

**St. John’s Lutheran Church**



*Pseudepigrapha*

*November 22, 2020 10:30 Worship*

“Pseudepigrapha” means writing something in the name of someone else who was famous. There are many ancient Jewish texts claiming to be written by prophets or famous leaders but were really written by someone else centuries later. Some of these texts are in the Bible. Early Christians did the same. Some things in the New Testament claiming to be written by Paul were not. And in other places later authors inserted their thoughts into things truly written by Paul. How do we handle these texts? How much authority do they have for our faith?

*Welcome to worship today!*

This order of worship is designed to accompany what is happening live on Zoom. In order to make things work smoothly please keep your computer’s microphone off unless you have a speaking part. It may be helpful to use a headset or earbuds to minimize feedback. You are welcome to use the chat feature to ask questions or provide feedback. Following worship we will have a time for those who would like to chat.

OPENING 

*Welcome and Announcements*

*Confession and Forgiveness*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us acknowledge that we fall short of what we have been created to be.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination*

P: Holy One,

**C: we confess that we are not awake for you.**

**We are not faithful in using your gifts.**

**We forget the least of our siblings.**

**We do not see your beautiful image in one another.**

**We are infected by sin**

**that divides your beloved community.**

**Open our hearts to your coming,**

**open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,**

**open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.**

P: Beloved, we are God’s children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.

Through Jesus you are forgiven,

by Jesus you are welcome,

in Jesus you are called to rejoice!

**C: Amen.**

*Opening Music*

*Prayer of the Day*

A: Let us pray:

Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and hold fast to the hope of eternal life, which you have given us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

WORD 

*First Reading*  1 Corinthians 9:19-27

B: 19For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. 20To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. 21To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God’s law but am under Christ’s law) so that I might win those outside the law. 22To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. 23I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

24Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it. 25Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable one. 26So I do not run aimlessly, nor do I box as though beating the air; 27but I punish my body and enslave it, so that after proclaiming to others I myself should not be disqualified.

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

**C: Thanks be to God!**

*Scripture Poetry* Psalm 119:17-24

**C: Be kind to me, your servant,**

**that I may live your word.**

**Open my eyes**

**to the beauty of your law.**

**Do not hide your commands**

**from me, a stranger.**

**Night and day, I long**

**to follow your teachings.**

**You rebuke those rebels**

**who wander from your way.**

**Save me from that shame,**

**for I am loyal to your rule.**

**Though princes plot against me,**

**still I study your decrees.**

**Your words delight me,**

**they are my guides.**

*Second Reading*  2 Peter 3:14-18

D: 14Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; 15and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, 16speaking of this as he does in all his letters. There are some things in them hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other scriptures. 17You therefore, beloved, since you are forewarned, beware that you are not carried away with the error of the lawless and lose your own stability. 18But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

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

**C: Thanks be to God!**

*Gospel Acclamation (Psalm 119:24)*

**C: Alleluia. Your words delight me, they are my guides. Alleluia.**

*Gospel Reading* John 8:12-20

*The gospel is announced:*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 8th chapter.

**C: Glory to you O Lord.**Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection

12Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.” 13Then the Pharisees said to him, “You are testifying on your own behalf; your testimony is not valid.” 14Jesus answered, “Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid because I know where I have come from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. 15You judge by human standards; I judge no one. 16Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is valid; for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. 17In your law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is valid. 18I testify on my own behalf, and the Father who sent me testifies on my behalf.” 19Then they said to him, “Where is your Father?” Jesus answered, “You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also.” 20He spoke these words while he was teaching in the treasury of the temple, but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.

*After the reading:*

P: The Gospel of the Lord

**C: Praise to you O Christ.**

*Children’s Sermon*

*Sermon*

*Response to the Word*

P: 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*

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

A: Visit American homes on Thanksgiving Day. When we are separated from loved ones, embrace us with your care. Keep gatherings safe. Even in our reduced celebrations, give us voices to offer thanks to you for your perpetual blessings. Lord in your mercy…  
**C: Hear our prayer.**

B: Great God, we praise you for sustaining the church through another year of grace. Continue to shepherd your people with your tender care. Sustain the ministries of the body of Christ and create growth. Guide the missionaries we support: the Rev. Karen Anderson in Chile and the Rev. Matthew Nickoloff in Rochester. Lord in your mercy…  
**C: Hear our prayer.**

E: Bring peace to every place where conflict rages, that your reign may be honored throughout the world. Be with the people of Armenia, Ethiopia, and Hong Kong. Bless the work of the United Nations and of agencies that promote the wellbeing of all peoples. Lord in your mercy…   
**C: 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*

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*

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**

ENDING 

*Blessing*P: May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad!

The blessing of God,

Sovereign, Savior, and Spirit,

be with you today and always.

**C: Amen.**

*Closing Music*

*Dismissal*

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: God’s Work. Our Hands.**

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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

Nathan Cheung, Pianist