



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## *Matthew 15*

*February 16, 2020*

*10:30 Holy Communion*

Before you can play a game you have to know the rules. Rules let you know what you can do and what you can't do. But what about faith? What are the rules of faith? Are there rules at all? In today's gospel reading we enter into the struggles of the church Matthew wrote his gospel to, and we see how they are struggling to understand what it means to follow Christ. Time has passed but today we still learn through their struggles.

### *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 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

### 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.**

### Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God,  
the eternal voice from heaven,  
the anointed and beloved one,  
the Spirit moving over the waters.

**C: Amen.**

P: As we approach the mystery of God, let us come in confession, trusting the love of Christ crucified and risen.

*(A moment of silence for reflection)*

P: God who searches and knows us,

**C: you have shown us what is good,  
but we have looked to other lights to find our way.  
We have not been just in our dealings with others.  
We have chosen revenge over mercy.  
We have promoted ourselves  
instead of walking humbly with you.  
With what shall we come before you?  
Forgive us our sin,  
and show us your salvation  
in the face of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

P: Beloved of God,

you have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, poured out for you in the faithfulness of Jesus the Christ. Receive the promise of baptism: You are God's child; your sins are forgiven. Rejoice and be glad, for yours is the reign of heaven.

**C: Amen**

*Hymn of Praise* Now the Feast and Celebration  
*(For music turn to Hymn 789 in the Blue Hymnal)*

*Refrain*

**Now the feast and celebration,  
all of creation sings for joy  
to the God of life and love and freedom  
praise and glory forevermore!**

1. **Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain,  
whose blood has freed and united us  
to be one great people of God.** *Refrain*
2. **Power and riches, wisdom and might,  
all honor and glory to Christ forever.** *Refrain*
3. **For God has come to dwell with us,  
to make us people of God;  
to make all things new.** *Refrain*

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray.

Holy God of compassion, you invite us into your way of forgiveness and peace. Lead us to love our enemies, and transform our words and deeds to be like his through whom we pray, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

† WORD †

First Reading Isaiah 29:13-16

<sup>13</sup>The Lord said: Because these people draw near with their mouths  
and honor me with their lips,  
while their hearts are far from me,  
and their worship of me is a human commandment learned by rote;

<sup>14</sup>so I will again do  
amazing things with this people,  
shocking and amazing.

The wisdom of their wise shall perish,  
and the discernment of the discerning shall be hidden.

<sup>15</sup>Ha! You who hide a plan too deep for the LORD,  
whose deeds are in the dark,  
and who say, “Who sees us? Who knows us?”

<sup>16</sup>You turn things upside down!  
Shall the potter be regarded as the clay?  
Shall the thing made say of its maker,  
“He did not make me”;

or the thing formed say of the one who formed it,  
“He has no understanding”?

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Scripture Poetry Psalm 63:1-9

A: God, my God, you I crave  
my soul thirsts for you,  
my body aches for you  
like a dry and weary land.

**C: Let me gaze on you in your temple:  
a vision of strength and glory.**

A: Your love is better than life,  
my speech is full of praise.

**C: I give you a lifetime of worship,  
my hands raised in your name.**

A: I feast at a rich table,  
my lips sing of your glory.

**C: On my bed I lie awake,  
your memory fills the night.**

A: You have been my help,  
I rejoice beneath your wings.

**C: Yes, I cling to you,  
your right hand holds me fast.**

Second Reading Matthew 15-16:12

A1: Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said,  
<sup>2</sup>“Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands before they eat.” <sup>3</sup>He answered them, “**And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?** <sup>4</sup>**For God said, ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘Whoever speaks evil of father or mother must surely die.’** <sup>5</sup>**But you say that whoever tells father or mother, ‘Whatever support you might have had from me is given to God,’ then that person need not honor the father.** <sup>6</sup>**So, for the sake of your tradition, you make void the word of God.** <sup>7</sup>**You hypocrites! Isaiah prophesied rightly about you when he said:**

<sup>8</sup>**This people honors me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far from me;  
<sup>9</sup>in vain do they worship me,  
teaching human precepts as doctrines.”**

A2: Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, “**Listen and understand: <sup>11</sup>it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.**” <sup>12</sup>Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” <sup>13</sup>He answered, “**Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted.** <sup>14</sup>**Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.**” <sup>15</sup>But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” <sup>16</sup>Then he said, “**Are you also still without understanding? <sup>17</sup>Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? <sup>18</sup>But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. <sup>19</sup>For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery,**

**fornication, theft, false witness, slander. <sup>20</sup>These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”**

A3: Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup>Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” <sup>23</sup>But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” <sup>24</sup>He answered, **“I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”** <sup>25</sup>But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” <sup>26</sup>He answered, **“It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.”** <sup>27</sup>She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” <sup>28</sup>Then Jesus answered her, **“Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.”** And her daughter was healed instantly.

A4: After Jesus had left that place, he passed along the Sea of Galilee, and he went up the mountain, where he sat down. <sup>30</sup>Great crowds came to him, bringing with them the lame, the maimed, the blind, the mute, and many others. They put them at his feet, and he cured them, <sup>31</sup>so that the crowd was amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the maimed whole, the lame walking, and the blind seeing. And they praised the God of Israel.

<sup>32</sup>Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said, **“I have compassion for the crowd, because they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat; and I do not want to send them away hungry, for they might faint on the way.”** <sup>33</sup>The disciples said to him, “Where are we to get enough bread in the desert to feed so great a crowd?” <sup>34</sup>Jesus asked them, **“How many loaves have you?”** They said, “Seven, and a few small fish.” <sup>35</sup>Then ordering the crowd to sit down on the ground, <sup>36</sup>he took the seven loaves and the fish; and after giving thanks he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. <sup>37</sup>And all of them ate and were filled; and they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. <sup>38</sup>Those who had eaten were four thousand men, besides women and children. <sup>39</sup>After sending away the crowds, he got into the boat and went to the region of Magadan.

A1: The Pharisees and Sadducees came, and to test Jesus they asked him to show them a sign from heaven. <sup>2</sup>He answered them, **“When it is evening, you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.’ <sup>3</sup>And in the morning, ‘It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.’ You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky,**

**but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. <sup>4</sup>An evil and adulterous generation asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah.”** Then he left them and went away.

A2: When the disciples reached the other side, they had forgotten to bring any bread. <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to them, **“Watch out, and beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”** <sup>7</sup>They said to one another, “It is because we have brought no bread.” <sup>8</sup>And becoming aware of it, Jesus said, **“You of little faith, why are you talking about having no bread? <sup>9</sup>Do you still not perceive? Do you not remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many baskets you gathered? <sup>10</sup>Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many baskets you gathered? <sup>11</sup>How could you fail to perceive that I was not speaking about bread? Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees!”** <sup>12</sup>Then they understood that he had not told them to beware of the yeast of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### Children's Sermon

#### Sermon

Hymn of the Day     Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness  
(For music see Hymn 843 in the Red Hymnal)

- 1. Praise the One who breaks the darkness  
with a liberating light;  
praise the One who frees the pris'ners,  
turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the One who preached the gospel,  
healing ev'ry dread disease,  
calming storms and feeding thousands  
with the very bread of peace.**
- 2. Praise the One who blessed the children  
with a strong yet gentle word;  
praise the One who drove out demons  
with a piercing, two-edged sword.  
Praise the One who brings cool water  
to the desert's burning sand;  
from the well comes living water  
quenching thirst in ev'ry land.**

3. **Praise the one true love incarnate:  
Christ, who suffered in our place;  
Jesus died and rose for many  
that we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness,  
seeing what our God has done.  
Praise the one redeeming glory;  
praise the One who makes us one.**

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955. Text copyright 1987 Hope Publishing Company. Music: J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

### *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*

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.*



† MEAL †

Offering and Offertory

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

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

*For music turn to Hymn 182 in the Red Hymnal*

**C: Let the vineyards be fruitful Lord,  
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.  
Gather a harvest from the seeds that we sown,  
that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gather the hopes of the dreams of all;  
unite them with the prayers we offer now.  
Grace our table with your presence,  
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

Music: Liturgy of Joy, James M Capers, b. 1948. Text copyright 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress and music copyright 1993 Augsburg Fortress

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray. God of wonder,

**C: you formed us in our mother's womb, and from mother earth you bring forth this bread and wine. We place them on your table, together with our lives and all that you have made. Open the heavens to us and pour out your Spirit.  
We wait for your mercy,  
we long for your peace;  
we hunger and thirst for Jesus Christ,  
our banquet of life. 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 Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your

beloved Son, and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and 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 would prefer a gluten free wafer please ask the communion assistant distributing the 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)*

**766 Lord of Our Life (Red Hymnal)**

**75 Feed Us Now (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: Faithful God, you have kept your promise to us in this meal, nourishing us with the gift of salvation. Now send your servants forth in peace, that we may testify to your goodness and share the hope that is ours in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

†      SENDING      †

Blessing

P: May Christ, the wisdom and power of God, and the source of our life together, keep you united in mind and purpose. And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you always.

**C: Amen.**

Sending Hymn    Go, My Children, with My Blessing  
(For music see Hymn 543 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **“Go, my children, with my blessing,  
never alone.  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you,  
you are my own.  
In my love’s baptismal river  
I have made you mine forever.  
Go, my children, with my blessing,  
you are my own.”**
  
2. **“Go, my children, sins forgiven,  
at peace and pure.  
Here you learned how much I love you,  
what I can cure.  
Here you heard my dear Son’s story,  
here you touched him, saw his glory.  
God, my children, sins forgiven,**

at peace and pure.”

3. “Go, my children, fed and nourished,  
closer to me.  
Grow in love and love by serving,  
joyful and free.  
Here my Spirit’s power filled you,  
here my tender comfort stilled you.  
Go, my children, fed and nourished,  
joyful and free.”

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt. Copyright 1983 Concordia Publishing House. Music: Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958, Copyright Oxford University Press

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: God’s Work. Our Hands.**

**Worship assistants TODAY:**

Greeters and Ushers	Kim and Gary Boisseau
Acolyte	Jonathan Buch
Altar Care	Beth Perdan
Communion Assistants	Linda Flood and Phyllis Henderson
Nursery Care	Judy VanDeVelde
Counters	Linda and John Thompson
Coffee Hour	Wilma Townsend

Worship assistants for next Sunday, February 23

Greeters and Ushers	Mike and Cassie Ross
Acolyte	Abbie Bullwinkle
Nursery Care	Beth Perdan
Counters	Bruce Boncke and Art Fields
Coffee Hour	Mary Zuege and Judy VanDeVelde

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## St. John’s Lutheran Church

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The Rev. Jonathan Deibler, Pastor  
Nathan Cheung, Pianist