



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

# WHO DO YOU THINK

# YOU ASK

M A T T H E W 16:15

## *Matthew 15-16*

*February 19, 2017*

*10:30 Holy Communion*

Who is Jesus? Is he just a prophet? Is he just an historical figure? Is he a revolutionary? Is he God's anointed one? Is he God incarnate? The way you answer says a lot about faith. We'll discover what it means for Jesus to be God incarnate. We'll also discover that most of the rules and categories we like to use in life cannot be applied to God.

*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,  
who stretches out the heavens,  
who sends light to the nations,  
who gives breath to us all.

**C: Amen.**

P: Gathered in God's presence, let us confess our sin.

(A moment of silence for reflection)

P: Loving God,

**C: we confess that we have turned from your way to follow our own ways. Forgive us for the times:  
we have spoken or acted too quickly;  
we have not spoken at all;  
we have hurt those closest to us;  
we have hurt those we have yet to know;  
we have thought more about ourselves than others;  
we have thought less of ourselves than we ought.  
Turn us around, and give us a fresh start,  
so that we can live again as your children.**

P: Even when we have done wrong, God makes us right. Even when we have messed up, God puts us together. God's love never runs out. God never tires of calling us beloved children. Hear God say to you now: Your sins are forgiven, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.

**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*

Text and music: Marty Haugen; Copyright 1990 GIA Publications Inc.

*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.**

Second Reading Matthew 15-16

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.

A3: Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, **“Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”** <sup>14</sup>And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” <sup>15</sup>He said to them, **“But who do you say that I am?”** <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” <sup>17</sup>And Jesus answered him, **“Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup>I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever**

**you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”** <sup>20</sup>Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

A4: From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup>And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” <sup>23</sup>But he turned and said to Peter, “**Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.**”

<sup>24</sup>Then Jesus told his disciples, “**If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup>For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? <sup>27</sup>For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. <sup>28</sup>Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.**”

*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      Take Up Your Cross  
*For music turn to Hymn 81 in the Songbook Binder*

**1. In a world of many  
voices calling at me,  
it's hard to hear the one that's true.  
Even when I hear it,  
when my heart discerns it,  
I lack the will to see it through.  
Though I'm falling, falling,  
the voice is always calling:  
Take up your cross.  
Take up your cross.  
Take up your cross and follow me,**

**and follow me.**

**2. The call is hard to swallow:**

**Take up your cross and follow.  
The words reach deep inside of me.  
I find myself so troubled,  
to lose my life, be humble,  
the sins within refuse to see,  
Though I'm falling, falling,  
the voice is always calling:  
Take up your cross.  
Take up your cross.  
Take up your cross and follow me,  
and follow me.**

Text and music: Dakota Road

*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 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. Merciful God,

**C: receive the gifts we bring, our selves, our time, and our possessions. Through this meal unite us as your body, shining with the light of your justice and mercy; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus 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... (*Concluding*) 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. 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: Let us pray:

O Morning Star, fair and bright, you have refreshed us again with heavenly food. You are our dearest treasure. Go with us now – today, tomorrow, every day – that we tell the story of your never-ending love and sing your praise both now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## † SENDING †

Blessing

P: Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

Sending Hymn Travelers on the Journey  
(For music turn to Hymn 37 in the Songbook binder)

*Refrain*

**We are  
trav'lers on the journey  
yearning to believe!  
Hearts are burning  
eyes are opened.  
We are  
trav'lers on the journey of love.**

**1. What is life really all about**

**in the struggle of faith?  
Hear the word reaching out to you,  
Jesus is alive today.** *Refrain*

**2. Do we walk in our foolishness  
with our hearts ever slow  
to the touch of the Holy One  
who is with us on this road?** *Refrain*

**3. We are blessed in the gathering  
at the table of grace.  
free to see in another's pain  
the face of Jesus here today.** *Refrain*

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*Dismissal*

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

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

**Worship assistants TODAY:**

Greeters and Ushers	Don and Sally Mansfield
Acolyte	Scott Wilmot
Altar Care	Helen Crown
Communion Assistants	Bruce and Connie Stevenson
Nursery Care	Katy Stimmel
Counters	Nancy and Ivan Shuler
Coffee Hour	3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Sunday School

**Worship assistants for next Sunday, February 26**

Greeters and Ushers	Lynne and Ethan Minkel
Acolyte	Jaden White
Nursery Care	Laura Stroup
Counters	Bruce Boncke and Art Fields
Coffee Hour	Rich and Kari Buch

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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