



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



The 19th Sunday After Pentecost

October 8, 2023 10:30 Service of the Word

Today our gospel text from John takes us to the Last Supper. Except in John's gospel it isn't so much about eating as it is about Jesus' teaching and Jesus washing the disciples' feet. We'll also find there are teachings we easily overlook in the drama of the text. It is there that we will focus.

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

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

Gathering Hymn They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love
(for music, please turn to Hymn 35 in the Songbook binder)

1. **We are one in the spirit, we are one in the Lord.
We are one in the spirit we are one in the Lord;
and we pray that all unity will one day be restored.**

Refrain **And they'll know we are Christians
by our love,
by our love;
yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

2. **We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land;**

Refrain

3. **We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
and we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride;**

Refrain

4. **All praise to the Father from whom all things flow;
and all praise to Christ Jesus his only son;
and all praise to the Spirit who makes us one;**

Refrain

Text and music: Peter Scholtes, copyright 1966 F.E.L. Publications, admin. Lorenx Corp.; CCLI# 26997

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 God, in the sharing of a meal your Son established a new covenant for all people, and in the washing of feet he showed us the dignity of service. Grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit that these signs of our life in faith may speak again to our hearts, feed our spirits, and refresh our bodies, through 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 Ephesians 3:14-21

B: For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. ¹⁶I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, ¹⁷and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. ¹⁸I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ²⁰Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Scripture Poetry Psalm 116: 1-2, 12-19 (*read responsively*)

D: I am filled with love,
for the Lord hears me;

**C: the Lord bends to my voice
whenever I call.**

D: What give can ever repay
God' gift to me?

**C: I raise the cup of freedom
as I call on God's name!**

D: I fulfill my vows to you, Lord,
standing before the assembly.

**C: Lord, you hate to see
your faithful ones die.**

D: I, beg you, Lord, hear me:
it is I, the servant you love,

**C: I, the child of your servant.
You freed me from death's grip.**

D: If I bring a gift of thanks,
as I call on your name.

**C: I fulfill my vows to you, Lord,
standing before your assembly,
in the courts of your, house
within the heart of Jerusalem.
Hallelujah!**

Gospel Acclamation (John 13:34)

**C: Alleluia. I give you a new commandment, that you should love
one another just as I have loved you. Alleluia.**

Gospel Reading John 13

E: Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ²The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him,

F: "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

E: ⁷Jesus answered,

G: "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

E: ⁸Peter said to him,

F: "You will never wash my feet."

E: Jesus answered,

G: "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me."

E: ⁹Simon Peter said to him,

F: "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!"

E: ¹⁰Jesus said to him,

G: "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you."

E: ¹¹For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, “Not all of you are clean.” ¹²After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them,

G: “Do you know what I have done to you? ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

¹⁸I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But it is to fulfill the scripture, ‘The one who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.’ ¹⁹I tell you this now, before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am he. ²⁰Very truly, I tell you, whoever receives one whom I send receives me; and whoever receives me receives him who sent me.”

E: ²¹After saying this Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared,

G: “Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me.”

E: ²²The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. ²³One of his disciples—the one whom Jesus loved—was reclining next to him; ²⁴Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. ²⁵So while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him,

H: “Lord, who is it?”

E: ²⁶Jesus answered,

G: “It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.”

E: So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. ²⁷After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him,

G: “Do quickly what you are going to do.”

E: ²⁸Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. ²⁹Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was telling him, “Buy what we need for the festival”; or, that he should give something to the poor. ³⁰So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

³¹When he had gone out, Jesus said,

G: “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ ³⁴I give you a new

commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

E: Simon Peter said to him,

F: “Lord, where are you going?”

E: Jesus answered,

G: “Where I am going, you cannot follow me now; but you will follow afterward.”

E: ³⁷Peter said to him,

F: “Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.”

E: ³⁸Jesus answered,

G: “Will you lay down your life for me? Very truly, I tell you, before the cock crows, you will have denied me three times.

E: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love
(For music turn to Hymn 708 in the Red Hymnal)

Refrain **Jesu, Jesu,
fill us with your love,
show us how to serve
the neighbors we have from you.**

- 1. Kneels at the feet of his friends
silently washes their feet,
master who acts as a slave to them. *Refrain***
- 2. Neighbors are wealthy and poor,
varied in color and race,
neighbors are nearby and far away. *Refrain***
- 3. These are the ones we will serve,
these are the ones we will love;
all these are neighbors to us and you. *Refrain***
- 4. Kneel at the feet of our friends,
silently washing their feet:**

this is the way we will live with you. Refrain

Text: Tom Colvin; Music: Ghanaian fold tune, adapt. Tom Colvin, arr. Jane Marshall; Copyright 1982 Hope Publishing Co

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.**

D: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

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

D: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

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

D: 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)*

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. 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: Let us share that peace with one another.

The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

‡ THANKSGIVING ‡

Special Music

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.

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray: Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth.

C: 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.

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 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 God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind
(For music see Hymn 400 in the Red Hymnal)

**1. God of tempest, God of whirlwind,
As on Pentecost descend!
Drive us out from sheltered comfort,
past these walls your people send!
Sweep us into costly service,
there with Christ to bear the cross,
there with Christ to bear the cross.**

2. **God of blazing, God of burning,
all that block your purpose, purge!
Through your church, Christ's living Body,
let your flaming Spirit surge!
Where deceit conceals injustice,
kindle us to speak your truth,
kindle us to speak your truth.**

3. **God of earthquake, God of thunder,
shake us loose from lethargy!
Break the chains of sin asunder,
for earth's healing set us free!
Crumble walls that still divide us;
make us one in Christ our Lord,
make us one in Christ our Lord.**

4. **God of passion, God unsleeping,
stir in us love's restlessness!
Where the people cry in anguish,
may we share your heart's distress.
Rouse us from content with evil;
claim us for your kingdom's work,
claim us for your kingdom's work!**

Text: Herman G. Steumpfle Jr, b. 1923. Copyright 2000 GIA Publications Inc. Music: John Hughes, 1873-1932

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

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

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	Sue Kaufmann
Acolyte	Thomas Bullwinkle
Counters	Nancy Shuler
Coffee Hour	

Worship assistants for next Sunday, October 15

Greeters and Ushers	Helen Crown
Acolyte	Alyssa Young
Altar Care	Mary Zuege
Communion Assistant	Sue Kaufmann
Counters	Mary and Greg Zuege
Coffee Hour	Chicken Barbeque

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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