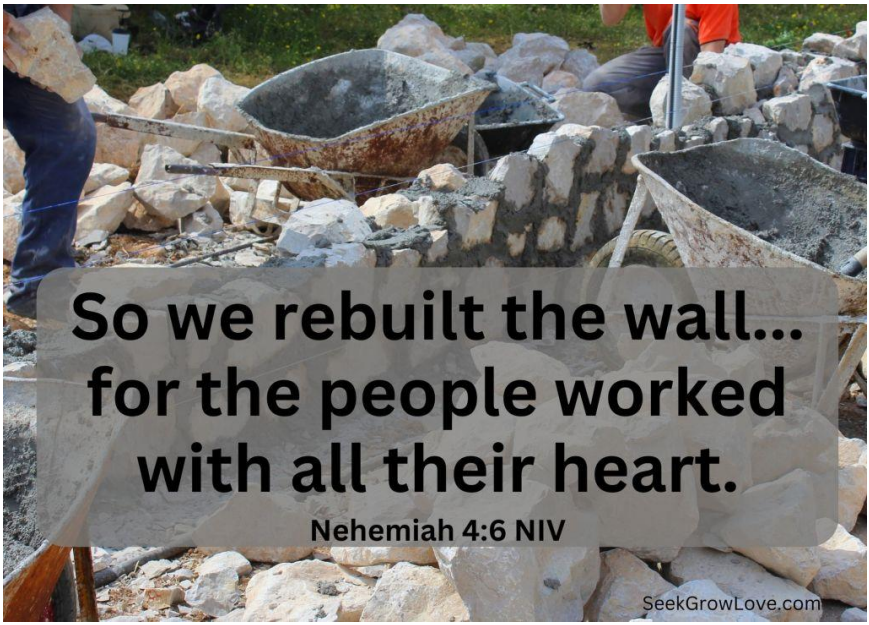
St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



The 25th Sunday after Pentecost

November 15, 2026 *10:30 Holy Communion*

Last Sunday we learned that the man Nehemiah had been sent to Jerusalem by the Persian king to rebuilt its walls. This Sunday we'll see that work take place. But it turns out to be problematic in many ways. Nehemiah will figure out ways to keep the work going despite the problems, and despite having very little to work with.

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

Gathering Hymn The Power of Your Love
(for music, turn to Hymn 71 in the Songbook binder)

1. **Lord, I come to You, let my heart be changed, renewed,**
Flowing from the grace that I've found in You.
And, Lord, I've come to know the weaknesses I see in me
will be stripped away by the pow'r of Your love.

Refrain
Hold me close, let Your love surround me;
Bring me near, draw me to Your side
And as I wait, I'll rise up like an eagle, and I will soar with You.
Your Spirit leads me on in the pow'r of Your love.

2. **Lord, unveil my eyes, let me see You face to face,**
the knowledge of Your love as You live in me.
Lord, renew my mind, as Your will unfolds in my life,
in living ev 'ry day in the pow'r of Your love. *Refrain*

Text and music by Geoff Bullock; copyright 1992 Word Music, Inc.; CCLI #917491

Confession and Forgiveness
P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.
C: Amen.

P: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful God,
C: we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.
Creation groans from overuse.
Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.
Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.
Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others.
Turn our hearts back to you.
Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.
Renew us to live as your holy people,

following the way of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

P: Hear this good news:
We have peace with God through Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.
C: Amen.

Hymn of Praise Shout to the Lord
(For music turn to Hymn 821 in the Red Hymnal)

Verse

My Jesus, my Savior,
Lord there is none like you;
All of my days
I want to praise
The wonders of your mighty love.
My comfort, my shelter,
Tower of refuge and strength;
Let ev'ry breath, all that I am
Never cease to worship You.

Chorus

Shout to the Lord all the earth
Let us sing power and majesty, praise to the King;
Mountains bow down
And the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name.
I sing for joy at the work of Your hands,
Forever I'll love You,
Forever I'll stand,
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.

Repeat Verse and Chorus

Text and music: Darlene Zschech; copyright 1993 Darlene Zschech, Admin. Integrity's Hosanna! Music; CCLI #1406918

Prayer of the Day
A: Let us pray…
O God, the foundation of all good things, give to all leaders of industry, faithfulness and truth. To all farmers, fair seasons and good health. To all labors, diligence and integrity. To all who are prosperous, generosity

and kindness. And to everyone, pardon and holiness of life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C: Amen.

✞ WORD ✞

First Reading Nehemiah 4:1-24, 6:15-16
B: Now when Sanballat [the Samarian leader] heard that we were building the wall, he was angry and greatly enraged, and he mocked the Jews. [2]He said in the presence of his associates and of the army of Samaria, 'What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore things? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish it in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish—and burnt ones at that?' [3]Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, 'That stone wall they are building—any fox going up on it would break it down!' [4]Hear, O our God, for we are despised; turn their taunt back on their own heads, and give them over as plunder in a land of captivity. [5]Do not cover their guilt, and do not let their sin be blotted out from your sight; for they have hurled insults in the face of the builders.

So we rebuilt the wall, and all the wall was joined together to half its height; for the people had a mind to work.

But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs and the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repairing of the walls of Jerusalem was going forward and the gaps were beginning to be closed, they were very angry, [8]and all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause confusion in it. [9]So we prayed to our God, and set a guard as a protection against them day and night.

But Judah said, 'The strength of the burden-bearers is failing, and there is too much rubbish, so that we are unable to work on the wall.' [11]And our enemies said, 'They will not know or see anything before we come upon them and kill them and stop the work.' [12]When the Jews who lived near them came, they said to us ten times, 'From all the places where they live they will come up against us.'* [13]So in the lowest parts of the space behind the wall, in open places, I stationed the people according to their families, with their swords, their spears, and their bows. [14]After I looked these things over, I stood up and said to the nobles and the officials and the rest of the people, 'Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your kin, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes.'

When our enemies heard that their plot was known to us, and that God had frustrated it, we all returned to the wall, each to his work. [16]From that day on, half of my servants worked on construction, and half held the spears, shields, bows, and body-armor; and the leaders posted themselves behind the whole house of Judah, [17]who were building the wall. The burden-bearers carried their loads in such a way that each labored on the work with one hand and with the other held a weapon. [18]And each of the builders had his sword strapped at his side while he built. The man who sounded the trumpet was beside me. [19]And I said to the nobles, the officials, and the rest of the people, 'The work is great and widely spread out, and we are separated far from one another on the wall. [20]Rally to us wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet. Our God will fight for us.'

So we labored at the work, and half of them held the spears from break of dawn until the stars came out. [22]I also said to the people at that time, 'Let every man and his servant pass the night inside Jerusalem, so that they may be a guard for us by night and may labor by day.' [23]So neither I nor my brothers nor my servants nor the men of the guard who followed me ever took off our clothes; each kept his weapon in his right hand.

So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty-two days. [16]And when all our enemies heard of it, all the nations around us were afraid and fell greatly in their own esteem; for they perceived that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

<u>*Scripture Poetry*</u> Psalm 128 *(Read responsively)*

D: How good to revere the Lord,
to walk in God's path.

C: Your table rich from labor-
how good for you!

D: Your beloved, a fruitful vine
in the warmth of your home.

C: Like olive shoots,
children surround your table.

D: This is your blessing
when you revere the Lord.

C: May the Lord bless you from Zion!

D: May you see Jerusalem prosper
every day of your life.

C: May you see your children's children,
and on Israel, peace!

Gospel Acclamation *(John 8:31-32)*
C: Alleluia. If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading John 6:27-34
The gospel is announced:
P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 6th chapter.
C: Glory to you O Lord.
[Jesus said] Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.' [28]Then they said to him, 'What must we do to perform the works of God?' [29]Jesus answered them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.' [30]So they said to him, 'What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? [31]Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, "He gave them bread from heaven to eat." ' [32]Then Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. [33]For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.' [34]They said to him, 'Sir, give us this bread always.'
After the reading:
P: The Gospel of the Lord
C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day O Word of God Incarnate
(For music see Hymn 514 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **O Word of God incarnate,**
O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging,
O Light of our dark sky:
we praise you for the radiance
that from the hallowed page,
a lantern to our footsteps,
shines on from age to age.

2. **The church from you, dear Master,**
received the gift divine;
and still that light is lifted
o'er all the earth to shine.
It is the chart and compass
that all life's journey through,
mid mists and rocks and quick-sands
still guides, O Christ, to you.

3. **Oh, make your church, dear Savior,**
a lamp of burnished gold
to bear before the nations
your true light, as of old;
oh, teach your wand'ring pilgrims
by this their path to trace,
till, clouds and darkness ended,
they see you face to face.

Text: William W. How, 1823-1897, alt. Music: Neuvermehrtes Besangbuch, Meininge, 1693

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.

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.

Offertory and Gathering of Prayers and Offerings
During the offertory 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.

✞ MEAL ✞

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: God of creation:
C: you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
All blessings are from you;
make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts
in service to you and in love to our neighbors,
today and always.
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 are 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.

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, through our Savior Jesus of Nazareth; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with church of yesterday, today and tomorrow; and the church here in this place and all churches throughout the world, we praise your name and join 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: Christ invites you to this table.
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

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)
625 *Come, We That Love the Lord (Red Hymnal)*
636 *How Small Our Span of Life (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:
Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.
C: Amen.

✞ SENDING ✞

Blessing
P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
C: Amen.

Sending Hymn All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!
(For music turn to Hymn 634 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **All hail the pow'r of Jesus Name!**
Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem
and crown him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem
and crown him Lord of all.

2. **O seed of Israel's chosen race**
now ransomed from the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace
and crown him Lord of all.
Hail him who saves you by his grace
and crown him Lord of all.

3. **Hail him, you heirs of David's line,**
whom David Lord did call –
the God incarnate, man divine -
and crown him Lord of all.
The God incarnate, man divine-
and crown him Lord of all.

4. **Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget**
the wormwood and the gall,
go spread your trophies at his feet
and crown him Lord of all.
Go spread your trophies at his feet
and crown him Lord of all.

5. **Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe**
on this terrestrial ball
to him all majesty ascribe
and crown him Lord of all.

To him all majesty ascribe
and crown him Lord of all.

6. **Oh, that with yonder sacred throng**
we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song
and crown him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song
and crown him Lord of all.

Text: Edward Perronet, 1726-1792, sts.104; J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns,* 1878, sts. 5-6. Music: Oliver Holden, 1765-1844

Dismissal
P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C: God's Work. Our Hands.

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	Linda Flood
Acolyte	Charlotte Stroup
Altar Care	Linda Flood
Communion Assistants	Allyn Itterly
Counters	Anne Stromstad and Michele Myers
Coffee Hour	The Stuarts

Worship assistants for next Sunday, November 22

Greeters and Ushers	Janice Lockwood
Acolyte	Elijah Young
Counters	Bill and Katy Stimmel
Coffee Hour	Parish Thanksgiving Dinner

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