



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## *The 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost*

*September 10, 2023*

*10:30 Service of the Word*

In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life.

*-from Sundays and Seasons 2023*

*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

### Opening of the 2023-2024 Sunday School Year

P: For the marvels of your creation,

**C: we praise you, O God.**

P: For the opportunity to explore and study,

**C: we praise you, O God.**

P: For those who guide us, teachers and mentors,

**C: we praise you, O God.**

P: Teach us your ways and guide us in your path, for you are the creator of all this us, seen and unseen.

**C: Amen**

P: Let us pray: Almighty God, you give wisdom and knowledge. Grant teachers the gift of joy and insight, and students the gift of diligence and openness, that all may grow in what is good and honest and true.

Support all who teach and all who learn, that together we may know and follow your ways; through Jesus the Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen**

P: We begin the 2023-2024 academic year in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

### Gathering Hymn The River is Here

*(For music turn to Hymn 34 in the Songbook binder)*

**1. Down the mountain the river flows,  
and it brings refreshing wherever it goes;  
Through the valleys and over the fields,  
the river is rushing and the river is here.**

*Refrain:* **The river of God sets our feet to dancing,  
the river of God fills our hearts with cheer;  
The river of God fills our mouths with laughter,  
and we rejoice for the river is here.**

**2. The river of God is teeming with life,  
and all who touch it can be revived.  
And all who linger on this river's shore  
will come back thirsting for more of the Lord. *Refrain***

**3. Up to the mountain we love to go,  
to find the presence of the Lord.  
Along the banks of the river we run,  
we dance with laughter, giving praise to the Son. Refrain**

Text and music by: Andy Park; CCLI# 1475231; copyright 1994 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing (Admin by Music Services)

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, your Son came into the world to free us from all sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Holy Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, 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 Ezekiel 37:1-14

B: The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup>He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup>He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." <sup>4</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of

the LORD. <sup>5</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup>I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.” <sup>7</sup>So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup>I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup>Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” <sup>10</sup>I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. <sup>11</sup>Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ <sup>12</sup>Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup>And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup>I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act,” says the LORD.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Scripture Poetry Psalm 130 (*read responsively*)

D: From the depths I call to you

**C: Lord, hear my cry.**

**Catch the sound of my voice  
raised up, pleading.**

D: If you record our sins,  
Lord, who could survive?

**C: But because you forgive  
we stand in awe.**

D: I trust in God’s word,  
I trust in the Lord.

**C: More than sentries for dawn  
I watch for the Lord.**

D: More than sentries for dawn  
let Israel watch.

**C: The Lord will bring mercy  
and grant full pardon.**

**The Lord will free Israel  
from all its sins.**

Second Reading Romans 8:6-11

E: <sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. <sup>9</sup>But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

<sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation (John 11:25, 26)

**C: Jesus says, I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me will never die.**

Gospel Reading John 11:1-45

*The gospel is announced:*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup>Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup>So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." <sup>4</sup>But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." <sup>5</sup>Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup>after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. <sup>7</sup>Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." <sup>8</sup>The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" <sup>9</sup>Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. <sup>10</sup>But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." <sup>11</sup>After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen

asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.”<sup>12</sup>The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.”<sup>13</sup>Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep.<sup>14</sup>Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead.<sup>15</sup>For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”<sup>16</sup>Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

<sup>17</sup>When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.<sup>18</sup>Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away,<sup>19</sup>and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother.<sup>20</sup>When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home.<sup>21</sup>Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.<sup>22</sup>But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.”<sup>23</sup>Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”<sup>24</sup>Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.”<sup>25</sup>Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,<sup>26</sup>and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”<sup>27</sup>She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”<sup>28</sup>When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.”<sup>29</sup>And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him.<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him.<sup>31</sup>The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there.<sup>32</sup>When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

<sup>33</sup>When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.<sup>34</sup>He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.”<sup>35</sup>Jesus began to weep.<sup>36</sup>So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”<sup>37</sup>But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”<sup>38</sup>Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.<sup>39</sup>Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.”<sup>40</sup>Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?”<sup>41</sup>So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having

heard me. <sup>42</sup>I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” <sup>43</sup>When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” <sup>44</sup>The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

<sup>45</sup>Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

*After the reading:*

P: The Gospel of the Lord

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

### Children's Sermon

#### Sermon

Hymn of the Day Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life  
(For music turn to Hymn 816 in the Red Hymnal)

1. Come, my way, my truth, my life:

Such a way as gives us breath;

Such a truth as ends all strife;

Such a life as killeth death.

2. Come, my light, my feast, my strength:

Such a light as shows a feast;

Such a feast as mends in length;

Such a strength as makes his guest.

3. Come, my joy, my love, my heart:

Such a joy as none can move;

Such a love as none can part;

such a heart as joys in love.

Text: George Herbert, 1593-1632; Music: R. Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958

#### 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.**

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, 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 Let All Things Now Living  
(For music see Hymn 881 in the Red Hymnal)

1. Let all things now living  
a song of thanksgiving  
to God the creator triumphantly raise,  
who fashioned and made us,  
protected and stayed us,  
who still guides us on to the end of our days.  
God's banners are o'er us,  
God's light goes before us,  
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,  
till shadows have vanished  
and darkness is banished,  
as forward we travel from light into light.
2. God rules all the forces:  
the stars in their courses  
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;  
the hills and the mountains,  
the rivers and fountains,

**the deeps of the ocean proclaim God divine.  
We too should be voicing  
out love and rejoicing;  
with glad adoration a song let us raise  
till all things now living  
unite in thanksgiving:  
“To God in the highest,  
hosanna and praise!”**

Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892-1980 alt. Copyright 1939, 1966 E.C. Schirmer Music Company. Music: Welsh folk tune

***Dismissal***

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

**C: God’s Work. Our Hands.**

**Worship assistants TODAY:**

Greeters and Ushers	Tom and Carol Urbanic
Acolyte	Alyssa Young
Counters	Linda Flood and Sue Kaufmann
Coffee Hour	Lunch for garden harvest

**Worship assistants for next Sunday, September 17**

Greeters and Ushers	Bruce and Connie Stevenson
Acolyte	Thomas Bullwinkle
Altar Care	Gary Boisseau
Communion Assistant	Mary Zuege
Counters	John and Linda Thompson
Coffee Hour	

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