



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



The 15th Sunday After Pentecost

September 18, 2022

10:30 Holy Communion

Zacchaeus is famous for being short, so short that when he hears Jesus will be traveling by he climbs a tree in order to get a glimpse of him over the crowd. To everyone's surprise Jesus spots this short man in a tree, and then Jesus invites himself into Zacchaeus' home. There's more going on in this story than meets the eye. There are important contrasts with the rich ruler we met last week. There's also the challenge of accepting people who have been long time sinners.

Welcome to worship today!

If you are visiting with us we invite you to sign the Guest Book in the back of the sanctuary.

† 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 the Holy Trinity, one God,
who is eager to forgive
and who loves us beyond our days.

C: Amen.

P: Dear friends, together let us acknowledge our failure to love this world as Jesus does.

(A moment of silence for reflection)

P: God of mercy and forgiveness,

C: we confess that sin still has a hold on us.

We have harmed your good creation.

**We have failed to do justice,
love kindness,
and walk humbly with you.
Turn us in a new direction.
Show us the path that leads to life.
Be our refuge and strength on the journey,
through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.
Amen.**

P: Beloved of God:
your sins are forgiven and you are made whole.
God points the way to new life in Christ,
who meets us on the road.
Journey now in God's abiding love
through the power of the Holy Spirit.
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...

Merciful God, gracious and benevolent, through your Son you invite all the world to a meal of mercy. Grant that we may eagerly follow his call,

and bring us with all your saints into your life of justice and joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

First Reading Exodus 22:1

When someone steals an ox or a sheep, and slaughters it or sells it, the thief shall pay five oxen for an ox, and four sheep for a sheep. The thief shall make restitution, but if unable to do so, shall be sold for the theft.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 100 (*read responsively*)

A: Shout joy to the Lord, all earth,
serve the Lord with gladness,
enter God's presence with joy!

**C: Know that the Lord is God,
our maker to whom we belong,
our shepherd, and we the flock.**

A: Enter the temple gates,
the courtyard with thanks and praise;
give thanks and bless God's name.

**C: Indeed the Lord is good!
God's love is forever,
faithful from age to age.**

Second Reading James 3:13-18

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.

Gospel Acclamation (Luke 19:10)

C: The Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.

Gospel Reading Luke 18:35-19:10

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 18th and 19th chapters.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

³⁵As [Jesus] approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. ³⁶When he heard a crowd going by, he asked what was happening. ³⁷They told him, “Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.” ³⁸Then he shouted, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” ³⁹Those who were in front sternly ordered him to be quiet; but he shouted even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” ⁴⁰Jesus stood still and ordered the man to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, ⁴¹“What do you want me to do for you?” He said, “Lord, let me see again.” ⁴²Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight; your faith has saved you.” ⁴³Immediately he regained his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, praised God.

He entered Jericho and was passing through it. ²A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. ⁴So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. ⁵When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today.” ⁶So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. ⁷All who saw it began to grumble and said, “He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.” ⁸Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.” ⁹Then Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.”

After the reading:

P: The gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day There's a Wideness in God's Mercy
(For music see Hymn 588 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice
which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgment giv'n.**

2. **There's a welcome for the sinner,
and a promised grace made good;
there is mercy with the Savior;
there is healing in his blood.
There is grace enough for thousands
of new worlds as great as this;
there is room for fresh creations
in that upper home of bliss.**

3. **For the love of God is broader
that the measures of our mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is more wonderfully kind.
But we make this love too narrow
by false limits of our own;
and we magnify its strictness
with a zeal God will not own.**

4. **'Tis not all we owe to Jesus;
it is something more than all:
greater good because of evil,
larger mercy through the fall.
Make our love, O God, more faithful;
let us take you at your word,
and our lives will be thanksgiving
for the goodness of the Lord.**

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: Gracious God:

**C: in your great love you richly provide for our needs.
Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing,
and make us ready to share with all in need;
through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all.
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: Christ invites you to this table. Come, taste and see.

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)

592 *Just As I Am (Red Hymnal)*

599 *Blessed Assurance (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

F: Let us pray:

God of the abundant table,
you have refreshed our hearts in this meal
with bread for the journey.

Give us your grace on the road
that we might serve our neighbors with joy;
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

‡ SENDING ‡

Blessing

P: God, who gives life to all things
and frees us from despair,
bless you with truth and peace.
And may the Holy Trinity, one God,
guide you always in faith, hope, and love.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
(For music turn to Hymn 834 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise!**
2. **Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,
nor wanting nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**
3. **To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,**

and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.

**4. Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render; oh, help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!**

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824-1908, alt. Music: Welsh traditional; arr. John Roberts, 1807-1876

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers

Acolyte

Altar Care Gary Boisseau

Communion Assistants Nancy Shuler

Counters Burdie Gillern and Linda Flood

Coffee Hour

Worship assistants for next Sunday, September 25

Greeters and Ushers Bruce and Connie Stevenson

Acolyte Owen Young

Counters Babette Huber and Burdie Gillern

Coffee Hour *Please sign up!*

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