



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



End Times

May 16, 2021

10:30 Service of the Word

In the gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke Jesus gives a vivid depiction of the end of the world. That depiction includes a time of judgment for all people. This is not so in John's gospel. There is no judgment day and no end of the world in John. Instead John depicts judgment day to be the day one encounters Jesus. If one accepts Jesus as God's revelation then one has judged oneself and decided to follow. If one rejects Jesus then one has also judged oneself, and decided to reject God's love and promises. We'll expand on this more in today's worship service.

Welcome to worship today!

Please observe social distancing and remain conscious of the need to prevent the spread of infectious disease. In this bulletin is an insert that will be used to determine today's attendance. It will also help to identify who was here if contact tracing is necessary. Please fill it out and place it in the offering plate.

† GATHERING †

Prelude and Announcements

Thanksgiving for Baptism

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

L: Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

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

L: We thank you, risen Christ,
for these waters where you make us new,
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,
like rains to our thirsting earth,
like streams that revive our souls,
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

**C: Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.
Send us as companions on our journey as we share your life.**

L: Make us one, risen Christ.

Cleanse our hearts.

Shower us with life.

**C: To you be given all praise,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God,
now and forever.**

Amen.

Gathering Hymn Come, Thou Almighty King
(For music see Hymn 408 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Come, thou almighty King,
help us thy name to sing;
help us to praise;
Father all glorious
o'er all victorious,
come and reign over us,
Ancient of Days.**

2. **Come, thou incarnate Word,
merciful, mighty Lord;
our prayer attend.
Come and thy people bless,
and give thy word success,
and let thy righteousness
on us descend.**

3. **Come, holy Comforter,
thy sacred witness bear
in this glad hour!
Thou who almighty art,
rule now in ev'ry heart,
never from us depart,
Spirit of pow'r.**

4. **To thee, great One in Three,
eternal praises be
hence evermore!
Thy sov'reign majesty
may we in glory see,
and to eternity
love and adore.**

Text: Unknown, c. 1757, alt. Music: Felice de Giardini 1716-1796

Greeting (2 Corinthians 13:13)

L: 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.

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

Gracious and glorious God, you have chosen us as your own, and by the powerful name of Christ you protect us from evil. By your Spirit transform us and your beloved world, that we may find joy 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 †

First Reading Jeremiah 1:4-10

B: ⁴Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,

⁵“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

⁶Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” ⁷But the LORD said to me,

“Do not say, ‘I am only a boy’;
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you,

⁸Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
says the LORD.”

⁹Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me,

“Now I have put my words in your mouth.

¹⁰See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant.”

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 123 (*read responsively*)

D: I gaze at the heavens,
searching for you, my God.

**C: A slave watches his master's hand,
a servant girl, the hand of her mistress;
so our eyes rest on you, Lord,
awaiting your kindness.**

D: Have mercy, Lord, have mercy.
We have swallowed enough scorn,

**C: stomached enough sneers;
the scoffing of the complacent,
the mockery of the proud.**

Second Reading 1 Peter 1:13-23

E: ¹³Therefore prepare your minds for action; discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed. ¹⁴Like obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires that you formerly had in ignorance. ¹⁵Instead, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; ¹⁶for it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." ¹⁷If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. ²¹Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God. ²²Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (*John 17:3*)

C: Alleluia. This is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading John 17

The gospel is announced:

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 17 chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.

¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. ¹⁴I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.

¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

²⁰"I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²²The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, ²³I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the

world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

²⁴Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵“Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

After the reading:

L: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day All Earth Is Hopeful
(for music, please turn to Hymn 266 in the Red Hymnal)

- 1. All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!
Furrows lie open for God’s creative task:
this, the labor of people who struggle to see
how God’s truth and justice set ev’rybody free.**
- 2. People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:
“A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel”;
she conceived him, “God with us,” our brother, whose birth
restores hope and courage to children of this earth.**
- 3. Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared;
new highways opened, new protocols declared.
Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace!
All clear ev’ry gateway, in haste, come out in haste!**
- 4. We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.
This same Lord Jesus today has come to live
in our world; he is present, in neighbors we see
our Jesus is with us and ever sets us free.**

Response to the Word

E: 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.

E: 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.**

E: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

C: pray in the Holy Spirit.

(Jude 20)

E: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

C: look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. *(Jude 21)*

E: 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)

† PRAYER †

Prayers of Intercession

L: 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. These three petitions will be read by people in the congregation:

A: For peace and justice, we pray: that leaders of nations act with integrity in their decisions; that the poor be respected and supported; that prejudice against people of different color or language or ethnicity be ended; and that our government use wisely the tax money it gathers. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

B: Build the church as a faith-filled world wide community. Help us to build it among our friends and neighbors. Be with our missionaries, the Rev. Matthew Nickoloff in Rochester and the Rev. Karen Anderson in Chile. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

E: For all graduates, we pray, that opportunities for appropriate employment or further education be open to them. For all who cannot benefit from such schooling, especially for women where their education is forbidden, we pray, that you show them a worthy way forward. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

The pastor concludes the prayer:

L: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Peace

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

C: And also with you.

A: We share that peace with one another.

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

Special Music

Lord's Prayer

L: 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

L: May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.

The God of life,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn When Peace, Like a River
(for music, turn to Hymn 785 in the Red Hymnal)

**1. When peace, live a river, attendeth my way;
When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.**

Refrain

**It is well with my soul, it is well,
It is well with my soul.**

**2. Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come.
Let this blest assurance control,**

**That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate
And hath shed his own blood for my soul. *Refrain***

**3. He lives--- oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! *Refrain***

**4. And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trumpet shall sound, and the Lord shall descend;
Even so it is well with my soul. *Refrain***

Text: Horatio Spafford, Music: Philip Bliss

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

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