



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## *The 18th Sunday After Pentecost*

*October 12, 2025 10:30 Service of the Word*

What is true power? There are many definitions. Is it the ability to dominate? Is it the ability to control? Scientifically it is the rate at which work is done. What sort of power does the kingdom of God have? What is the power of faith? In today's gospel we will discover how true power from God works.

### *Welcome to worship today!*

If you are visiting St. John's 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 in the nursery.

# † GATHERING †

## Prelude and Announcements

### Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection.*

P: Most merciful God,

**C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**C: Amen**

### Gathering Hymn Come

*(For music turn to Hymn 6 in the Songbook)*

*Chorus* **Come, worship the Christ,  
lift up your heart with a new living praise.  
Come, join in the marvelous song  
sung by those who live in God's embrace.**

1. **By the word of the maker the heavens came alive,  
the waters were placed in the dance of the sea.  
So let us stand in awe of creation  
and the one who caused it to be. *Chorus***
2. **No one can be saved by their own might or  
make their lives more secure by the strength of an army.  
Wait for the lover who offers guidance  
and life abundantly. *Chorus***
3. **The eyes of the One, our designer,  
watch over us like a mother who nurtures her children.  
Blessed are you, a chosen people.  
Rejoice, live the Amen! *Chorus***

Text and music: Hans Peterson, Copyright 1997 Dakota Road Music; CCLI #2527167

Greeting (2 Corinthians 13:13)

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.**

Gathering Dialog (Deuteronomy 26, 11, 8)

A: You are the treasured people of the Lord,

**C: a people holy to the Lord our God.**

A: Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children.

**C: Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away,  
when you lie down and when you rise.**

A: One does not live by bread alone,

**C: but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.**

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things to your beloved Son, whom you anointed priest forever and king of all creation: Grant that all the people of earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united under the glorious and gentle rule of your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

† WORD †

*First Reading* Jeremiah 23:1-6

B: Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. <sup>2</sup>Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. <sup>3</sup>Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. <sup>4</sup>I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD. <sup>5</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>6</sup>In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Scripture Poetry* Psalm 93 (read responsively)

D: Lord, you reign with glory,  
draped in splendor, girt with power.

**C: The world stands firm,  
not to be shaken,  
for your throne, ageless God,  
has stood from of old.**

D: Onward roll the waves, O God,

**C: onward like thunder,  
onward like fury.**

D: Thundering above the waters,  
high above ocean breakers,  
you, God, rise with might.

**C: Your decrees stand unshaken;  
the beauty of holiness  
fills your house for ever, Lord.**

*Second Reading* Colossians 1:11-20

E: <sup>11</sup>May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with

patience, while joyfully <sup>12</sup>giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. <sup>13</sup>He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup>in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. <sup>15</sup>He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; <sup>16</sup>for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup>He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. <sup>19</sup>For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup>and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Acclamation (Mark 11:9)*

**C: Alleluia. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David. Alleluia.**

*Gospel Reading* Luke 17:20-37

*The gospel is announced:*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 17<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you O Lord.**

<sup>20</sup>Once Jesus was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God was coming, and he answered, “The kingdom of God is not coming with things that can be observed; <sup>21</sup>nor will they say, ‘Look, here it is!’ or ‘There it is!’ For, in fact, the kingdom of God is among you.”

<sup>22</sup>Then he said to the disciples, “The days are coming when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it. <sup>23</sup>They will say to you, ‘Look there!’ or ‘Look here!’ Do not go, do not set off in pursuit. <sup>24</sup>For as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of Man be in his day. <sup>25</sup>But first he must endure much suffering and be rejected by this generation. <sup>26</sup>Just as it was in the days of Noah, so too it will be in the days of the Son of Man. <sup>27</sup>They were eating and drinking, and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed all of them. <sup>28</sup>Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot: they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building, <sup>29</sup>but on the day that Lot left Sodom, it rained fire and sulfur from heaven and destroyed all of them <sup>30</sup>—it will be like that on the day that the Son of

Man is revealed. <sup>31</sup>On that day, anyone on the housetop who has belongings in the house must not come down to take them away; and likewise anyone in the field must not turn back. <sup>32</sup>Remember Lot's wife. <sup>33</sup>Those who try to make their life secure will lose it, but those who lose their life will keep it. <sup>34</sup>I tell you, on that night there will be two in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. <sup>35</sup>There will be two women grinding meal together; one will be taken and the other left." <sup>37</sup>Then they asked him, "Where, Lord?" He said to them, "Where the corpse is, there the vultures will gather."

*After the reading:*

P: The gospel of the Lord

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

### Children's Sermon

#### Sermon

Hymn of the Day My Lord, What a Morning

*(For music turn to Hymn 438 in the Red Hymnal)*

*Refrain*

**My Lord, what a morning;  
my Lord, what a morning;  
oh my Lord, what a morning,  
when the stars be-gin to fall.**

1. **You'll hear the trumpet sound,  
to wake the nations underground,  
looking to my God's right hand,  
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain***
2. **You'll hear the sinner cry,  
to wake the nations underground,  
looking to my God's right hand,  
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain***
3. **You'll hear the Christian shout,  
to wake the nations underground,  
looking to my God's right hand,  
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain***

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.**

P: 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.**

A: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

**C: pray in the Holy Spirit.** *(Jude 20)*

A: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

**C: look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.** *(Jude 21)*

A: 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)*

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.*

# † THANKSGIVING †

## Offertory and Gathering of Prayers and Offerings

*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.*

## Hymn of Thanksgiving

Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil

*For music turn to Hymn 713 in the Blue Hymnal*

**Lord, let my heart be good soil,  
open to the seed of your Word.**

**Lord, let my heart be good soil,  
where love can grow and peace is understood.**

**When my heart is hard,  
break the stone away.**

**When my heart is cold,  
warm it with the day.**

**When my heart is lost,  
lead me on your way.**

**Lord, let my heart,**

**Lord, let my heart,**

**Lord, let my heart be good soil.**

Text and music: Handt Hanson, b. 1950, Copyright 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing/Changing Church, Inc.

## Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray: Blessed are you, O God,

**C: ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus our Savior and Lord. 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 prayed for.*

*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.**

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.**

✠ 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 Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand  
(For music see Hymn 441 in the Red Hymnal)

- 1. Oh, happy day when we shall stand  
amid the heav'nly throng;  
and sing with hosts from ev'ry land  
the new celestial song,  
the new celestial song.**
- 2. Oh, blessed day when Christ shall come  
and show himself as Lord,  
and thousands meet in their new home  
which Jesus has prepared,  
which Jesus has prepared.**
- 3. Oh, what a mighty rushing flood  
of joy and love and peace**

**will roll down over us with good  
and blessedness and grace,  
and blessedness and grace.**

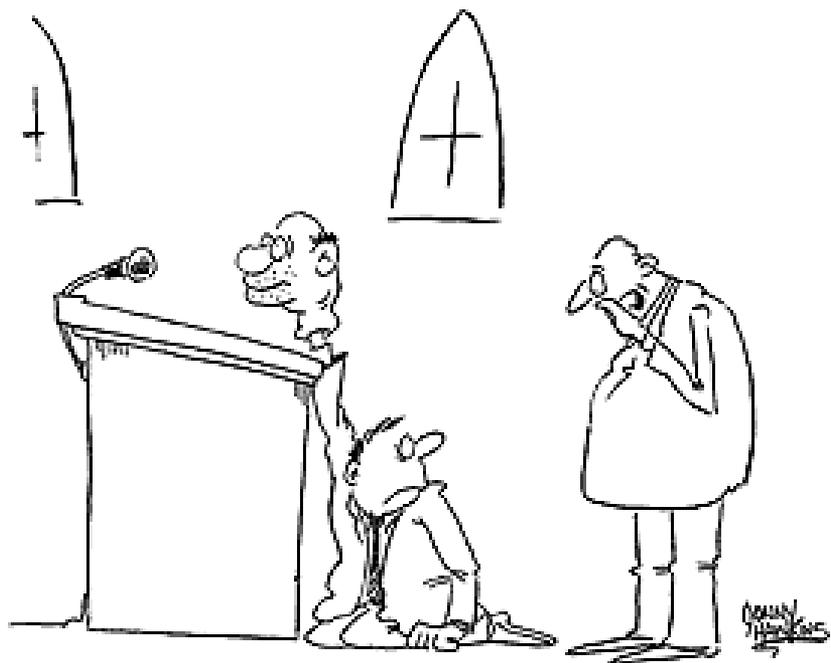
**4. O Lord, your grace is ev'rything;  
your love has made us free  
to stand among the saints and sing  
the glory that we see,  
the glory that we see.**

Text: Wilhelm A Wexels, 1797-1866; tr, ompoaité. Copyright 1958, 1978 Augsburg Fortress. Music: Nikolaus Herman, 1480-1561

**Dismissal**

**P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.**

**C: God's Work. Our Hands.**



"Pssst...I think you misunderstood.  
We hired you for the pulpit ministry."

**Worship assistants TODAY:**

Greeters and Ushers     Linn Griffo and Morgan Sackett  
Acolyte                     Alyssa Young  
Counters                    Bruce and Connie Stevenson  
Coffee Hour

**Worship assistants for next Sunday, October 19**

Greeters and Ushers     Helen Crown  
Acolyte                     Charlotte Stroup  
Altar Care                 Emma Deibler  
Communion Assistant     Greg Zuege  
Counters                    Janice Lockwood and Burdie Gillern  
Coffee Hour

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