



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Image: www.ocarm.org

The 6th Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024

10:30 Holy Communion

How does God work? How does God influence things in the world? Is it by decree and then things happen? Is it through the laws of physics? Is it up close, or far away? Will God work through things we consider to be gross or disgusting? Scripture tells us that God can work through any and every means to make things happen. Yet what God does is always for the benefit of God's good creation.

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 shown on a screen in the nursery.

† GATHERING †

Prelude and Announcements

Gathering Hymn When Long Before Time

(The Singer and the Song)

(For music see Hymn 861 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **When long before time and the worlds were begun,
when there was no earth and no sky and no sun,
and all was deep silence and night reigned supreme,
and even our Maker had only a dream-**
2. **The silence was broken when God sang the Song,
and light pierced the darkness and rhythm began,
and with its first birth-cries creation was born,
and creaturely voices sang praise to the morn.**
3. **The sounds of the creatures were one with their Lord's,
their harmonies sweet and befitting the Word;
the Singer was pleased as the earth sang the Song,
the choir of the creatures re-echoed it long.**
4. **Though down through the ages the Song disappeared,
its harmonies broken and almost unheard,
the Singer comes to us to sing it again,
our God-is-with-us in the world now as then.**
5. **The Light has returned as it came once before,
the Song of the Lord is our own song once more,
so let us all sing with one heart and one voice
the Song of the Singer in whom we rejoice.**
6. **To you God the singer, our voices we raise,
to you, Song Incarnate, we give all our praise,
to you, Holy Spirit, our life and our breath,
be glory forever, through life and through death.**

Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God,
the wellspring of grace,
our Easter and our joy.

C: Amen.

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

P: Look, here is water!

C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P: Immersed in the promises of baptism,
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered
over the deep and water became the essence of life.

Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.

The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.

Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into
freedom's, land.

In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal
life.

Look, here is water!

C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P: At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with
the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the
floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people.

We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you,
though the risen Christ, our source of living water,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Look, here is water!

C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Hymn of Praise You Servants of God

(For music see Hymn 825 in the Red Hymnal)

- 1. You servants of God, your Master proclaim,
and publish abroad his wonderful name;
the name, all-victorious, of Jesus extol;
his kingdom is glorious and rules over all!**
- 2. Ascended on high, almighty to save,
yet still he is nigh, his presence we have.
The great congregation his triumph shall sing,**

ascribing salvation to Jesus, our King!

- 3. Salvation to God who sits on the throne!
Let all cry aloud and honor the Son.
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.**
- 4. Then let us adore and give him his right,
all glory and pow'r and wisdom and might,
all honor and blessing, with angels above,
and thanks never ceasing, and infinite love!**

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt. Music: attr. Johann Michael Haydn, 1737-1806

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

‡ WORD ‡

First Reading Habakkuk 2:2-5

B: ²Then the LORD answered me and said:

Write the vision;

make it plain on tablets,
so that a runner may read it.

³For there is still a vision for the appointed time;

it speaks of the end, and does not lie.

If it seems to tarry, wait for it;

it will surely come, it will not delay.

⁴Look at the proud!

Their spirit is not right in them,
but the righteous live by their faith.

⁵Moreover, wealth is treacherous;

the arrogant do not endure.

They open their throats wide as Sheol;

like Death they never have enough.

They gather all nations for themselves,
and collect all peoples as their own.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 119:33-40 (*read responsively*)

D: God, teach me your ways
and I will follow them closely.

**C: Help me to understand your will,
that I may cherish your law.**

D: Guide me along your path,
a way of delight.

**C: Open my heart to your laws
and not to riches.**

D: Turn my eyes from the lure of evil,
let me live in your truth.

**C: Keep your promise
to one who reveres you.**

D: Spare me the shame I fear.
How good your commands!

**C: See, I want what is right,
let your justice give me life.**

Second Reading Galatians 6:1-10

E: My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. ²Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. ³For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. ⁴All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbor's work, will become a cause for pride. ⁵For all must carry their own loads. ⁶Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher. ⁷Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. ⁸If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. ⁹So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest-time, if we do not give up. ¹⁰So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Galatians 6:10)

C: Alleluia. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading Mark 7:3-37

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 7th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

³¹Then [Jesus] returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

After the reading:

P: The gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day O Master, Let Me Walk with You

(For music turn to Hymn 818 in the Red Hymnal)

- 1. O Master, let me walk with you
in lowly paths of service true;
teach me your secret; help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.**
- 2. Help me the slow of heart to move
by some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay,
and guide them in the homeward way.**

3. **Teach me your patience; share with me
a closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong.**
4. **In hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broad'ning way,
in peace that only you can give;
with you, O Master, let me live.**

Text: Washington Gladden, 1836-1918, alt. Music: H. Percy Smith, 1825-1898

Nicene Creed

P: Let us confirm our faith with the Nicene 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 the Church

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: We 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: Risen One,

C: you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. 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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has embodied the promise of eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with all 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.**

Invitation to Communion

P: The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.
Come and eat at God's table.

Communion Distribution

Welcome to the Lord's Supper! All who are baptized are invited to receive communion. We use wheat bread and wine for communion. If you would prefer a gluten free wafer instead of bread please tell the communion assistant. Also, if you prefer grape juice to wine, it is available 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)

465 *As the Grains of Wheat (Red Hymnal)*

468 *Around You, O Lord Jesus (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

A: Let us pray:

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

C: Amen.

† SENDING †

Blessing

P: The God of resurrection power,
the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope
bless you now and always.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

(For music see Hymn 873 in the Red Hymnal, for Refrain tenor/bass sing words in parenthesis)

**1. Rejoice, ye pure in heart!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing;
your festal banner wave on high,
the cross of Christ your king.**

*Refrain: Rejoice! (Rejoice!) Rejoice! (Rejoice!)
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!*

**2. With voice as full and strong
as ocean's surging praise,
send forth the sturdy hymns of old,
the psalms of ancient days. *Refrain***

**3. With all the angel choirs,
with all the saints on earth
pour out the strains of joy and bliss,
true rapture, noblest mirth. *Refrain***

**4. Still lift your standard high,
still march in firm array,
as pilgrims through the darkness wend
till dawns the golden day. *Refrain***

**5. At last the march shall end;
the wearied ones shall rest;
the pilgrims find their home at last,
Jerusalem the blest. *Refrain***

**6. Praise God who reigns on high,
the Lord whom we adore:**

**the Father, Son, and Spirit blest,
one God forevermore. *Refrain***

Text: Edward H. Plumptre, 1821-1891, alt. Music: Arthur H. Messiter, 1834-1916

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the risen Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	Phyllis Henderson
Acolyte	Thomas Bullwinkle
Altar Care	Mary Zuege
Communion Assistants	Sue Kaufmann
Counters	Babette Huber and Burdie Gillern
Coffee Hour	

Worship assistants for next Sunday, May 12

Greeters and Ushers	Linda Flood
Acolyte	Alyssa Young
Counters	Mary and Greg Zuege
Coffee Hour	Mother's Day

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 2024* copyright 2023 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