



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Do you
want to be
healed?

John 5:6

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 29, 2018

10:30 Holy Communion

In the third of the seven signs Jesus performs in John's gospel we meet a very sick man. He has been ill for thirty-eight years when Jesus encounters him, and heals him. Pay attention as we read the gospel today and realize just how passive this man is in it all. He does not seek Jesus. Jesus comes to him. He does not ask to be healed. Jesus heals him anyway. There is no mention of the man's faith, or lack of faith. Jesus' healing just comes to the man. This is one of those stories that shows just how radical grace can be. Without even asking for it, God's goodness comes!

Welcome to worship today!

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

Nursery care is available during the service. Please see one of the ushers if you need more information.

† GATHERING †

Prelude and Announcements

Gathering Hymn Wade in the Water
(For music see Hymn 459 in the Red Hymnal)

**Refrain Wade in the water,
wade in the water, children,
wade in the water,
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.**

**1. See that host all dressed in white,
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
the leader looks like the Israelite.
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. Refrain**

**2. See that band all dressed in red,
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
looks like the band that Moses led.
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. Refrain**

**3. Look over yonder, what do I see?
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
the Holy Ghost a-coming on me.
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. Refrain**

**4. If you don't believe I've been redeemed,
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
just follow me down the Jordan stream.
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. Refrain**

Text and Music: African American spiritual

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.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Just as God's work of creation never ends,

so the gifts received in baptism are renewed every day.
Let us give thanks together for the life given in baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life:
for water to bathe in, and for water to drink,
for the rain, the snow, and the water in the ground.

C: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life.

P: We give you thanks, O God for the waters of this place:
the Finger Lakes, the Genesee River, and Lake Ontario;
for waters to play in and waters that inspire wonder,
for water that gives life to our planet.

C: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of wonder.

P: We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
and for all who gather in this place;
for godparents and baptismal sponsors,
for children and grandchildren,
for our brothers and sisters in Christ whom we have never seen but to
whom we are bound.

C: We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized.

P: We give you thanks, O God, for water, for life, for grace, for
forgiveness, for resurrection and for eternal life.

**C: We give you thanks, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.
Amen.**

Hymn of Praise I Am the Resurrection and the Life
(For music turn to Hymn 16 in the Songbook binder)

Chorus

**I am the resurrection and the life
all who believe in Me will never die
I am the resurrection and the life
all who believe in Me will live a new life.**

- 1. I have come to bring the truth
I have come to bring you life
if you believe then you shall live.** *Chorus*
- 2. In My word all men will come to know
it is love which makes the spirit grow
if you believe then you shall live.** *Chorus*

**3. Keep in mind the things that I have said
remember Me in the breaking of the bread
if you believe then you shall live.**

Chorus

Text and music: Ray Repp, CCLI #9189, Copyright 1967 K & R Music Publishing

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, 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 Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 9:8-15 (*read responsively*)

A: You, God, reign for ever;
you established your throne

**C: to rule the world with justice
and judge all peoples rightly.**

A: You defend the oppressed,
fortify them in time of trouble.

C: Those who know you, trust you;

you never desert the faithful.

A: Sing to the Lord of Zion,
tell all the people this wonder:

**C: God avenges the poor
and never neglects their cries.**

A: Pity me, Lord.
How my enemies hurt me!
From the gates of death you saved me,

**C: so I might praise your deeds
within the gates of Zion.
I will rejoice in your victory.**

Second Reading Romans 5:6-11

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Romans 5:8)

C: Alleluia. God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Alleluia

Gospel Reading John 5:1-18

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 5th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ²Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. ³In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. ⁵One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. ⁶When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be made well?” ⁷The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into

the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.”⁸ Jesus said to him, “Stand up, take your mat and walk.”⁹ At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk. Now that day was a sabbath.¹⁰ So the Jews said to the man who had been cured, “It is the sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your mat.”¹¹ But he answered them, “The man who made me well said to me, ‘Take up your mat and walk.’”¹² They asked him, “Who is the man who said to you, ‘Take it up and walk?’”¹³ Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had disappeared in the crowd that was there.¹⁴ Later Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, “See, you have been made well! Do not sin any more, so that nothing worse happens to you.”¹⁵ The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.¹⁶ Therefore the Jews started persecuting Jesus, because he was doing such things on the sabbath.¹⁷ But Jesus answered them, “My Father is still working, and I also am working.”¹⁸ For this reason the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because he was not only breaking the sabbath, but was also calling God his own Father, thereby making himself equal to God.

After the reading:

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Beauty for Brokenness (God of the Poor)

(For music see Hymn 102 in the Songbook Binder)

1. **Beauty for brokenness,
hope for despair,
Lord, in your suff’ring world,
this is our prayer.
Bread for the children,
justice, joy, peace,
sunrise to sunset
Your kingdom increase.**
2. **Shelter for fragile lives,
cures for their ills
work for the craftsmen,
trade for their skills**

**land for the dispossessed,
rights for the weak
voices to plead the cause,
of those who can't speak.**

Chorus **God of the poor
friend of the weak,
give us compassion we pray,
melt our cold hearts,
let tears fall like rain.
Come change our love
from a spark to a flame.**

**3. Refuge from cruel wars,
havens from fear
cities for sanctu'ry,
freedoms to share
peace to the killing fields,
scorched earth to green
Christ for the bitterness,
his cross for the pain.** *Chorus*

**4. Rest for the ravaged earth,
oceans and streams
plundered and poisoned,
our future our dreams
Lord end our madness,
carelessness, greed
make us content with
the things that we need.** *Chorus*

**5. Lighten our darkness,
breath on this flame
until your justice
burns brightly again
until the nations
learn of your ways
seek your salvation
and bring you their praise.** *Chorus*

Nicene Creed

A: Let us confirm our faith with the Nicene Creed

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again, in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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 †

Offering & 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

A: Let us pray:

C: Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. 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.

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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has embodied the promise of eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with all the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join in 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.**

Communion Distribution

Welcome to the Lord's Supper! All who are baptized are invited to receive communion. You will receive bread from the communion assistant. (If you need gluten free wafers please ask the assistant distributing bread.) You may receive wine from either the common cup or in an individual glass. If you would like to receive in a glass please pick one up from the tray as you approach the altar rail. White grape juice is available in the individual glasses for those who do not wish to take wine. As we commune together everyone is invited to sing the following hymns:

Lamb of God (Page 39 of the Blue Hymnal)

612 *Healer of Our Every Ill (Red Hymnal)*

94 *Down the River to Pray (Songbook Binder)*

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...

Life giving God, in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

C: Amen.

† SENDING †

Blessing

P: May God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit 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

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	Sue Kaufman and Linda Flood
Acolyte	Scott Wilmot
Altar Care	Liz Brown
Communion Assistants	Bruce and Diane Boncke
Nursery Care	Katy Stimmel
Counters	Bruce and Connie Stevenson
Coffee Hour	Beth Perdan

Worship assistants for next Sunday, May 6, 2018

Greeters and Ushers	Tom and Lisa Kurilovitch
Acolyte	Abbie Bullwinkle
Altar Care	Linda Thompson
Communion Assistants	Paul and Babette Huber
Nursery Care	Laura Stroup
Counters	Beth Perdan and Bettina Kalish
Coffee Hour	<i>Please sign up!</i>

Scripture readings from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible* copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States. Psalm from *The Psalter* copyright 1994, Liturgical Training Publications. Variable worship texts from *Sundays and Seasons 2017* copyright 2016 Augsburg Fortress.

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