



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



*"Let the
little children
come to me"*

Children of God – Mark 10:13-31

February 25, 2018

10:30 Service of the Word

How do you get to heaven and how hard is the way? These are the questions many people ask. Our gospel reading will give us the answer – it's impossible! But God can do the impossible, so it is to God we turn and upon God that we rely.

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 Dialog (Excerpts from the prayer "Catch Me in My Scurrying" in Guerillas of Grace by Ted Loder, copyright 1981 Augsburg Fortress)

P: Catch me in my anxious scurrying, Lord,
and hold me in this Lenten season:

**C: hold my heart to the beat of your grace
and create in me a resting place,**

a kneeling place,

a tip-toe place

**where I can recover from the dis-ease of my grandiosities
which fill my mind and calendar with busy self-importance,**

P: that I may become vulnerable enough

C: to dare intimacy with the familiar,

P: to listen cup-eared for your summons,

and to watch squint-eyed for your crooked finger

C: in the crying of a child,

in the hunger of the street people,

P: in the fear of the contagion of terrorism in all people,

in the rage of those oppressed because of sex or race,

C: in the smoldering resentments of exploited third world nations,

in the sullen apathy of the poor and ghetto-strangled people,

in my lonely doubt and limping ambivalence;

P: Catch me in my aimless scurrying, Lord,

C: and hold me in this Lenten season.

Gathering Hymn What Wondrous Love Is This

(For music turn to Hymn 666 in the Red Hymnal)

1. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this

that caused the Lord of bliss

to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,

to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?

2. When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,

when I was sinking down, sinking down,

when I was sinking down

beneath God's righteous frown,

**Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.**

**3. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb,
who is the great I Am,
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme, I will sing.**

**4. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free,
I'll sing his love for me,
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
And through eternity I'll sing on.**

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt. Music: W Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835; arr. Paul J. Christiansen, 1914-1997, alt. Arr. copyright 1955 Augsburg Publishing House

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

O God, by the death for your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us a means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, 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 Romans 3:21-26

²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that

he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 53 (*read responsively*)

A: Fools tell themselves,
“There is no God.”

Their actions are corrupt,
none of them does good.

**C: The Lord looks down
to see if anyone is wise,
if anyone seeks God.**

A: But all are worthless,
all are depraved.
No one does good,
not even one.

**C: Are these evil-doers mad?
They eat up my people
like so much bread;
they never pray.**

A: They should cringe in fear
as never before,
since God will scatter their bones.
Your attackers may shame you,
but God rejects them.

**C: Let God send victory from Zion
and restore the people’s fortunes!
Then Jacob will sing,
and Israel rejoice.**

Gospel Acclamation (*Mark 10:27*)

C: For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.

Gospel Reading Mark 10:13-31

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 10th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

¹³People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴But when Jesus saw this,

he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” ¹⁶And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

¹⁷As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ¹⁸Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.’” ²⁰He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” ²¹Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” ²²When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

²³Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” ²⁴And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” ²⁶They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?” ²⁷Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

²⁸Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” ²⁹Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, ³⁰who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

After the reading:

P: The gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Will You Come and Follow Me
For music turn to Hymn 798 in the Red Hymnal

1. **“Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don’t know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?”**
2. **“Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare,
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer pray’r in you and you in me?”**
3. **“Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the pris’ners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?”**
4. **“Will you love the you you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you’ve found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?”**
5. **Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I’ll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.**

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949, copyright 1987 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. Music: Scottish Traditional

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

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.

Thanksgiving Prayer

A: Let us pray. Merciful God,

C: we offer to you what is already your own: ourselves, our time and our possessions. Guide us so that we may use your gifts in the service of your will; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus 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 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 Lord I Lift Your Name on High
(For music turn to Hymn 23 in the Songbook binder)

1. **Lord I lift your name on high;
Lord I love to sing your praises.
I'm so glad you're in my life;
I'm so glad you came to save us.
You came from heaven to earth to show the way,
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay.
From the cross to the grave,
From the grave up to the sky,
Lord I lift your name on high!**
2. **Show us all your ways, oh Lord;
Teach us all your paths, oh Lord.
You're the source of love and light;
Source of wisdom and of might.
Create a clean heart in me; renew my soul.
Cast me not away from you, Support, console.
I'm so glad you're in my life.
Lord I love to sing your praise.
Lord I lift your name on high!**
3. **Lord I lift your name on high;
Lord I love to sing your praises.
I'm so glad you're in my life;
I'm so glad you came to save us.**

**You came from heaven to earth to show the way,
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay.
From the cross to the grave,
From the grave up to the sky,
Lord I lift your name on high!**

Text and music: Rick Founds; additional lyrics: Bev Nohe Deichman; copyright 1989 Maranatha Praise, Inc.; CCLI #2005258

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

WHY IS JESUS
SO HARD
ON THE
RICH GUY?



www.godandmath.org

WELL- HE'S
GOT SO MUCH
STUFF
HE CAN'T SEE
A WAY TO GIVE
IT UP TO FOLLOW
JESUS.



BOY! I WISH
I HAD THAT
PROBLEM!



MAYBE YOU DO.



MARK 10:17-31

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Worship assistants TODAY:

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

Worship assistants for next Sunday, March 4, 2018

Greeters and Ushers	Sara DeMuzio and Tricia Kolczynski
Acolyte	Morgan Sackett
Altar Care	Beth Perdan
Communion Assistants	Cindy Swigart and Adele Garvey
Nursery Care	Judy VanDeVelde
Counters	Babette Huber and Burdie Gillern
Coffee Hour	Beth Perdan

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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