



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Life of Discipleship—Mark 9:14-10:12

February 4, 2018

10:30 Holy Communion

Our gospel reading today may appear to be a hodge-podge of topics. In some ways it is, but the stories do connect. They are all about the cost of discipleship and a life oriented toward God's purposes.

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 Purify My Heart
(For music turn to Hymn 27 in the Songbook binder)

**Purify my heart,
touch me with your cleansing fire.
Take me to the cross.
Your holiness is my desire.
Breathe your life in me,
kindle a love that flows from your throne.
Oh, purify my heart,
oh, purify my heart.**

Text and music by Jeff Nelson; CCLI #1314323

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: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God of heaven and earth, you come in close and make us yours. Equip us by your Spirit to confess our sin, embrace your forgiveness, and seek the way you set before us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: With honesty of heart, let us confess our sin.

(A moment of silence for reflection)

P: Merciful God,

C: forgive us.

Our will is handcuffed to sin, and we cannot break free.

We have spoken when we should have kept silent.

P: We were silent when we should have said something.

C: We acted when we knew better.

P: We were still when we know we should have moved.

**C: For the wrong we have done, for the good we have failed to do,
have mercy on us, oh God.**

P: People of God, look to the Son, given to heal you and set you free because God loved the world so much. Take hold of life – eternal life!
C: Amen

Hymn of Praise Kyrie

For music turn to page 28 in the Blue Hymnal

A: Kyrie eleison:

C: Lord, have mercy.

A: Christie eleison:

C: Christ, have mercy.

A: Kyrie eleison:

C: Lord, have mercy.

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

Lord Jesus, your teachings reveal how much you love us. Your teachings also challenge us and confuse us. Give us insight into your plans and help us to live in confidence that what we do reflects your will. In your name we pray.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading Colossians 3:1-11

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, ³for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

⁵Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. ⁷These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life.

⁸But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices¹⁰and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. ¹¹In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and

uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 4 (*read responsively*)

A: Answer me when I call, faithful God.

You cleared away my trouble;
be good to me, listen to my prayer.

**C: How long, proud fools,
will you insult my honor,
loving lies and chasing shadows?**

A: Look! God astounds believers,
the Lord listens when I call.

C: Tremble, but do not despair.

**Attend to your heart,
be calm through the night,**

A: worship with integrity,
trust in the Lord.

**C: Cynics ask, “Who will bless us?
Even God has turned away.”**

A: You give my heart more joy
than all their grain and wine.

**C: I sleep secure at night,
you keep me in your care.**

Second Reading Mark 9:14-10:12

A1: When they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and some scribes arguing with them. ¹⁵When the whole crowd saw him, they were immediately overcome with awe, and they ran forward to greet him. ¹⁶He asked them, “What are you arguing about with them?”¹⁷Someone from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought you my son; he has a spirit that makes him unable to speak; ¹⁸and whenever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, but they could not do so.” ¹⁹He answered them, “You faithless generation, how much longer must I be among you? How much longer must I put up with you? Bring him to me.” ²⁰And they brought the boy to him. When the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. ²¹Jesus asked the father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. ²²It has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to

destroy him; but if you are able to do anything, have pity on us and help us.”²³ Jesus said to him, “If you are able! —All things can be done for the one who believes.”²⁴ Immediately the father of the child cried out, “I believe; help my unbelief!”²⁵ When Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You spirit that keeps this boy from speaking and hearing, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again!”²⁶ After crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, “He is dead.”²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he was able to stand.²⁸ When he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?”²⁹ He said to them, “This kind can come out only through prayer.”

A2: They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it;³¹ for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.”³² But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

A3: Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?”³⁴ But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest.³⁵ He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.”³⁶ Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them,³⁷ “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

A1: John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.”³⁹ But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me.”⁴⁰ Whoever is not against us is for us.⁴¹ For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

A2: “If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea.⁴³ If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire.⁴⁵ And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter

life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. ⁴⁷And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched. ⁴⁹“For everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

A3: He left that place and went to the region of Judea and beyond the Jordan. And crowds again gathered around him; and, as was his custom, he again taught them.

²Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” ³He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” ⁴They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.” ⁵But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. ⁶But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ⁷For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, ⁸and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

¹⁰Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. ¹¹He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; ¹²and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

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 Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love
(For music turn to Hymn 708 in the Red Hymnal)

Refrain **Jesu, Jesu,
fill us with your love,
show us how to serve
the neighbors we have from you.**

1. **Kneels at the feet of his friends
silently washes their feet,
master who acts as a slave to them. *Refrain***
2. **Neighbors are wealthy and poor,
varied in color and race,
neighbors are nearby and far away. *Refrain***
3. **These are the ones we will serve,
these are the ones we will love;
all these are neighbors to us and you. *Refrain***
4. **Kneel at the feet of our friends,
silently washing their feet:
this is the way we will live with you. *Refrain***

Text: Tom Colvin; Music: Ghanaian fold tune, adapt. Tom Colvin, arr. Jane Marshall; Copyright 1982 Hope Publishing Co

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 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 Special Music

Hymn of Thanksgiving 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: Merciful God,

C: receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our 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, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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:

(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)

343 *My Song Is Love Unknown (Red Hymnal)*

9 *Communion Response (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:

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be a hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

Blessing

P: May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn I Want Jesus to Walk With Me
(For music turn to Hymn 325 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **I want Jesus to walk with me;
I want Jesus to walk with me;
all along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**
2. **In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
in my trials, Lord, walk with me;
when my heart is almost breaking,
Lord I want Jesus to walk with me.**
3. **When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when my head is bowed in sorrow,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

Text and music: African American Spiritual, arr. J. Jefferson Cleveland, Verolga Nix; copyright 1981 Abingdon Press

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	John and Linda Thompson
Acolyte	Joe Wyman
Altar Care	Sally Mansfield
Communion Assistants	Tricia Kolczynski and Beth Bright
Nursery Care	Judy VanDeVelde
Counters	Ivan and Nancy Shuler
Coffee Hour	Sue Kaufmann

Worship assistants for next Sunday, February 25, 2018

Greeters and Ushers	Julie and Nick Stuart
Acolyte	Tierney White
Nursery Care	Katy Stimmel
Counters	Bill Hagerman and Tim Brown
Coffee Hour	Sunday School Classes

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