



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## *“The Collection”*

*October 18, 2020 10:30 Holy Communion*

Numerous times in Paul's letters he refers to a collection he is making for the poor in Jerusalem. Little is known about this collection other than Paul asks several of his churches to contribute. Ironically the relatively poor Christians of Philippi are very generous. The Corinthians seem to have either dragged their feet or been relatively stingy. Today we'll see the cleverness of Paul's writing as he pushes the Corinthians to increase their giving.

### *Welcome to worship today!*

Please observe social distancing and remain conscious of the need to prevent the spread of infectious disease. In this bulletin is an insert that will be used to determine today's attendance. It will also help to identify who was here if contact tracing is necessary. Please fill it out and place it in the offering plate.

# † GATHERING †

## Welcome and Announcements

### Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

**C: Amen**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
*Silence for reflection.*

P: Faithful God,

**C: have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves.**

**We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.**

**We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.**

**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,**

**and turn us again to life in you,**

**through Jesus the Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P: God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of Jesus the Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world.

**C: Amen**

Gathering Hymn Morning Has Broken  
*(For music see Hymn 556 in the Red Hymnal)*

- 1. Morning has broken  
like the first morning;  
blackbird has spoken  
like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing!  
Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing  
fresh from the Word!**
- 2. Sweet the rain's new fall,  
sunlit from heaven,**

**like the first dew fall  
on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness  
of the wet garden,  
spring in completeness  
where God's feet pass.**

**3. Mine is the sunlight!  
Mine is the morning,  
born of the one light  
Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation,  
praise ev'ry morning,  
God's re-creation  
of the new day!**

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965, copyright Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, admin. David Higham Associates.. Music: Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version, arr. copyright 2005 Augsburg Fortress

*Prayer of the Day*

Let us pray:

God of abundance, you have poured out a large measure of earthly blessings; our table is richly furnished, our cup overflows, and we live in safety and security. Teach us to set our heart on you and not these material blessings. Keep us from being captivated by prosperity, and grant us wisdom to use your blessing to your glory and to the service of all, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

† WORD †

*First Reading* 2 Corinthians 8:1-15, 9:1-15

[Paul wrote] We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; <sup>2</sup>for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. <sup>3</sup>For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, <sup>4</sup>begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints— <sup>5</sup>and this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us, <sup>6</sup>so that we might urge Titus that, as he had already made a beginning, so he should also complete this generous undertaking among you.

A: <sup>7</sup>Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

**C: <sup>8</sup>I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others.**

A: <sup>9</sup>For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.

**C: <sup>10</sup>And in this matter I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something—**

A: <sup>11</sup>now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means.

**C: <sup>12</sup>For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have.**

A: <sup>13</sup>I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance

**C: between <sup>14</sup>your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance.**

A: <sup>15</sup>As it is written, “The one who had much did not have too much,

**C: and the one who had little did not have too little.”**

Now it is not necessary for me to write you about the ministry to the saints, <sup>2</sup>for I know your eagerness, which is the subject of my boasting about you to the people of Macedonia, saying that Achaia has been ready since last year; and your zeal has stirred up most of them. <sup>3</sup>But I am sending the brothers in order that our boasting about you may not prove to have been empty in this case, so that you may be ready, as I said you would be; <sup>4</sup>otherwise, if some Macedonians come with me and find that you are not ready, we would be humiliated—to say nothing of you—in this undertaking. <sup>5</sup>So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you, and arrange in advance for this bountiful gift that you have promised, so that it may be ready as a voluntary gift and not as an extortion.

<sup>6</sup>The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup>Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup>And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. <sup>9</sup>As it is

written, “He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.”<sup>10</sup> He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.<sup>11</sup> You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us;<sup>12</sup> for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.<sup>13</sup> Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others,<sup>14</sup> while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you.<sup>15</sup> Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Acclamation* (2 Corinthians 9:6)

**C: Alleluia. The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Alleluia.**

*Gospel Reading* Luke 6:32-38

*The gospel is announced:*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

[Jesus taught]<sup>32</sup> “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.<sup>33</sup> If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.<sup>34</sup> If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again.<sup>35</sup> But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.<sup>36</sup> Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

<sup>37</sup> “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven;<sup>38</sup> give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

*After the reading:*

P: The gospel of the Lord

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

*Children’s Sermon*

Sermon

Hymn of the Day God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending  
(For music see Hymn 678 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **God, whose giving knows no ending,  
from your rich and endless store:  
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,  
costly cross, grave's shattered door,  
gifted by you, we turn to you,  
off'ring up ourselves in praise;  
thankful song shall rise forever,  
gracious donor of our days.**
2. **Skills and time are ours for pressing  
toward the goals of Christ, your Son:  
all at peace in health and freedom,  
races joined, the church made one.  
Now direct our daily labor,  
lest we strive for self alone;  
born with talents, make us servants  
fit to answer at your throne.**
3. **Treasure, too, you have entrusted,  
gain through pow'rs your grace conferred;  
ours to use for home and kindred,  
and to spread the gospel word.  
Open wide our hands in sharing,  
as we heed Christ's ageless call,  
healing, teaching, and reclaiming,  
serving you by loving all.**

Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1915-2006, copyright 1961, re. 1989 The Hymn Society, admin Hope Publishing Company. Music: C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848-1918

Apostles' Creed

P: Let us confess 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 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:*

We pray for the nations of the world: that violence between and within nations cease; that ELCA World Hunger, the World Food Program of the United Nations, and other relief agencies be enabled to feed those who face starvation; that elections in the world's democracies be conducted fairly; and that the people of our country shun acts of hostility and sedition. Lord in your mercy...

**C: Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the church around the world:

that church leaders be supported in their ministries, especially the missionaries we support, the Rev. Matthew Nickoloff in Rochester and the Rev. Karen Anderson in Chile;

that national and local churches receive the necessary funding to accomplish their tasks;

and that, hearing you call us by name, we join with all the baptized to give you praise, even in this time of trouble. Lord in your mercy...

**C: Hear our prayer.**

On this day commemorating St. Luke, we pray for all ministries of healing: that hospitals and clinics receive adequate resources; that medical care be improved in neighborhoods of poverty, in prisons, and in refugee camps; that physicians and nurses be upheld; and that kindly hospice care be available to the dying.. 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*

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 messages of Christ's peace.*

† MEAL †

*Thanksgiving Prayer*

P: Let us pray: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

**C: You have set before us these gifts of your good creation.**

**Prepare us for your heavenly banquet,  
nourish us with this rich food and drink,  
and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world,  
through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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, 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 6:8, 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.**

Communion Distribution

*Welcome to the Lord's Supper! All who are baptized are invited to receive communion. The pastor will bring a wafer to you and place it in your hands. The communion assistant will follow with a tray of grape juice or wine. If you need a gluten free option please tell the pastor.*

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

P: Let us pray...

God of blessing, at this table we have seen you face to face, and in the gift of Christ's body and blood, our hearts have been refreshed. Send us now to shine with your goodness and bear witness to the one we have received; Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen**

† SENDING †

Blessing

P: Nurturing God,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

Bless you and lead you into the ways of truth and life.

**C: Amen.**

Sending Hymn For the Fruit of All Creation

(For music see Hymn 679 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **For the fruit of all creation,  
thanks be to God.  
For these gifts to ev'ry nation,  
thanks be to God.  
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,  
silent growth while we are sleeping,  
future needs in earth's safe-keeping,  
thanks be to God.**
2. **In the just reward of labor,  
God's will is done.  
In the help we give our neighbor,  
God's will is done.  
In our world-wide task of caring  
for the hungry and despairing,  
in the harvests we are sharing,  
God's will is done.**
3. **For the harvests of the Spirit,  
thanks be to God.  
For the good we all inherit,**

**thanks be to God.  
For the wonders that astound us,  
for the truths that still confound us,  
most of all, that love has found us,  
thanks be to God.**

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000, text copyright 1970 Hope Publishing Company. Music: Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958, arr. copyright Oxford University Press

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

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



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