell of fire.

E: ¹⁰“Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven.¹² What do you think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray?¹³ And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray.¹⁴ So it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost.

B: “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one.¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses.¹⁷ If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

D: Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

E: ²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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 There in God’s Garden
(For music see Hymn 342 in the Red Hymnal)

- 1. There in God’s garden stands the Tree of Wisdom,
whose leaves hold forth the healing of the nations:
Tree of all knowledge, Tree of all compassion,
Tree of all beauty.**
- 2. Its name is Jesus, name that says, “Our Savior!”
There on its branches see the scars of suff’ring;**

**see there the tendrils of our human selfhood
feed on its life blood.**

- 3. Thorns not its own are tangled in its foliage;
our greed has starved it, our despite has choked it.
Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not destroyed it
nor fire consumed it.**
- 4. See how its branches reach to us in welcome;
hear what the Voice says, “Come to me, ye weary!
Give me your sickness, give me all your sorrow,
I will give blessing.”**
- 5. This is my ending, this my resurrection;
into your hands, Lord, I commit my spirit.
This have I searched for; now I can possess it.
This ground is holy.**
- 6. All heav’n is singing, “Thanks to Christ whose passion
offers in mercy healing, strength, and pardon.
Peoples and nations, take it, take it freely!”
Amen! My Master!**

Text: Kiraly Imre von Pecselyi, c.1590-c.1641; tr. Erik Routley, 1917-1982. Text copyright 1976 Hinshaw Music, Inc. Music: K. Lee Scott, b. 1950, copyright 1987 Birnamwood Publications, a div. of MorningStar Publishers, Inc.

Nicene Creed

P: We confirm our faith with the Apostles’ Creed.

**C: We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again,
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. 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.

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.

† 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 good gifts,

**C: receive these and all our offerings
as we present them in faithful service
for the sake of your gospel.**

**Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal
as you pour out your very presence
through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.
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 Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join in 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.

Communion Distribution

Welcome to the Lord's Supper! All who are baptized are invited to receive communion. Please pick up a communion glass as you come forward to the altar. You will receive bread from the communion assistant. (If you need a gluten free wafer please tell the assistant.) The pastor will pour wine into your glass. If you prefer grape juice, it is 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)

515 Break Now the Bread of Life (Red Hymnal)

517 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word (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

P: Let us pray:

Embodied God,

at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.

With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,

empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors

and touch the world with your love.

C: Amen.

† SENDING †

Blessing

P: God, the giver of love
Christ, the resurrection and the life,
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
bless you in this Lenten journey.
C: Amen.

Sending Hymn Lord I Lift Your Name on High
(For music turn to Hymn 23 in the Songbook binder)

1. **Lord I lift your name on high;
Lord I love to sing your praises.
I'm so glad you're in my life;
I'm so glad you came to save us.
You came from heaven to earth to show the way,
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay.
From the cross to the grave,
From the grave up to the sky,
Lord I lift your name on high!**
2. **Show us all your ways, oh Lord;
Teach us all your paths, oh Lord.
You're the source of love and light;
Source of wisdom and of might.
Create a clean heart in me; renew my soul.
Cast me not away from you, Support, console.
I'm so glad you're in my life.
Lord I love to sing your praise.
Lord I lift your name on high!**
3. **Lord I lift your name on high;
Lord I love to sing your praises.
I'm so glad you're in my life;
I'm so glad you came to save us.
You came from heaven to earth to show the way,
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay.
From the cross to the grave,
From the grave up to the sky,
Lord I lift your name on high!**

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

Matthew 18 – Community Discourse

I. Consideration for the Little People, 18:1-14

- A. Big People and Little People 18:1-5
- B. Against Disdaining Little People 18:6-10
- C. Parabolic Conclusion (Concern for Strays) 18:10-14

II. Discipline and Forgiveness, 18:15-35

- A. Church Discipline and Christ's Presence 18:15-20
- B. "Forgiveness" Without Grace 18:21-22
- C. Parabolic Conclusion (Brace Beyond Imagining) 18:23-35

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	John and Linda Thompson
Acolyte	Thomas Bullwinkle
Altar Care	Helen Crown
Communion Assistant	Greg Zuege
Counters	Bruce and Connie Stevenson
Coffee Hour	

Worship assistants for next Sunday, March 12

Greeters and Ushers	Sue Kaufmann
Acolyte	Own Young
Counters	Bill and Katy Stimmel
Coffee Hour	

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St. John's Lutheran Church

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The Rev. Jonathan Deibler, Pastor
William Shi, Pianist