



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



The 16th Sunday After Pentecost

September 17, 2023

10:30 Holy Communion

Today's gospel could be described as overwhelming. We encounter Mary who pours an overwhelming amount of perfume on Jesus' feet. Mary's actions overwhelm our social sensibilities because what she is doing is far beyond what is acceptable. The smell of the perfume overwhelms the house. Perhaps the only thing not overwhelming is Judas' response to the scene. We are then surprised to hear Jesus' praise of Mary and the author's criticism of Judas.

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 Waterlife

(for music turn to Hymn 457 in the Red Hymnal)

**1. Before I can remember, the covenant was sealed
with Father, Son and Spirit, in water was revealed.
The cleansing was for certain, with water and the Word;
gentle words were spoken, in heaven they were heard.**

Chorus **They were singing water life, beginning life,
water life, all my life, water life, Spirit life, water life.**

**2. A simple sweet beginning, a loving place to start:
Christ began the singing that swells within my heart.
His love became my calling, His life my ministry.
His name is my adoption into His family. *Chorus***

**3. My hope and expectation for true community
begins with resurrection, His death and life in me.
His Spirit fills the body; His church through water sees
promise for tomorrow, His water life in me. *Chorus***

Text and music: Handt Hanson, Copyright 1991 Changing Church Forum, Inc., CCLI #806124

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, the leader of our lives: we seek to do what is good and right. But sometimes what you want done is not what those around us consider

good and right. Give us the sight to see what you are doing. And give us the courage to do your will even when it is not right in the world's eyes.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading James 3:13-18

B: ¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 95:1-7 (*read responsively*)

D: Come, sing with joy to God,
shout to our savior, our rock.

**C: Enter God's presence with praise,
enter with shouting and song.**

D: A great God is the Lord,
over the gods like a king.

**C: God cradles the depths of the earth,
holds fast the mountain peaks.**

D: God shaped the ocean and owns it,
formed the earth by hand.

**C: Come, bow down and worship,
kneel to the Lord our maker.
This is our God, our shepherd,
we are the flock led with care.**

Gospel Acclamation (*James 3:18*)

C: Alleluia. A harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading John 11:45-12:11

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 11th and 12th chapters.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him. ⁴⁶But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what he had done. ⁴⁷So the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the council, and said, "What are we to do? This man is performing many signs. ⁴⁸If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and destroy both our holy place and our nation." ⁴⁹But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all! ⁵⁰You do not understand that it is better for you to have one man die for the people than to have the whole nation destroyed." ⁵¹He did not say this on his own, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus was about to die for the nation, ⁵²and not for the nation only, but to gather into one the dispersed children of God. ⁵³So from that day on they planned to put him to death. ⁵⁴Jesus therefore no longer walked about openly among the Jews, but went from there to a town called Ephraim in the region near the wilderness; and he remained there with the disciples. ⁵⁵Now the Passover of the Jews was near, and many went up from the country to Jerusalem before the Passover to purify themselves. ⁵⁶They were looking for Jesus and were asking one another as they stood in the temple, "What do you think? Surely he will not come to the festival, will he?" ⁵⁷Now the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that anyone who knew where Jesus was should let them know, so that they might arrest him.

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ²There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵"Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me." ⁹When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came not only because of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ¹⁰So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to

death as well, ¹¹since it was on account of him that many of the Jews were deserting and were believing in Jesus.

After the reading:

P: The gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus
(for music, please turn to Hymn 802 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Let us ever walk with Jesus,
follow his example pure,
through a world that would deceive us
and to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in his footsteps treading,
trav'lers here, our home above,
full of faith and hope and love,
let us do our Savior's bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide;
I shall follow where you guide.**
2. **Let us suffer here with Jesus,
and with patience bear our cross.
Joy will follow all our sadness;
where he is there is no loss.
Though today we sow no laughter,
we shall reap celestial joy;
All discomforts that annoy
shall give way to mirth here after.
Jesus, here I share your woe;
help me there your joy to know.**
3. **Let us gladly die with Jesus.
Since by death he conquered death,
he will free us from destruction,
give to us immortal breath.
Let us mortify all passion
that would lead us into sin;
and the grave that shuts us in**

**shall but prove the gate of heaven.
Jesus, here with you I die,
there to live with you on high.**

- 4. Let us also live with Jesus.
He has risen from the dead
that to life we may awaken,
Jesus, you are now our head,
we are your own living members;
where you live, there we shall be
in your presence constantly,
living there with you forever.
Jesus, let me faithful be;
life eternal grant to me.**

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626-1681; tr. Luthlean Book of Worship, alt. Music: Georg G. Boltze, 18th cent.

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)

460 *Now the Silence (Red Hymnal)*

461 *All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly (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 All My Relatives
(for music please turn to Hymn 52 in the Songbook)

1. **Listen my sister, listen my brother,
so many features, so many colors;
I have not loved you like I should love you
if I believe that God is love.**

Refrain

**Ev'ry face, All My Relatives.
Ev'ry race, All My Relatives.
Ev'ry place, All My Relatives.
Hear creation sing,
one with ev'ry thing.**

2. **Where there is hurting, we share the hurting.
Where there is justice, we share the justice.
Where there is praising, we share the praising.
If we believe that God is love.**

Refrain

3. **Where there is suff'ring, we share the suff'ring.
Where there is praising, we share the praising.
Where there is freedom, we share the freedom
If we believe that God is love.**

Refrain

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Dismissal

**P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C: God's Work. Our Hands.**

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	Bruce and Connie Stevenson
Acolyte	Thomas Bullwinkle
Altar Care	Gary Boisseau
Communion Assistants	Mary Zuege
Counters	John and Linda Thompson
Coffee Hour	Lunch for potato harvest

Worship assistants for next Sunday, September 24

Greeters and Ushers	Mary and Greg Zuege
Acolyte	Alyssa Young
Counters	Michele Myers and Helen Crown
Coffee Hour	

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