



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Matthew 8-9 Miracles

January 12, 2020 10:30 Service of the Word

We continue Matthew's gospel today by reading a collection of miracles. There are ten miracle scenes, probably a reflection on the ten plagues that were brought upon the Egyptians in the book of Exodus. The miracles cover the range from healings, to exorcisms, to overcoming the forces of nature. We learn that nothing is beyond Jesus' power. The placement of these miracles in the story is not accidental. In the immediately previous chapters Jesus gave his great Sermon on the Mount. In these chapters we see Jesus put the words of that sermon into action.

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

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

Gathering Hymn I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

For music turn to Hymn 815 in the Red Hymnal

1. I want to walk as a child of the light.

I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world.

The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain **In him there is no darkness at all.**

The night and the day are both alike.

**The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

2. I want to see... the brightness of God.

I want to look at Jesus.

**Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father. Refrain**

3. I'm looking for... the coming of Christ.

I want to be with Jesus.

**When we have run... with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus. Refrain**

Text and music: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934, copyright 1970,1975 Celebration

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.

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.

Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading Isaiah 42:1-4

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;

I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

²He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;

³a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.

⁴He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 78:1-11 (*read responsively*)

A: Listen, my people,
mark each word.
I begin with a story,
I speak of mysteries
welling up from ancient depths,
heard and known from our elders.

**C: We must not hide
this story from our children
but tell the mighty works
and all the wonders of God.
The Lord gave precepts to Jacob,
instructions to Israel,
that the people before us
could teach their children.**

A: Let future generations learn
and let them grow up
to teach their young
to trust in God,
remembering great deeds,
cherishing the law.

**C: Not like their ancestors,
stubborn, bitter, wavering,
unfaithful to God;
not like the Ephraimites,
archers who fled the battle,
breaking their covenant,
defying the Lord.**

**They forgot all God had done,
wonders revealed to them.**

Introduction to the Gospel

Second Reading Matthew 8-9:35

A1: When Jesus had come down from the mountain, great crowds followed him; ²and there was a leper who came to him and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, if you choose, you can make me clean.” ³He stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, “I do choose. Be made clean!” Immediately his leprosy was cleansed. ⁴Then Jesus said to him, “See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.”

A2: When he entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, appealing to him ⁶and saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, in terrible distress.” ⁷And he said to him, “I will come and cure him.” ⁸The centurion answered, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only speak the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes, and to my slave, ‘Do this,’ and the slave does it.” ¹⁰When Jesus heard him, he was amazed and said to those who followed him, “Truly I tell you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith. ¹¹I tell you, many will come from east and west and will eat with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, ¹²while the heirs of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” ¹³And to the centurion Jesus said, “Go; let it be done for you according to your faith.” And the servant was healed in that hour.

A3: When Jesus entered Peter’s house, he saw his mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever; ¹⁵he touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she got up and began to serve him. ¹⁶That evening they brought to him many who were possessed with demons; and he cast out the spirits with a word, and cured all who were sick. ¹⁷This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah, “He took our infirmities and bore our diseases.”

A4: Now when Jesus saw great crowds around him, he gave orders to go over to the other side. ¹⁹A scribe then approached and said, “Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.” ²⁰And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to

lay his head.”²¹ Another of his disciples said to him, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.”²² But Jesus said to him, “Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”

A5: And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him.²⁴ A windstorm arose on the sea, so great that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep.²⁵ And they went and woke him up, saying, “Lord, save us! We are perishing!”²⁶ And he said to them, “Why are you afraid, you of little faith?” Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a dead calm.²⁷ They were amazed, saying, “What sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?”

A6: When he came to the other side, to the country of the Gadarenes, two demoniacs coming out of the tombs met him. They were so fierce that no one could pass that way.²⁹ Suddenly they shouted, “What have you to do with us, Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?”³⁰ Now a large herd of swine was feeding at some distance from them.³¹ The demons begged him, “If you cast us out, send us into the herd of swine.”³² And he said to them, “Go!” So they came out and entered the swine; and suddenly, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea and perished in the water.³³ The swineherds ran off, and on going into the town, they told the whole story about what had happened to the demoniacs.³⁴ Then the whole town came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their neighborhood.

A1: And after getting into a boat he crossed the sea and came to his own town.² And just then some people were carrying a paralyzed man lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.”³ Then some of the scribes said to themselves, “This man is blaspheming.”⁴ But Jesus, perceiving their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts?⁵ For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Stand up and walk’?⁶ But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins” —he then said to the paralytic— “stand up, take your bed and go to your home.”⁷ And he stood up and went to his home.⁸ When the crowds saw it, they were filled with awe, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to human beings.

A4: As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him.¹⁰ And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples.¹¹ When the

Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”¹² But when he heard this, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.¹³ Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.”

A5: ¹⁴Then the disciples of John came to him, saying, “Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but your disciples do not fast?”¹⁵ And Jesus said to them, “The wedding guests cannot mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them, can they? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast.¹⁶ No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak, for the patch pulls away from the cloak, and a worse tear is made.¹⁷ Neither is new wine put into old wineskins; otherwise, the skins burst, and the wine is spilled, and the skins are destroyed; but new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved.”

A2: While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, “My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.”¹⁹ And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples.

A3: Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak,²¹ for she said to herself, “If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well.”²² Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, “Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.” And instantly the woman was made well.

A2: When Jesus came to the leader’s house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion,²⁴ he said, “Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at him.²⁵ But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up.²⁶ And the report of this spread throughout that district.

A5: As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, crying loudly, “Have mercy on us, Son of David!”²⁸ When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” They said to him, “Yes, Lord.”²⁹ Then he touched their eyes and said, “According to your faith let it be done to you.”³⁰ And their eyes were opened. Then Jesus sternly ordered them, “See that no one knows of this.”³¹ But they went away and spread the news about him throughout that district.

A6: After they had gone away, a demoniac who was mute was brought to him. ³³And when the demon had been cast out, the one who had been mute spoke; and the crowds were amazed and said, "Never has anything like this been seen in Israel." ³⁴But the Pharisees said, "By the ruler of the demons he casts out the demons."

A4: Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness.

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 Healer of Our Every Ill
(For music turn to Hymn 612 in the Red Hymnal)

Refrain: **Healer of our ev'ry ill,
light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.**

1. **You who know our fears and sadness,
grace us with your peace and gladness;
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts. *Refrain***
2. **In the pain and joy beholding
how your grace is still unfolding,
give us all your vision, God of love. *Refrain***
3. **Give us strength to love each other,
ev'ry sister, ev'ry brother;
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide. *Refrain***
4. **You who know each thought and feeling,
teach us all your way of healing;
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart. *Refrain***

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. God of wonder,

**C: you formed us in our mother's womb, and from mother earth you
bring forth the nourishment of our lives. Accept the gifts we bring
as we place them on your table.**

We wait for your mercy;

we long for your peace;

**we hunger and thirst for Jesus Christ,
our banquet of life.**

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 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 Shine, Jesus, Shine

For music turn to Hymn 671 in the Red Hymnal

Refrain

**Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!**

**1. Lord, the light of your love is shining,
in the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us,
set us free by the truth you now bring us.**

**Shine on me,
shine on me:**

Refrain

**2. As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
so our faces display your likeness,
ever changing from glory to glory,
mirrored here, may our lives tell your story.**

**Shine on me,
shine on me:**

Refrain

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	Mike and Bettina Kalish
Acolyte	Joe Wyman
Nursery Care	Laura Stroup
Counters	Beth Perdan and Bettina Kalish
Coffee Hour	The Hubers

Worship assistants for next Sunday, January 19

Greeters and Ushers	Kim and Gary Boisseau
Acolyte	Tierney White
Altar Care	Liz Brown
Communion Assistants	Ivan and Nancy Shuler
Nursery Care	Judy VanDeVelde
Counters	Linda Flood and Sue Kaufmann
Coffee Hour	The Bonckes

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