



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

You therefore
must be **perfect**
as your heavenly Father
is perfect.

Matthew 5:48

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 7, 2023

10:30 Holy Communion

We continue the Sermon on the Mount this week. Last week we read the sermon's beginning where Jesus proclaimed blessings for many things we wouldn't consider blessed. Now he goes on into various parts of the religious law. We usually think of Jesus relaxing the law. But there's a reversal here too. We'll see Jesus take it to a level deeper than it's ever been taken before. Ultimately we discover a new way of being in relationship with God – one that depends upon God's grace.

Welcome to worship today!

If you are visiting with us we invite you to sign the Guest Book in the back of the sanctuary.

† GATHERING †

Prelude and Announcements

Gathering Hymn We All Are One in Mission
(For music see Hymn 576 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **We all are one in mission;
we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united
by Christ the Lord of all.
A single great commission
compels us from above
to plan and work together
that all may know Christ's love.**
2. **We all are called for service,
to witness in God's name.
Our ministries are different;
our purpose is the same:
to touch the lives of others
with God's surprising grace,
so ev'ry folk and nation
may feel God's warm embrace.**
3. **Now let us be united,
and let our song be heard.
Now let us be a vessel
for God's redeeming Word.
We all are one in mission;
we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united
by Christ, the Lord of all.**

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955, copyright 1986 Hope Publishing Company. Music: Finnish fold tune; arr. hymnal version, copyright 2006 Augsburg Fortress

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.

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

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.

Hymn of Praise I Am the Resurrection and the Life

(For music turn to Hymn 16 in the Songbook binder)

Chorus

**I am the resurrection and the life
all who believe in Me will never die
I am the resurrection and the life
all who believe in Me will live a new life.**

**1. I have come to bring the truth
I have come to bring you life
if you believe then you shall live.**

Chorus

**2. In My word all men will come to know
it is love which makes the spirit grow
if you believe then you shall live.**

Chorus

**3. Keep in mind the things that I have said
remember Me in the breaking of the bread
if you believe then you shall live.**

Chorus

Text and music: Ray Repp, CCLI #9189, Copyright 1967 K & R Music Publishing

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

‡ WORD ‡

First Reading Exodus 20:1-17

B: Then God spoke all these words: ²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me. ⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³You shall not murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house;

you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Proverbs 25:7b-13 (read together)

C: What your eyes have seen ⁸do not hastily bring into court; for what will you do in the end,

when your neighbor puts you to shame?

⁹Argue your case with your neighbor directly,
and do not disclose another's secret;

¹⁰or else someone who hears you will bring shame upon you,
and your ill repute will have no end. ¹¹A word fitly spoken
is like apples of gold in a setting of silver.

¹²Like a gold ring or an ornament of gold
is a wise rebuke to a listening ear.

¹³Like the cold of snow in the time of harvest
are faithful messengers to those who send them;
they refresh the spirit of their masters.

Gospel Acclamation (John 20:29)

C: Alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe. Alleluia

Gospel Reading Matthew 5:17-48

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 5th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I

tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

²¹“You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ ²²But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. ²⁶Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

²⁷“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell. ³¹“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ ³²But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

³³“Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ ³⁴But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one. ³⁸“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ ³⁹But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; ⁴⁰and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; ⁴¹and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. ⁴²Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

⁴³“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for

those who persecute you, ⁴⁵so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. ⁴⁶For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

After the reading:

P: The gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God
(for music, please turn to Hymn 783 in the Blue Hymnal)

**1. Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.**

Allelu, alleluia.

**2. Ask and it shall be given unto you; seek and you shall find;
knock and the door shall be opened unto you.**

Allelu, alleluia.

**3. We do not live by bread alone, but by ev'ry word
that proceeds from the mouth of God,**

Allelu, alleluia.

Text: Matt. 4:4,6:33,7:7, adapt. Karen Lafferty; Music: Karen Lafferty; Copyright 1972 Maranatha! Music

✠ BAPTISM ✠

Baptism of Gavin Luther Christie

Please turn to the Service of Holy Baptism on page 227 in the front of the Red Hymnal.

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: Generous God,
**C: in this meal you offer your very self.
We give thanks for these gifts of the earth.
In the breaking of this bread
reveal to us the Risen one.
In the pouring of this wine
pour us out in service to the world;
through Christ our Lord.
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: Now let us feast this day on Christ, the bread of heaven. Alleluia

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)

592 *Just As I Am (Red Hymnal)*

599 *Lord Jesus, Think on Me (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: Gracious God,
in you we live and move and have our being.
With your word and this meal of grace,
you have nourished our life together.
Strengthen us to show your love
and serve the world in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

‡ SENDING ‡

Blessing

P: The God of all,
who raised Jesus from the dead,
bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit
to live in the new creation.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn *Take My Life, That I May Be*
For music turn to Hymn 583 in the Red Hymnal

Refrain **Take my life, that I may be
consecrated, Lord to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**1. Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee.**

Refrain

**2. Take my silver and my gold
not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use
ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.** *Refrain*

**3. Take my voice and let me sing
always, only for my King;
take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee.** *Refrain*

**4. Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.** *Refrain*

Text: Francis R. Havergal, 1836-1879, adapt. Music: William Dexheimer Pharris, b. 1956; arr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954, Music copyright 1999 Augsburg Fortress

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the risen Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers Tom and Carol Urbanic
Acolyte Thomas Bullwinkle
Altar Care Gary Boisseau
Communion Assistants Linda Flood
Counters Bruce and Connie Stevenson
Coffee Hour

Worship assistants for next Sunday, May 14, 2023

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

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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