



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



The 18th Sunday After Pentecost

October 1, 2023

10:30 Holy Communion

How does the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus connect to our lives today? Is it just an old story? Does Jesus' death somehow make up for our own sins? We're used to asking these questions from the point of view of the gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Lately we've been reading from John's gospel. Today we have John's answer to these questions. His ideas aren't all that different from the others and yet at the same time they're very different.

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 Come, Now Is the Time to Worship
(For music turn to Hymn 8 in the Songbook binder)

Refrain

**Come, now is the time to worship;
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, just as you are to worship;
Come, just as you are before your God, come.**

**1. Open up the doors to our heart and our soul,
leaving earthly cares far behind.
Come, unite us all to serve you now
With love and faith in our mind. *Refrain***

**2. One day every tongue will confess you are God,
one day every knee will bow;
still the greatest treasure remains
for those who gladly choose you now. *Refrain***

Text and Music by Brian Doerksen; copyright 1998 Vineyard Songs, admin by Mercy/Vineyard Publishing; CCLI #2430948

Apostles' Greeting

P: 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.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be God,
the one who forms us,
Jesus who bears the cross,
the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

C: Amen.

P: Let us bow before God in humility,
A moment for reflection

P: Steadfast and faithful God,
**C: you have revealed the ways of justice,
yet we fail to follow you.
We are overwhelmed
by the world's violence and suffering.**

**We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others.
For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us.
For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation,
forgive us.**

**For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us.
Lead us back to you and set us on the right path;
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

P: Beloved in Christ,
God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.
God's compassion is beyond compare.
In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.
In Christ, you are already and always forgiven.
C: Amen

Hymn of Praise Praise the Lord! O Heavens
(For music see Hymn 823 in the Red Hymnal)

- 1. Praise the Lord! O heav'ns, adore him,
praise him, angels, in the height;
sun and moon, rejoice before him;
praise him, gleaming stars and light.
Praise the Lord, for he has spoken;
worlds his mighty voice obeyed;
laws which never shall be broken
for their guidance he has made.**

- 2. Praise the Lord, for he is gracious;
never shall his promise fail.
God has made his saints victorious;
sin and death shall not prevail.
Praise the God of our salvation;
hosts on high, his pow'r proclaim;
heav'n and earth, and all creation,
laud and magnify his name!**

Text: *Foundling Hospital Collection*, London 1796. Music: Frans Joseph Haydn, 1732-1809

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruit of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live 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 31:31-34

B: ³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 51:1-12 (*read responsively*)

D: Have mercy, tender God,
forget that I defied you.

**C: Wash away my sin,
cleans me from my guilt.**

D: I know my evil well,
it stares me in the face,

**C: evil done to you alone
before your very eyes.**

D: How right your condemnation!
Your verdict clearly just.

**C: You see me for what I am,
a sinner before my birth.**

D: You love those centered in truth;
teach me your hidden wisdom.

**C: Wash me with fresh water,
wash me bright as snow.**

D: Fill me with happy songs,

let the bones you bruised now dance.

**C: Shut your eyes to my sin,
make my guilt disappear.**

D: Creator, reshape my heart,
God, steady my spirit.

**C: Do not cast me aside
stripped of your Holy Spirit.**

D: Save me,
bring back my joy,

**C: support me,
strengthen my will.**

Gospel Acclamation (John 12:24)

C: Alleluia. Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading John 12:20-50

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 12th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. ²⁷“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. ³⁴The crowd answered him, “We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be

lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?” ³⁵Jesus said to them, “The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. ³⁶While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light.” After Jesus had said this, he departed and hid from them.

³⁷Although he had performed so many signs in their presence, they did not believe in him. ³⁸This was to fulfill the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah: “Lord, who has believed our message, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?” ³⁹And so they could not believe, because Isaiah also said, ⁴⁰“He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, so that they might not look with their eyes, and understand with their heart and turn— and I would heal them.” ⁴¹Isaiah said this because he saw his glory and spoke about him.

⁴²Nevertheless many, even of the authorities, believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they did not confess it, for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue; ⁴³for they loved human glory more than the glory that comes from God.

⁴⁴Then Jesus cried aloud: “Whoever believes in me believes not in me but in him who sent me. ⁴⁵And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. ⁴⁶I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness. ⁴⁷I do not judge anyone who hears my words and does not keep them, for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. ⁴⁸The one who rejects me and does not receive my word has a judge; on the last day the word that I have spoken will serve as judge, ⁴⁹for I have not spoken on my own, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment about what to say and what to speak. ⁵⁰And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I speak, therefore, I speak just as the Father has told me.”

After the reading:

P: The gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Christ, the Life of All the Living
(For music see Hymn 339 in the Red Hymnal)

**1. Christ, the life of all the living,
Christ, the death of death, our foe,**

**Christ, yourself for me once giving
to the darkest depths of woe:
through your suff'ring, death, and merit
life eternal I inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks are due,
dearest Jesus, unto you.**

**2. You have suffered great affliction
and have borne it patiently,
even death by crucifixion,
fully to atone for me;
for you chose to be tormented
that my doom should be prevented.
Thousand, thousand thanks are due,
dearest Jesus, unto you.**

**3. Then, for all that bought my pardon,
for the sorrows deep and sore,
for the anguish in the garden,
I will thank you evermore;
thank you for the groaning, sighing,
for the bleeding and the dying,
for that last triumphant cry,
praise you evermore on high.**

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605-1681; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt. Music: *Das grosse Cantional*, Darmstadt, 1687

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.**

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: God of power, God of plenty,

**C: all things belong to you.
We bring your gifts to the table,
that all might be fed.
Form us into the body of your Beloved,
Jesus Christ, our Savior. 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: Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat, and live.

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)

324 *In the Cross of Christ I Glory (Red Hymnal)*

323 *God Loved the World (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:

Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

† SENDING †

Blessing

P: The God of glory,
Jesus Christ, name above all names,

and the Spirit who lives in you,
bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn Thy Word is a Lamp Unto my Feet
(For music turn to Hymn 36 in the Songbook binder)

Refrain: **Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path.
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path.**

1. **When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way,
still you're there right beside me
And nothing will I fear, as long as you are near
Please be near me to the end.** *Refrain*

2. **I will not forget your love for me and yet,
my heart forever is wandering.
Jesus be my guide and hold me to your side,
and I will love you to the end** *Refrain*

3. Instrumental-----

**Nothing will I fear as long as you are near.
Please be near me to the end.** *Refrain*

Text by Amy Grant, music by Michael W. Smith; copyright 1984 Meadowgreed Music Co./Word Music, Inc.; CCLI #14301

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers John and Linda Thompson
Acolyte Alyssa Young
Altar Care Mary Zuege
Communion Assistants Greg Zuege
Counters Bill and Katy Stimmel
Coffee Hour

Worship assistants for next Sunday, October 8

Greeters and Ushers Sue Kaufmann
Acolyte Thomas Bullwinkle
Counters Nancy Shuler
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