



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



6th Sunday of Easter

May 14, 2023

10:30 Service of the Word

Today we are at the heart of the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus is teaching the crowd the ways they should express their faith. He says not to do it publicly but privately. This does not mean that faith is a secret or individual action. Rather Jesus means that faith is an honest and open relationship with God. It is not to be leveraged to accomplish a person's own agenda.

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

Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God,
by whose hand we are given new birth,
by whose speaking we are given new life.

C: Amen.

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are welcomed, restored, and supported
as citizens of the new creation.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

**C: Holy God,
holy and merciful,
holy and mighty,
you are the river of life,
you are the everlasting wellspring.**

P: In mercy and might you have freed us from death
and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead.

In baptismal waters our old life is washed away,
and in them we are born anew.

The worship leader stands by the baptismal font. Water may be poured into it.

P: Glory to you for oceans and lakes,
for rivers and streams.

Honor to you for waters that wash us clean,
quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures.

Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism,
the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

**C: Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.
Empower our witness to your resurrection.
Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.**

P: Satisfy the world's needs through this living water.

Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment.

Where despair prevails, grant hope.

Where chaos reigns, bring peace.

We ask this through Christ,
who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me
(For music see Hymn 755 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Jesus, Savior, pilot me
over life's tempestuous sea;
unknown waves before me roll,
hiding rock and treach'rous shoal;
chart and compass come from thee,
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.**
2. **As a mother stills her child,
thou canst hush the ocean wild;
boist'rous waves obey thy will
when thou say'st to them: "Be still."
Wondrous sov'reign of the sea,
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.**
3. **When at last I near the shore,
and the fearful breakers roar
twixt me and the peaceful rest,
then, while leaning on thy breast,
may I hear thee say to me:
"Fear not, I will pilot thee."**

Text: Edward Hopper, 1818-1888. Music: John Edgar Gould, 1822-1875

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.

P: The word is near you,

C: on your lips and in your heart.

P: 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.

P: 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...

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, 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 Isaiah 58:1-9a

B: Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. ²Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God.

³“Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. ⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. ⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? ⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. ⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 139:1-18 (*read responsively*)

D: You search me, Lord, and know me.

**C: Whenever I sit or stand,
you read my inmost thoughts;**

D: whenever I walk or rest,
you know where I have been.

**C: Before a word slips from my tongue,
Lord, you know what I will say.**

D: You close in on me,
pressing your hand upon me.

**C: All this overwhelms me-
too much to understand!**

D: Where can I hide from you?
How can I escape your presence?

**C: I scale the heavens, you are there!
I plunge to the depths, you are there!**

D: If I fly toward the dawn,
or settle across the sea,

**C: even there you take hold of me,
your right hand directs me.**

D: If I think night will hide me
and darkness give me cover,

**C: I find darkness is not dark.
For your night shines like day,
darkness and light are one.**

D: You created every part of me,
knitting me in my mother's womb.

**C: For such handiwork, I praise you.
Awesome this great wonder!
I see it so clearly!**

D: You watched every bone
taking shape in secret,
forming in the hidden depths.

**C: You saw my body grow
according to your design.
Your recorded all my days
before they ever began.**

D: How deep are your thoughts!
How vast their sum!

**C: like countless grains of sand,
well beyond my grasp.**

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 6:1-10

E: [Paul writes] As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships,

calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (John 14:23)

C: Alleluia. Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading Matthew 6:1-18

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 6th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

[Jesus taught] “Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. ²“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁷“When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

⁹“Pray then in this way:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

¹⁰Your kingdom come.

Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹Give us this day our daily bread.

¹²And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one.

¹⁴For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; ¹⁵but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

¹⁶“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

After the reading:

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Golden Breaks the Dawn

(For music see Hymn 852 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Golden breaks the dawn,
comes the eastern sun;
like a rider strong,
set the course to run.
Birds above me fly,
flowers bloom below;
through the earth and sky
God's great mercies flow.**
2. **Holy, living God,
keep me safe today;
though I weary plod,
make me kind, I pray.
Let me guide our youth,
honor weak and old;
let me serve with truth,
and God's love unfold.**
3. **Give me daily bread,
while I do my part;**

**bright skies overhead,
gladness in my heart.
Simple wants provide,
evil let me shun;
Jesus at my side,
till the day is done.**

Text: Tzu-chen Chao; para. Frank W. Price, 1885-1974. Music: Te-ngai Hu, Text and music copyright 1977 Chinese Christian Literature Council Ltd. Hong Kong.

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 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.

After each portion of the prayer: P: Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our 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.

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:

C: Blessed are you, O God, 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

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: Almighty God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

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.**

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers Bruce and Connie Stevenson
Acolyte Owen Young
Counters Linda Flood and Sue Kaufmann
Coffee Hour

Worship assistants for next Sunday, May 21

Greeters and Ushers Gary Wood
Acolyte Creed White
Altar Care Gary Boisseau
Communion Assistant Mary Zuege
Counters John and Linda Thompson
Coffee Hour

Scripture readings from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible* copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States, unless otherwise noted. Psalm from *The Psalter* copyright 1994, Liturgical Training Publications. Variable worship texts from *Sundays and Seasons 2023* copyright 2022 Augsburg Fortress.

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