

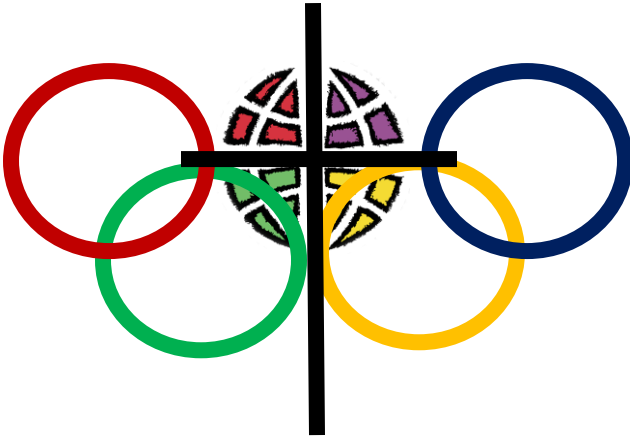


St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

GO FOR THE GOLD WITH GOD



TEAM JESUS

Matthew 13 – Parables

February 5, 2017 10:30 Service of the Word

Today our Sunday School children lead us in worship. We're continuing our journey through Matthew's gospel, which brings us to Matthew 13. This chapter contains a collection of Jesus' parables. The children have chosen a few of these parables to dramatically enact before us. Parables often have many layers of meaning. They come at a common idea from an uncommon direction. Though the parables may be familiar, be ready to experience them in a new way.

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

Confession and Forgiveness

A: 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.

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

(A moment of silence for reflection)

A: 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.

A: 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

Gathering Hymn We are a Chosen People of God

For music please turn to Hymn 79 in the Songbook binder

Refrain

We are a chosen people of God;

called into light and gathered in love;

redeemed and held by the holy one.

We are a chosen people of God.

1. Look around you and see

people in your neighborhood;

endless variety

God has created good.

We're a part of it all, chosen and called. *Refrain*

2. Look around you and see

the blessing given us;

earth, sky, and sea;

they're all placed in our trust.

We're a part of it all, chosen and called. *Refrain*

3. Look around you and see

not all is going right.

In this mystery;

We're called to be a light.

We're a part of it all, chosen and called. *Refrain*

Text and music: David Lee Brown, Larry Olson, Karol Baer; copyright 1990 Dakota Road Music, used by permission

Greeting (2 Corinthians 13:13)

A: 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.

Gathering Dialog (John 1)

A: In the beginning was the Word,

C: and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

A: In the Word was life,

C: and the life was the light of all people.

A: The Word became flesh and lived among us,

C: and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.

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 ‡

First Reading Matthew 13:1-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ²Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

¹⁰The disciples came to him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?”

¹¹He replied, “Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. ¹²Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. ¹³This is why I speak to them in parables:

“Though seeing, they do not see;
though hearing, they do not hear or understand.

¹⁴In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:

“You will be ever hearing but never understanding;
you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.

¹⁵For this people’s heart has become calloused;
they hardly hear with their ears,
and they have closed their eyes.

Otherwise they might see with their eyes,
hear with their ears,
understand with their hearts

and turn, and I would heal them.”

¹⁶But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. ¹⁷For 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.

¹⁸“Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: ¹⁹When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the

seed sown along the path. ²⁰ The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹ But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ²² The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. ²³ But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Seed and Sower Skit

Second Reading Matthew 13:31-32

³¹ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. ³² Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.”

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Mustard Seed Skit

Third Reading Matthew 13:44-45

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. ⁴⁶ When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Hidden Treasure/Pearl Skit

Medals Ceremony

Hymn of the Day All My Relatives

(for music please turn to Hymn 52 in the Songbook)

1. Listen my sister, listen my brother,
so many features, so many colors;
I have not loved you like I should love you
if I believe that God is love.

Refrain

Ev'ry face, All My Relatives.
Ev'ry race, All My Relatives.
Ev'ry place, All My Relatives.
Hear creation sing,
one with ev'ry thing.

2. Where there is hurting, we share the hurting.
Where there is justice, we share the justice.
Where there is praising, we share the praising.
If we believe that God is love.

Refrain

3. Where there is suff'ring, we share the suff'ring.
Where there is praising, we share the praising.
Where there is freedom, we share the freedom
If we believe that God is love.

Refrain

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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

A: 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:

A: 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: receive the gifts we bring, our selves, our time, and our possessions. 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.

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

A: The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn Send Us Out

(For music turn to Hymn 29 in the Songbook binder)

- 1. We have been called by the Lord.
We have been saved by the Word.
Now let the Word be restored.
Now let the Gospel be heard**

Refrain

**Send us out to teach what God has done.
Send us out to reach ev'ry single one.
Send us out. Send us out.**

- 2. We who were bound by our shame,
ruled by our fears within.
Stand and declare by the name,
freedom from all of our sin. *Refrain***

- 3. Teach what God has done.
Reach ev'ry single one.
Teach what God has done.
Reach ev'ry single one. *Refrain***

- 4. We have been called by the Lord.
We have been saved by the Word.
Now let the Word be restored.
Now let the Gospel be heard *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	Jack and Pat Hortop
Acolyte	Sam Ehrlinger
Nursery Care	Beth Perdan
Counters	Bruce and Connie Stevenson
Coffee Hour	Karen Spawton and Cindy Swigart

Worship assistants for next Sunday, February 12

Greeters and Ushers	Mike and Bettina Kalish
Acolyte	Ben Deibler
Nursery Care	Kristi Bullwinkle
Counters	Ethan and Alyssa Minkel
Coffee Hour	Lisa Kurilovitch

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