



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## *The Sixth Sunday of Easter*

*Matthew 22:15-46*

*May 10, 2026*

*10:30 Service of the Word*

The gospel writer Matthew likes to do things in sets of three. Last Sunday we had a set of three parables against the religious leaders. This week we move further into the story and find that the religious leaders make three attempts to entrap Jesus. Jesus outmaneuvers them and makes them look bad. But they do not give up entirely. Three days later they will catch Jesus praying at Gethsemane. They will think they have triumphed ultimately for a day – only to ultimately fail three days later.

### *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 available in the nursery.

† GATHERING †

*Prelude and Announcements*

*Thanksgiving for Baptism*

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P: Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

*Water is poured into the baptismal font as we continue.*

P: Merciful God,  
you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.  
You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:  
morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for Lake Ontario, the Finger Lakes, and the Erie Canal; all  
of whose waters made our region flourish.

Blessed are you.

**C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

P: Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness  
who accompanies us on our journeys.

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you.

**C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

P: Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.

Break down barriers that divide us.

Fill us with the breath of new life to share the gospel.

Blessed are you.

**C: You guide us to the springs of the water of life.**

P: Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,  
and for making us a new creation.

We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise  
now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

Gathering Hymn Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service  
(For music turn to Hymn 712 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Lord, whose love in humble service  
bore the weight of human need,  
who upon the cross, forsaken,  
worked your mercy's perfect deed:  
we, your servants, bring the worship  
not of voice alone, but heart;  
consecrating to your purpose  
ev'ry gift which you impart.**
  
2. **Still your children wander homeless;  
still the hungry cry for bread;  
still the captives long for freedom;  
still in grief we mourn our dead.  
As you, Lord, in deep compassion  
healed the sick and freed the soul,  
by your Spirit send your power  
to our world to make it whole.**
  
3. **As we worship, grant us vision  
till your love's revealing light  
in its height and depth and greatness  
dawns upon our quickened sight,  
making known the needs and burdens  
your compassion bids us bear,  
stirring us to ardent service,  
your abundant life to share.**
  
4. **Called by worship to your service,  
forth in your dear name we go,  
to the child, the youth, the aged,  
love in living deeds to show;  
hope and health, goodwill and comfort,  
counsel, aid, and peace we give,  
that your servants, Lord, in freedom  
may your mercy know and live.**

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984, copyright Oxford University Press. Music: *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. *Selected Hymns*, 1985, arr. copyright 1985 Augsburg Fortress.

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 (Romans 10)*

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.

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

† WORD †

*First Reading* Exodus 3:1-10

B: Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup>There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. <sup>3</sup>Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.' <sup>4</sup>When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' <sup>5</sup>Then he said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' <sup>6</sup>He said further, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, 'I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, <sup>8</sup>and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the

Jebusites. <sup>9</sup>The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. <sup>10</sup>So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.’

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Scripture Poetry* Psalm 96:1-9 (*read responsively*)

D: A new song for the Lord!

Sing it and bless God’s name,  
everyone, everywhere!

**C: Tell the whole world**

**God’s triumph day to day,  
God’s glory, God’s wonder.**

D: A noble God deserving praise,  
the dread of other gods,  
the puny gods of pagans;

**C: for our God made the heavens**

**the Lord of majestic light  
who fills the temple with beauty.**

D: Proclaim the Lord, you nations,  
praise the glory of God’s power,  
praise the glory of God’s name!

**C: Bring gifts to the temple,  
bow down, all the earth,  
tremble in God’s holy presence.**

D: Tell the nations, “The Lord rules!”  
As the firm earth is not swayed,  
nothing can sway God’s judgment.

**C: Let heaven and earth be glad,  
the sea and sea creatures roar,**

D: the field and its beasts exult.  
Then let the trees of the forest sing  
before the coming of the Lord,

**C: who comes to judge the nations,  
to set the earth aright,  
restoring the world to order.**

*Second Reading* 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

E: Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

<sup>2</sup>We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly <sup>3</sup>remembering before our God and Father your work

of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup>because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake.

<sup>6</sup>And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, <sup>7</sup>so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. <sup>8</sup>For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. <sup>9</sup>For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, <sup>10</sup>and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Acclamation* (Philippians 2:15-16)

**C: Alleluia. Shine like stars in the world; holding fast to the word of life. Alleluia.**

*Gospel Reading* Matthew 22:15-45

*The gospel is announced:*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 22<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

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

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. <sup>16</sup>So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. <sup>17</sup>Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” <sup>18</sup>But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? <sup>19</sup>Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. <sup>20</sup>Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” <sup>21</sup>They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” <sup>22</sup>When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

The same day some Sadducees came to him, saying there is no resurrection; and they asked him a question, saying, <sup>24</sup>“Teacher, Moses

said, 'If a man dies childless, his brother shall marry the widow, and raise up children for his brother.' <sup>25</sup>Now there were seven brothers among us; the first married, and died childless, leaving the widow to his brother. <sup>26</sup>The second did the same, so also the third, down to the seventh. <sup>27</sup>Last of all, the woman herself died. <sup>28</sup>In the resurrection, then, whose wife of the seven will she be? For all of them had married her." <sup>29</sup>Jesus answered them, "You are wrong, because you know neither the scriptures nor the power of God. <sup>30</sup>For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. <sup>31</sup>And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God, <sup>32</sup>'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is God not of the dead, but of the living." <sup>33</sup>And when the crowd heard it, they were astounded at his teaching.

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, <sup>35</sup>and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. <sup>36</sup>"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" <sup>37</sup>He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'" <sup>38</sup>This is the greatest and first commandment. <sup>39</sup>And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' <sup>40</sup>On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: <sup>42</sup>"What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." <sup>43</sup>He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, <sup>44</sup>'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet"'? <sup>45</sup>If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" <sup>46</sup>No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

*After the reading:*

P: The gospel of the Lord

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

## Children's Sermon

### Sermon

Hymn of the Day O Jesus, I Have Promised  
(For music see Hymn 810 in the Red Hymnal)

**1. O Jesus, I have promised  
to serve you to the end;**

remain forever near me,  
my master and my friend.  
I shall not fear the battle  
if you are by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway  
if you will be my guide.

2. Oh, let me feel you near me;  
the world is ever near.  
I see the sights that dazzle,  
the tempting sounds I hear.  
My foes are ever near me,  
around me and within;  
but, Jesus, then draw nearer  
to shield my soul from sin.
3. Oh, let me hear you speaking  
in accents clear and still  
above the storms of passion,  
the murmurs of self-will.  
Now speak to reassure me,  
to hasten or control  
now speak and make me listen,  
O Guardian of my soul.
4. O Jesus, you have promised  
to all who follow you  
that where you are in glory  
your servant shall be too.  
And Jesus, I have promised  
to serve you to the end;  
oh, give me grace to follow,  
my master and my friend.

Text: John E. Bode, 1816-1974, alt. Music: *Neuvermehrtes*, Meiningen, 1693

### 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 ✠

### Gathering of Prayers and Offerings

*You are invited to write a prayer concern on the small blank slip of paper in your worship bulletin. This slip will be collected by the ushers in the offering plates. The concerns raised will be prayed for later in the service.*

Offertory

Offertory Hymn Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise Him, all creatures here below;  
praise Him, above, ye heav'nly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711. Music: Louis Bourgeois, 1510-1561

‡ PRAYER ‡

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**

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.

*Issues raised by the congregation lifted in prayer.*

*The prayer concludes:*

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 triune God,  
who was, who is, and who is to come,  
Sovereign, Savior, and Spirit,  
light your way with resurrection dawn,  
now and always.

**C: Amen.**

**Sending Hymn** Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth  
*(for music, please turn to Hymn 735 in the Red Hymnal)*

- 1. Mothering God, you gave me birth  
in the bright morning of this world.  
Creator, source of ev'ry breath,  
you are my rain, my wind, my sun.**
- 2. Mothering Christ, you took my form,  
offering me your food of light,  
grain of new life, and grape of love,  
your very body for my peace.**
- 3. Mothering Sprit, nurt'ring one,  
in arms of patience hold me close,  
so that in faith I root and grow  
until I flow'r, until I know.**

Text: Jean Janzen, b. 1933, based on Julian of Norwich, c. 1342-c. 1413 Music: Caroly Jennings, b. 1936; Test© 1991 Jean Janzen.  
Music© 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

**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	Elijah Young
Counters	Greg and Mary Zuege
Coffee Hour	Mother's Day Treats

**Worship assistants for next Sunday, May 17**

Greeters and Ushers	Sue Kaufmann
Acolyte	Thomas Bullwinkle
Communion Assistant	Rob Stroup
Counters	Anne Stromstad and Michele Myers
Coffee Hour	Greta Crowell

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