



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## *Mark 4 – Parables*

*January 14, 2018 10:30 Service of the Word*

Today we read a series of parables from Jesus. Although perhaps they aren't parables so much as they are riddles. They are quirky teachings making comparisons with things that aren't usually compared. Perhaps the strangest thing though is why Jesus uses parables. He says it is so people do not understand (Mark 4:12). This is puzzling indeed! We'll explore that question and see other things going on as Jesus teaches people about God's coming kingdom.

*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,  
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**

### Gathering Hymn Lead Me to the Rock

*(For music turn to Hymn 20 in the Songbook binder)*

**1. When my heart is overwhelmed,  
Hear my cry,  
Give heed to my prayer,  
And my eyes are dim with tears,  
O Father, make them clear;  
From the ends of all the earth,  
When my heart is fainting,  
Let me know that You have heard,  
Lead me into safety.**

*Chorus (Repeat Chorus at end)*

**And lead me to the Rock,  
The Rock that is higher,  
Lead me to the Rock that is higher than I.  
Lead me to the Rock,  
The Rock that is higher,  
Higher than I.**

**2. You, O Lord have been for me  
A refuge from my enemies.  
Let me live within your strength,  
In the shelter of Your wings;  
From the ends of all the earth,  
When my heart is fainting,  
Let me know that You have heard,  
Lead me into safety. *Chorus***

Text and music by Lynn DeSchazo. CCLI # 80971. Copyright 1989 Integrity's Hosanna! Music, Admin: Integrity Music, Inc.

*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 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

<sup>26</sup>Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup>But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup>God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no one might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup>He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup>in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Scripture Poetry Proverbs 15:1-8 (*read responsively*)

A: A soft answer turns away wrath,  
but a harsh word stirs up anger.

**C: The tongue of the wise dispenses knowledge,  
but the mouths of fools pour out folly.**

A: The eyes of the LORD are in every place,  
keeping watch on the evil and the good.

**C: A gentle tongue is a tree of life,  
but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.**

A: A fool despises a parent’s instruction,  
but the one who heeds admonition is prudent.

**C: In the house of the righteous there is much treasure,  
but trouble befalls the income of the wicked.**

A: The lips of the wise spread knowledge;  
not so the minds of fools.

**C: The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD,  
but the prayer of the upright is his delight.**

Gospel Acclamation (Mark 4:24)

**C: Alleluia. Pay attention to what you hear; the measure you give  
will be the measure you get, and still more will be given you. Alleluia.**

Gospel Reading Mark 4:1-34

*The gospel is announced:*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you O Lord.**

Again [Jesus] began to teach beside the sea. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the sea and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. <sup>2</sup>He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them:<sup>3</sup>“Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. <sup>5</sup>Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup>And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. <sup>8</sup>Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.” <sup>9</sup>And he said, “Let anyone with ears to hear listen!”

<sup>10</sup>When he was alone, those who were around him along with the twelve asked him about the parables. <sup>11</sup>And he said to them, “To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside, everything comes in parables; <sup>12</sup>in order that ‘they may indeed look, but not perceive, and may indeed listen, but not understand; so that they may not turn again and be forgiven.’”

<sup>13</sup>And he said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? Then how will you understand all the parables? <sup>14</sup>The sower sows the word. <sup>15</sup>These are the ones on the path where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. <sup>16</sup>And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: when they hear the word, they immediately receive it with joy. <sup>17</sup>But they have no root, and endure only for a while; then, when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. <sup>18</sup>And others are those sown among the thorns: these are the ones who hear the word, <sup>19</sup>but the cares of the world, and the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things come in and choke the word, and it yields nothing. <sup>20</sup>And these are the ones sown on the good soil: they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.”

<sup>21</sup>He said to them, “Is a lamp brought in to be put under the bushel basket, or under the bed, and not on the lampstand? <sup>22</sup>For there is nothing hidden, except to be disclosed; nor is anything secret, except to come to light. <sup>23</sup>Let anyone with ears to hear listen!” <sup>24</sup>And he said to them, “Pay attention to what you hear; the measure you give will be the measure you

get, and still more will be given you. <sup>25</sup>For to those who have, more will be given; and from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.”

<sup>26</sup>He also said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, <sup>27</sup>and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. <sup>28</sup>The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup>But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

<sup>30</sup>He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; <sup>32</sup>yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

<sup>33</sup>With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; <sup>34</sup>he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

*After the reading:*

P: The gospel of the Lord

**C: Praise to you O Christ.**

### Children's Sermon

#### Sermon

Hymn of the Day Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast

(For music see Hymn 516 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Almighty God, your word is cast  
like seed into the ground;  
now let the dew of heav'n descend  
and righteous fruits abound.**
2. **Let not the sly satanic foe  
this holy seed remove,  
but give it root in ev'ry heart  
to bring forth fruits of love.**
3. **Let not the world's deceitful cares  
the rising plant destroy,  
but let it yield a hundredfold  
the fruits of peace and joy.**

4. **So when the precious seed is sown,  
life giving grace bestow,  
that all whose souls the truth receive  
its saving pow'r may know.**

Text: John Cawood, 1775-1852, alt. Music: Jay. Day, *Psalter*, 1562

*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.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

**C: we give you thanks and praise.**

A: By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

**C: we give you thanks and praise.**



A: Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

**C: we give you thanks and praise.**

P: Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit be honor and glory forever.

**C: 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: 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* You Are the Seed

(For music turn to Hymn 753 in the *Blue Hymnal*)

1. **You are the seed that will grow a new sprout;  
you're a star that will shine in the night;  
you are the yeast and a small grain of salt,  
a beacon to glow in the dark.  
You are the dawn that will bring a new day;  
you're the wheat that will bear golden grain;  
you are a sting and a soft, gentle touch,  
to witness wherever you go.**

*Refrain*

**Go, my friends, go to the world,  
proclaim the great love of God;  
messengers to tell the way of life,  
peace and pardon for all.**

**Be, my friends, a loyal witness,  
from the dead Christ arose;  
"Lo, I'll be with your forevermore,  
till the end of the world."**

2. **You are the flame that will light-en the dark,  
so resplendent with hope, faith and love;  
you are the shepherds to lead the whole world  
to waters and pastures of peace.  
"You are the friends that I chose for myself,  
you're the word that I want to proclaim.  
You are the new reign of God built on rock,  
where justice and truth are at home."** *Refrain*

3. **You are the life that will nurture the plant;  
you're the waves in a turbulent sea;  
yesterday's yeast is beginning to rise,  
a new loaf of bread it will yield.  
There is no place for a city to hide,  
there's no mountain can cover its might;  
let your light shine so that your loving works  
give honor and glory to God.** *Refrain*

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

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



**Worship assistants TODAY:**

Greeters and Ushers	Mike and Cassie Ross
Acolyte	Katya Kurilovitch
Nursery Care	Beth Perdan
Counters	Linda Flood and Sue Kaufmann
Coffee Hour	Linda Thompson

**Worship assistants for next Sunday, January 21**

Greeters and Ushers	Mike and Bettina Kalish
Acolyte	Viala Wagner
Altar Care	Helen Crown
Communion Assistants	Gary Boisseau and Rob Stroup
Nursery Care	Katy Stimmel
Counters	Ethan Minkel and Bill Hagerman
Coffee Hour	Annual Meeting – Sub Sale

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