



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## *Crossing the Red Sea- Exodus 14*

*August 12, 2018*

*10:30 Service of the Word*

The Israelites had been set free! ...sort of. Not long after they left Egypt Pharaoh had a change of heart and decided to pursue them with his army. You know the story of the Red Sea well. The Israelites safely cross on dry land. The Egyptian army drowns. What is to be learned by yet another story of destruction and mass death? For the Israelites it is the message to trust God. God knows them and cares for them, and God will deliver them by his own power. They can never claim victory by their own might. The same call for humility goes for our lives too.

### *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

### Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, full of compassion and mercy, abounding in steadfast love.

**C: Amen**

P: Trusting God's promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

*(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)*

P: Eternal God our creator,

**C: in you we live and move and have our being. Look upon us, your children, the work of your hands. Forgive us all our offenses, and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires. By your grace draw us near to you, our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P: Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us. In the mercy of almighty God, Christ died for us while we still were sinners; and for his sake, God forgives you all your sins.

**C: Amen.**

### Gathering Hymn Crashing Waters at Creation

*(For music see Hymn 455 in the Red Hymnal)*

- 1. Crashing waters at creation,  
ordered by the Spirit's breath,  
first to witness day's beginning  
from the brightness of night's death.**
- 2. Parting waters stood and trembled  
as the captives passed on through,  
washing off the chains of bondage  
channel to a life made new.**
- 3. Cleansing water once at Jordan  
closed around the one foretold,  
opened to reveal the glory  
ever new and ever old.**

**4. Living water, never ending,  
quench the thirst and flood the soul.  
Well-spring, source of life eternal,  
drench our dry-ness, make us whole.**

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993. Music: attr. Christian F. Witt, 1660-1716; adapt. Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-1876

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 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 Exodus 14:5-20

<sup>5</sup>When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, the minds of Pharaoh and his officials were changed toward the people, and they said, "What have we done, letting Israel leave our service?" <sup>6</sup>So he had his chariot made ready, and took his army with him; <sup>7</sup>he took six hundred picked chariots and all the other chariots of Egypt with officers over all of them. <sup>8</sup>The Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt and he pursued the Israelites, who were going out boldly. <sup>9</sup>The Egyptians pursued them, all Pharaoh's horses and chariots, his chariot drivers and

his army; they overtook them camped by the sea, by Pi-hahiroth, in front of Baal-zephon.

<sup>10</sup>As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>They said to Moses, “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? <sup>12</sup>Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, ‘Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians?’ For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.” <sup>13</sup>But Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. <sup>14</sup>The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.”

<sup>15</sup>Then the Lord said to Moses, “Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. <sup>16</sup>But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. <sup>17</sup>Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. <sup>18</sup>And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers.” <sup>19</sup>The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. <sup>20</sup>It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Scripture Poetry* Psalm 106:4-12 (*Read responsively*)

A: Think of me, Lord,  
when you bless your people;  
share with me your salvation,  
your blessing for your chosen ones.

**C: Then I will rejoice with your nation  
and praise you as one of your own.**

A: Like our ancestors we sinned,  
we acted badly, wickedly.

**C: While in Egypt, our ancestors  
ignored your signs.**

A: They forgot your kind deeds  
and rebelled at the Red Sea.

**C: Yet God saved them,  
revealed divine power,  
true to his name.**

A: God's rebuke cleared a dry path  
through the depths of the sea,

**C: freeing his people from the enemy's grip,  
snatching them from hostile hands.**

A: The waters swallowed their foes,  
not one of them survived.

**C: Then Israel trusted God's word  
and sang songs of praise.**

Second Reading Exodus 14:21-31

<sup>21</sup>Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. <sup>22</sup>The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. <sup>23</sup>The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. <sup>24</sup>At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. <sup>25</sup>He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."<sup>26</sup>Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers."<sup>27</sup>So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. <sup>28</sup>The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. <sup>29</sup>But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. <sup>30</sup>Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. <sup>31</sup>Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Video “Breathe” from the *Nooma* series by Rob Bell

Hymn of the Day I, the Lord of Sea and Sky  
(for music, see Hymn 574 in the *Red Hymnal*)

1. “I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in deepest sin  
my hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?”

*Refrain* Here I am, Lord.

Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord,  
If you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.

2. “I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people’s pain.  
I have wept for love of them.  
They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them.  
Whom shall I send?”

*Refrain*

3. “I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them.  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send?”

*Refrain*

Apostles' Creed

A: 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 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

A: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

A: Let us share that peace with one another.

*The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.*

# † THANKSGIVING †

## Offering & Special Music

Hymn of Thanksgiving As the offering is brought forward the congregation sings:

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

A: Let us pray:

**C: Merciful God, you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing. You have set many blessings before us. Open our hands to receive them. Open our hearts to embrace them. Open our lives to live them. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

A: 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: May God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*Sending Hymn* Take Our Lives  
(For music turn to Hymn 58 in the Songbook binder)

- 1. You have called us chosen, a royal priesthood,  
A holy nation, and we belong to You.  
You have called us chosen, a royal priesthood,  
A holy nation, and we belong to You.**

*Refrain:*

**Take our lives as a sacrifice  
Shine in us Your holy light.  
Purify our hearts' desire,  
Be to us a consuming fire.**

- 2. You have shown us mercy, You have redeemed us,  
Our hearts cry "Father we belong to You."  
You have shown us mercy, You have redeemed us,  
Our hearts cry "Father we belong to You."     *Refrain***

Text and music: Andy Park; Copyright 1991 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing; CCLI 398687

*Dismissal*

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

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

I'M GLAD I DIDN'T

LIVE BACK IN  
**BIBLE TIMES!**  
GOD WAS  
**TERRIFYING**  
**BACK THEN!**



GOD

HASN'T  
CHANGED.



WE'VE ALWAYS

NEEDED SOMEONE  
TO STAND BEFORE  
GOD IN OUR PLACE.



LET ME

GUESS...  
**JESUS?**



YES, THE

ANSWER IS  
ALWAYS JESUS.





**Worship assistants TODAY:**

Greeters and Ushers      Kim and Gary Boisseau  
Acolyte                      Abbie Bullwinkle  
Nursery Care                Kalena Boisseau  
Counters                      Bruce and Connie Stevenson  
Coffee Hour

**Worship assistants for next Sunday, August 19, 2018**

Greeters and Ushers      Laura and Rob Stroup  
Acolyte                      Olivia DeLeon  
Altar Care                    Liz Brown  
Communion Assistants    Paul and Babette Huber  
Nursery Care                Judy VanDeVelde  
Counters                      Babette Huber and Burdie Gillern  
Coffee Hour

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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  
Heidi Griffith, Music Director