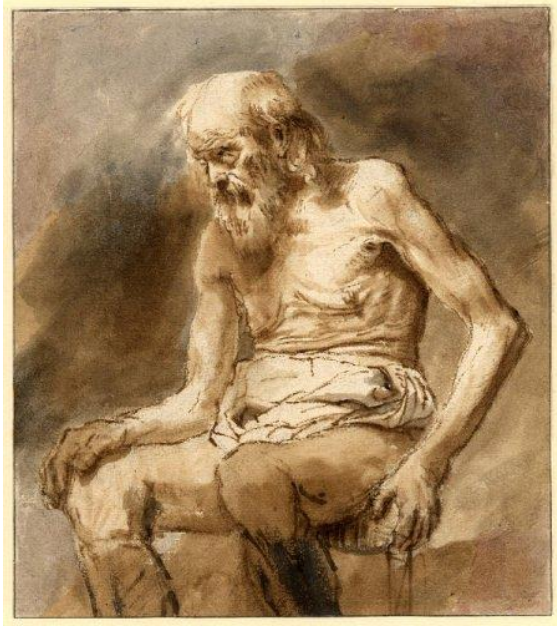




# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## *Jeremiah – Dirty Underwear*

*September 26, 2021*

*10:30 Service of the Word*

God told the prophet Jeremiah to buy a linen loincloth and use it as a symbol for God's relationship with the people of Israel. A linen loincloth was the equivalent of underwear today. Jeremiah is instructed to do things with it that thoroughly ruin it. Though a Bible passage about ruining underwear is a bit comic, it is a sad but significant image of God's relationship with the people.

### *Welcome to worship today!*

Please observe social distancing and remain conscious of the need to prevent the spread of infectious disease. In this bulletin is an insert that will be used to determine today's attendance. It will also help to identify who was here if contact tracing is necessary. Please fill it out and place it in the offering plate.

# † GATHERING †

## Prelude and Announcements

### Opening of the 2021-2022 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 2021-2022 academic year in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

### Gathering Hymn Come

*(For music turn to Hymn 6 in the Songbook)*

*Chorus* **Come, worship the Christ,  
lift up your heart with a new living praise.  
Come, join in the marvelous song  
sung by those who live in God's embrace.**

**1. By the word of the maker the heavens came alive,  
the waters were placed in the dance of the sea.  
So let us stand in awe of creation  
and the one who caused it to be.** *Chorus*

**2. No one can be saved by their own might or  
make their lives more secure by the strength of an army.  
Wait for the lover who offers guidance  
and life abundantly.** *Chorus*

**3. The eyes of the One, our designer,  
watch over us like a mother who nurtures her children.  
Blessed are you, a chosen people.  
Rejoice, live the Amen! *Chorus***

Text and music: Hans Peterson, Copyright 1997 Dakota Road Music; CCLI #2527167

*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:

O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of welcome and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

† WORD †

*First Reading* Jeremiah 13:1-11

B: Thus said the LORD to me, “Go and buy yourself a linen loincloth, and put it on your loins, but do not dip it in water.”<sup>2</sup>So I bought a loincloth according to the word of the LORD, and put it on my loins.<sup>3</sup>And the word of the LORD came to me a second time, saying,<sup>4</sup>“Take the loincloth that you bought and are wearing, and go now to the Euphrates, and hide it there in a cleft of the rock.”<sup>5</sup>So I went, and hid it by the Euphrates, as the LORD commanded me.<sup>6</sup>And after many days the LORD said to me, “Go now to the Euphrates, and take from there the loincloth that I

commanded you to hide there.” <sup>7</sup>Then I went to the Euphrates, and dug, and I took the loincloth from the place where I had hidden it. But now the loincloth was ruined; it was good for nothing. <sup>8</sup>Then the word of the LORD came to me: <sup>9</sup>Thus says the LORD: Just so I will ruin the pride of Judah and the great pride of Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup>This evil people, who refuse to hear my words, who stubbornly follow their own will and have gone after other gods to serve them and worship them, shall be like this loincloth, which is good for nothing. <sup>11</sup>For as the loincloth clings to one’s loins, so I made the whole house of Israel and the whole house of Judah cling to me, says the LORD, in order that they might be for me a people, a name, a praise, and a glory. But they would not listen.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Scripture Poetry* Psalm 8 (*read responsively*)

D: Lord our God,  
the whole world tells  
the greatness of your name.  
Your glory reaches  
beyond the stars.

**C: Even the babble of infants  
declares your strength,  
your power to halt  
the enemy and avenger.**

D: I see your handiwork  
in the heavens:  
the moon and the stars  
you set in place.

**C: What is humankind  
that you remember them,  
the human race  
that you care for them?**

D: You treat them like gods,  
dressing them in glory and splendor.

**C: You give them charge of the earth,  
laying all at their feet:**

D: cattle and sheep,  
wild beasts,  
birds of the sky,  
fish of the sea,  
every swimming creature.

**C: Lord our God,**

**the whole world tells  
the greatness of your name.**

Second Reading Romans 6:1-11

E: What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup>By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? <sup>3</sup>Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. <sup>5</sup>For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup>We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup>For whoever has died is freed from sin. <sup>8</sup>But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup>The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. <sup>11</sup>So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation (Romans 6:4b)

**C: Alleluia. Just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. Alleluia.**

Gospel Reading Mark 7:1-7

*The gospel is announced:*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], <sup>2</sup>they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. <sup>3</sup>(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; <sup>4</sup>and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) <sup>5</sup>So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the

elders, but eat with defiled hands?” <sup>6</sup>He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; <sup>7</sup>in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

*After the reading:*

P: The Gospel of the Lord

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

### Children’s Sermon

### Sermon

Hymn of the Day      Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me  
(For music turn to Hymn 623 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in thee;  
let the water and the blood,  
from thy riven side which flowed,  
be of sin the double cure;  
cleans me from its guilt and pow’r.**
2. **Not the labors of my hands  
can fulfill thy law’s demands;  
could my zeal no respite know,  
could my tears forever flow,  
all for sin could not atone;  
thou my save, and thou alone.**
3. **Nothing in my hand I bring;  
simply to thy cross I cling.  
Naked, come to thee for dress;  
helpless, look to thee for grace;  
foul, I to the fountain fly;  
wash me, Savior, or I die.**

4. **While I draw this fleeting breath,  
when mine eyelids close in death,  
when I soar to worlds unknown,  
see thee on thy judgment throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in thee.**

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740-1778. Music: Thomas Hastings, 1784-1872.

Response to the Word

E: 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.**

E: 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.**

E: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

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

E: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

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

E: 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)*

## ‡ PRAYER ‡

### 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 begins the prayers with a petition and then invites the congregation to add additional ones. These three will be read following the pastor. Please end your petition with the words, "Lord in your mercy."*

A: We pray for those in authority. Give them wise minds and compassionate hearts. Strengthen in them a desire to protect the vulnerable and care for those underserved. Lord in your mercy...

**C: Hear our prayer.**

D: We pray for the church and its ministry. Bless the newly baptized and encourage them in their journey of faith. Sustain all members of the body of Christ in lives of prayer, service, and worship. Lord in your mercy...

**C: Hear our prayer.**

E: We pray for those who work to medical workers as the pandemic continues. Give them the strength and stamina they need. Keep them safe. Guide their many decisions so that their work may lead to the healing of those they serve. Lord in your mercy...

**C: 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 messages of Christ's peace.*

### Special Music



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: People of God,  
you are Christ's body,  
bringing new life to a suffering world.  
The holy Trinity, one God,  
bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

Sending 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***

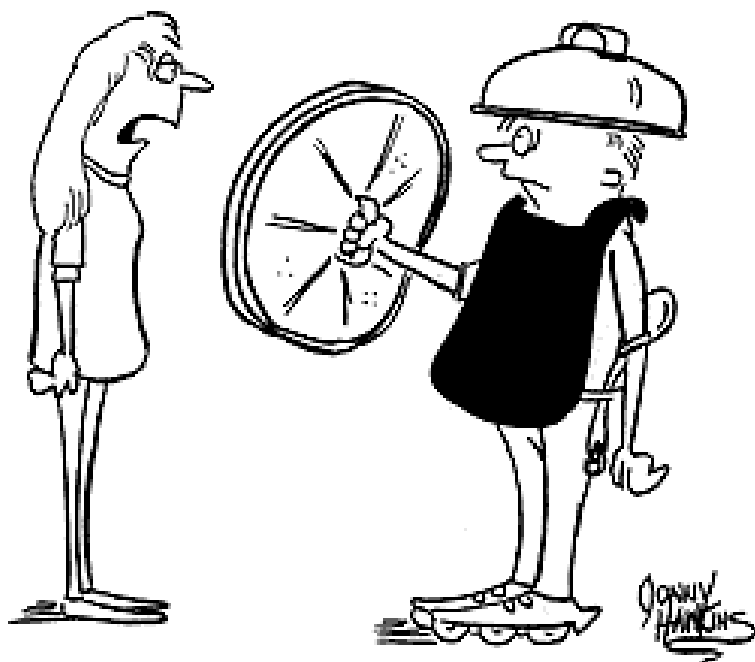
**3. Up to the mountain we love to go,  
to find the presence of the Lord.  
Along the banks of the river we run,  
we dance with laughter, giving praise to the Son. *Refrain***

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

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

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



"I wouldn't consider calling Mom's  
pot roast lid, the garbage  
cover, a mud flap, a stew ladle  
and roller blades the 'Armor of God.'"

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