



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



The 14th Sunday After Pentecost

September 3, 2023

10:30 Holy Communion

Today's gospel reading may sound familiar. If so, that is because it is! We'll be reading John 10:22-42, which is a summary of everything that we have learned about Jesus since the beginning of the gospel. John has condensed all this because he's about to move into new things. Those new things we'll get into next week. For this week we pause to put together everything we've learned thus far.

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 All Are Welcome
(For music turn to Hymn 1 in the Songbook binder)

Chorus

**All are welcome, friend and stranger,
At the banquet of the Savior.
All are welcome. All are welcome here.**

- 1. From the woman who comes crying
Leaving tears at Jesus' feet,
To the man who knows the right way
But cannot see. *Chorus***
- 2. From the ones who feel forgotten,
Those who sense their place is gone,
To the ones who live in hunger,
Here you belong. *Chorus***
- 3. Go into the streets and cities,
To the farms and families,
Tell about the splendid table,
God's mercy *Chorus***

Text and music: Hans Peterson, Larry Olson; copyright 1999 Dakota Road Music; CCLI #2944348

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!**

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading Ezekiel 34:11-16

B: ¹¹For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹²As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 82 (*read responsively*)

D: God stands in heaven's court
to judge all other gods:

**C: "How long will you gods
pervert the truth
and side with the wicked?"**

D: "Hand down justice
to orphans and the weak,
uphold the rights
of the poor and oppressed.
Free the weak and needy

from the grip of the wicked.”

**C: These gods know nothing,
they wander in the dark
while the world falls to pieces.**

D: “I had thought of you as gods,
born of highest heaven,
but you will die like any creature
and fall like any prince.”

**C: Rise, God, judge the world.
All nations are yours.**

Second Reading Hebrews 1:1-4

E: Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (John 10:14)

C: Alleluia. Jesus says, I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading John 10:22-42

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 10th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

²²At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.” ²⁵Jesus answered, “I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me; ²⁶but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹What

my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. ³⁰The Father and I are one." ³¹The Jews took up stones again to stone him. ³²Jesus replied, "I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these are you going to stone me?" ³³The Jews answered, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you, but for blasphemy, because you, though only a human being, are making yourself God." ³⁴Jesus answered, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, you are gods'?" ³⁵If those to whom the word of God came were called 'gods' —and the scripture cannot be annulled— ³⁶can you say that the one whom the Father has sanctified and sent into the world is blaspheming because I said, 'I am God's Son'? ³⁷If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me. ³⁸But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father." ³⁹Then they tried to arrest him again, but he escaped from their hands. ⁴⁰He went away again across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing earlier, and he remained there. ⁴¹Many came to him, and they were saying, "John performed no sign, but everything that John said about this man was true." ⁴²And many believed in him there.

After the reading:

P: The gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day In Christ There Is No East or West
(For music see Hymn 650 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one community of love
throughout the whole wide earth.**
2. **In Christ shall true hearts ev'rywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord
close binding humankind.**
3. **Join hands, disciples of the faith,
whate're your race may be.
All children of the living God**

and surely kin to me.

4. **In Christ now meet both east and west,
in him meet south and north;
all Christly souls are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth.**

Text: John Oxenham, 1852-1941, alt. Music: African American spiritual; adapt. Henry T. Burleigh, 1866-1949

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)

496 *One Bread, One Body (Red Hymnal)*

492 *Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup (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 Shout to the North
(For music turn to Hymn 31 in the Songbook binder)

**1. Men of faith, rise up and sing
of the great and glorious King.
You are strong when you are weak,
in your brokenness complete.**

Refrain

**Shout to the north and the south;
sing to the east and the west.
Jesus is Savior of all, Lord of heaven and earth.**

**2. Rise up women of the truth,
stand and sing to broken hearts
who can know the healing pow'r
of our awesome King of love.**

Refrain

**3. We've been through fire, we've been through rain;
We've been refined by the pow'r of His name.**

**We've fallen deeper in love with You.
You've burned the truth on our lips.**

Refrain

**4. Rise up church with broken wings,
Fill this place with songs again
of our God who reigns on high.
By His grace again we'll fly.**

Refrain

Text and music: Martin Smith; Copyright 1996 Curious? Music UK; CCLI #156226

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	Linda Flood
Acolyte	Thomas Bullwinkle
Altar Care	Gary Boisseau
Communion Assistants	Rob Stroup
Counters	Bruce and Connie Stevenson
Coffee Hour	

Worship assistants for next Sunday, September 10

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

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St. John's Lutheran Church
888 County Road 9, Victor, NY 14564
stjohnsvictor.com (585) 924-5192
The Rev. Jonathan Deibler, Pastor
William Shi, Pianist