



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



The 17th Sunday After Pentecost

September 24, 2023

10:30 Service of the Word

The text from John's gospel that we will be reading today is one that tells the story of Palm Sunday. However, we will be expanding it a few verses beyond the accounts of Palm Sunday. By doing so we learn more about why the religious leaders already consider Jesus to be a threat, and what they plan to do about it.

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 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

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, our provider for all things, give us insight to see and use the possessions and talents that you have given to us. And guide us to use those things with purpose and humility, so that your will may be done on earth. We ask this 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 Zechariah 9:9-10

B: ⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he,

humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 118:1-2, 19-24 (*read responsively*)

D: Give thanks, the Lord is good,
God's love is for ever!

**C: Now let all God's people say,
"God's love is forever!"**

D: Open the gates of justice,
let me praise God within them.

**C: This is the Lord's own gate,
only the just will enter.**

D: I thank you for you answered me,
and you became my savior.

**C: The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.**

D: This is the word of the Lord,
how wonderful in our eyes.

**C: This is the day the Lord has made,
let us rejoice and be glad.**

Second Reading 1 Peter 2:1-10

E: Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. ²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." ⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," ⁸and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own

people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (1 Peter 2:10a)

C: Alleluia. Once we were not a people, but now we are God's people. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading John 12:9-19

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 12th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

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.

¹²The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord— the King of Israel!" ¹⁴Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written: ¹⁵"Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" ¹⁶His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him. ¹⁷So the crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to testify. ¹⁸It was also because they heard that he had performed this sign that the crowd went to meet him. ¹⁹The Pharisees then said to one another, "You see, you can do nothing. Look, the world has gone after him!"

After the reading:

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Where Charity and Love Prevail
(For music see Hymn 359 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Where charity and love prevail,
there God is ever found;
brought here together by Christ's love,
by love we thus are bound.**
2. **With grateful joy and holy fear,
God's charity we learn;
let us with heart and mind and soul
now love God in return.**
3. **Let us recall that in our midst
dwells Christ, God's holy Son;
as members of each body joined,
in him we are made one.**
4. **Let strife among us be unknown;
let all contentions cease.
Be God's the glory that we seek;
be his our only peace.**
5. **Let us forgive each other's faults
as we our own confess,
that we may love each other well
in Christian gentleness.**

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt., copyright 1960 World Library Publications. Music: attr Lucius Chapin, 1760-1842

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 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

Text and Music Copyright 1992 Dakota Road Music, CCLI Song# 1763486

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.



"My dad's teachin' me to be 'grounded
in the faith' too, but he's taking
a totally different approach."

Worship assistants TODAY:

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

Worship assistants for next Sunday, October 1

Greeters and Ushers John and Linda Thompson
Acolyte Alyssa Young
Altar Care Mary Zuege
Communion Assistant Greg Zuege
Counters Bruce and Connie Stevenson
Coffee Hour

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