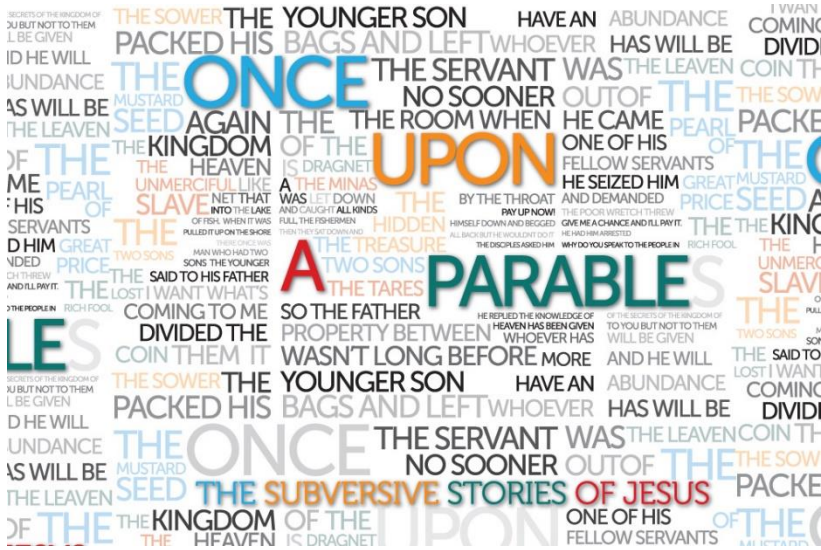




# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## Matthew 13 – Parables

February 2, 2020 10:30 Holy Communion

Today our Sunday School children help lead our worship. We're continuing our journey through Matthew's gospel, which brings us to Matthew 13. This chapter is a collection of Jesus' parables about the Kingdom of God. Parables often have many layers of meaning. They come at a common idea from an uncommon direction. Though these parables are old, and they may all be familiar, be open to hearing new things in them.

*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

## Installation of Church Council

### Gathering Hymn He's Calling Out Your Name

*For music turn to Hymn 48 in the Songbook Binder*

**1. He's the Lord of ev'ry season,  
He's the master of all time.  
And he's come to sow his seeds in...  
in this field of humankind.  
The eternal Word of heaven  
is among us in this place,  
and if you have ears to listen  
you can hear him call your name.**

*Refrain* **He's calling out your name,  
he's calling out your name.  
If you have ears to listen  
he's calling out your name.**

**2. He's the Father of all mercy,  
and your silent prayer's been heard.  
He will satisfy the thirsty  
by the water of his Word.  
As the bread of life is broken  
and Jesus is proclaimed,  
may our eyes be opened  
to the One who calls our name.      *Refrain***

Text and music: Bob Somma, Phil Kristianson, Bill Batstone. Copyright 1996 Maranatha Music and Meadowgreen Music Co. (ASCAP) Meadowgreen Music admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing

### 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...

Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen**

† WORD †

Scripture Reading Matthew 13:1-9

*(The Sunday School Children Act Out the Parable as it is being read.)*

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup>Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup>And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. <sup>5</sup>Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup>But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup>Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup>Let anyone with ears listen!"

Scripture Reading Matthew 13:10-17

<sup>10</sup>Then the disciples came and asked him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" <sup>11</sup>He answered, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. <sup>12</sup>For to those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>13</sup>The reason I speak to them in parables is that 'seeing they do not perceive, and hearing they do not listen, nor do they understand.'<sup>2</sup> <sup>14</sup>With them indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah that says:

'You will indeed listen, but never understand,  
and you will indeed look, but never perceive.

<sup>15</sup>For this people's heart has grown dull,  
and their ears are hard of hearing,  
and they have shut their eyes;  
so that they might not look with their eyes,  
and listen with their ears,

and understand with their heart and turn— and I would heal them.'<sup>16</sup> But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. <sup>17</sup>Truly I tell

you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.

### Explanation

#### Scripture Reading Matthew 13:18-23

<sup>18</sup>“Hear then the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup>When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. <sup>20</sup>As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; <sup>21</sup>yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. <sup>22</sup>As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. <sup>23</sup>But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

#### Hymn Your Little Ones, Dear Lord

(For music see Hymn 286 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Your little ones, dear Lord,  
are come your lowly bed to see;  
enlighten ev’ry soul and mind,  
that we the way to you may find.**
2. **With song we hasten you to greet,  
and kiss the ground before your feet.  
Oh, blessed hour, oh, sweetest night  
that gave you birth, our soul’s delight.**
3. **Oh, draw us wholly to you, Lord,  
and to us all your grace accord;  
true faith and love to us impart,  
that we may hold you in our heart.**
4. **Until at last we too proclaim,  
with all your saints, your glorious name;  
in paradise our songs renew,  
and praise you as the angels do.**

Text: Hans A. Brorson, 1694-1764; tr. Harriet Krauth Spaeth, 1845-1925, a.t. Music: Johann A.P. Schulz, 1747-1800

#### Scripture Reading Matthew 13:24-33

<sup>24</sup>He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; <sup>25</sup>but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went

away. <sup>26</sup>So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. <sup>27</sup>And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’

<sup>28</sup>He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ <sup>29</sup>But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup>Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

<sup>31</sup>He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; <sup>32</sup>it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.” <sup>33</sup>He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

### Experience – leavened bread

#### Scripture Reading Matthew 13:34-43

<sup>34</sup>Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables; without a parable he told them nothing. <sup>35</sup>This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

“I will open my mouth to speak in parables;

I will proclaim what has been hidden from the foundation of the world.”

<sup>36</sup>Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” <sup>37</sup>He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; <sup>38</sup>the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, <sup>39</sup>and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup>Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup>The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, <sup>42</sup>and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup>Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen

Explanation by M. Eugen Boring, *New Interpreter’s Bible*, Volume 8, Pg. 311

#### Scripture Reading Matthew 13:44-50

<sup>44</sup>“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

<sup>45</sup>“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; <sup>46</sup>on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

<sup>47</sup>“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; <sup>48</sup>when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and

put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. <sup>49</sup>So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup>and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Experience – nets and parachutes

Scripture Reading Matthew 13:51-53

<sup>51</sup>“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” <sup>52</sup>And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.” <sup>53</sup>When Jesus had finished these parables, he left that place.

Hymn of the Day All Are Welcome  
(For music see Hymn 641 in the Red Hymnal)

**1. Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:**

*Refrain: All are welcome,  
all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.*

**2. Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
and words are strong and true,  
where all God’s children dare to seek  
to dream God’s reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness  
and as symbol of God’s grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: *Refrain***

**3. Let us build a house where love is found  
in water, wine and wheat:  
a banquet hall on holy ground  
where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus,  
is revealed in time and space;  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: *Refrain***

**4. Let us build a house where hands will reach**

beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,  
and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger  
bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger: *Refrain*

5. Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed  
as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
prayers of faith and songs of grace,  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: *Refrain*

Text and music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, Copyright 1994 GIA Publications, Inc.

### *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)*

**465** *As the Grains of Wheat (Red Hymnal)*

**471** *Let Us Break Bread Together (Red Hymnal)*

*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* Lift Every Voice and Sing  
*(For music see Hymn 841 in the Red Hymnal)*

**1. Lift ev'ry voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,  
ring with the harmonies of liberty.**

**Let our rejoicing rise high as the listn'ing skies,  
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.**

**Sing a son full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;  
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
let us march on till victory is won.**

**2. Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast'ning rod,  
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;**

yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet  
come to the place for which our parents sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;  
we have come,

treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,  
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last  
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

3. God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,  
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;  
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,  
keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;  
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;  
shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand,  
true to our God, true to our native land.

Text: James W. Johnson, 1871-1938 Music: J. Rosamond Johnson, 1873-1954

### Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

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

### Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	Lisa and Tom Kurilovitch
Acolyte	Rudy Stroup
Altar Care	Beth Perdan
Communion Assistants	Tim and Liz Brown
Nursery Care	Kristi Bullwinkle
Counters	Nancy and Ivan Shuler
Coffee Hour	

### Worship assistants for next Sunday, February 9

Greeters and Ushers	Mike and Bettina Kalish
Acolyte	Jacob Kurilovitch
Nursery Care	Laura Stroup
Counters	Tim Brown and Bill Hagerman
Coffee Hour	Linda Thompson

Scripture readings from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible* copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States. Psalm from *The Psalter* copyright 1994, Liturgical Training Publications. Variable worship texts from *Sundays and Seasons 2020* copyright 2019 Augsburg Fortress.

## St. John's Lutheran Church

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The Rev. Jonathan Deibler, Pastor  
Nathan Cheung, Pianist