



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## *The Kingdom Grows The Resistance Grows*

*January 28, 2018*

*10:30 Service of the Word*

Jesus is getting more famous. He's bringing the kingdom of God into reality! Good news!.. but not for everyone. Earlier in Mark's gospel we've met resistance from those who do not like what Jesus is doing. Today we see the stakes are getting higher. Those who dare to speak God's truth may end up paying the ultimate price.

*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 Goodness is Stronger than Evil  
(For harmonization see Hymn 721 in the Red Hymnal)

**Goodness is stronger than evil;  
love is stronger than hate;  
light is stronger than darkness;  
life is stronger than death;  
vict'ry is ours,  
vict'ry is ours,  
through God who loves us.  
Vict'ry is ours,  
vict'ry is ours,  
through God who loves us.**

Text: From *An African Prayer Book*, Desmond Tutu, b. 1931, copyright 1995 Desmond Tutu, admin. Random House, Inc. and Lynn C. Franklin Associates, Ltd. Music: John L. Bell, b. 1949, copyright 1996 Iona Community, Admin. GIA Publications, 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...

Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

† WORD †

First Reading Isaiah 61:1-3

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
because the Lord has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
<sup>3</sup>to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Scripture Poetry Psalm 141 (*read responsively*)

A: Hurry, Lord! I call and call!

Listen! I plead with you.

**C: Let my prayer rise like incense,  
my upraised hands, like an evening sacrifice.**

A: Lord, guard my lips,  
watch my every word.

**C: Let me never speak evil  
or consider hateful deeds,  
let me never join the wicked  
to eat their lavish meals.**

A: If the just correct me,  
I take their rebuke as kindness,  
but the unktion of the wicked  
will never touch my head.  
I pray and pray  
against their hateful ways.

**C: Let them be thrown  
against a rock in judgment,  
then they will know**

**I spoke the truth.**

A: Then they will say,  
“Our bones like broken upon the ground,  
scattered at the grave’s edge.”

**C: Lord, my God, I turn to you,  
in you I find safety.  
Do not strip me of life.**

A: Do not spring on me  
the traps of the wicked.

**C: Let evildoers get tangled  
in their own nets,  
but let me escape.**

Second Reading Ephesians 4:1-6

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called,

<sup>2</sup>with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup>making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup>There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, <sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup>one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation (Mark 6:2)

**C: Alleluia. On the Sabbath Jesus began to teach in the synagogue,  
and many who heard him were astounded. Alleluia.**

Gospel Reading Mark 6:1-29

*The gospel is announced:*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

[Jesus] left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. <sup>2</sup>On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, “Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! <sup>3</sup>Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. <sup>4</sup>Then Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.” <sup>5</sup>And he could do no

deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. <sup>6</sup>And he was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went about among the villages teaching. <sup>7</sup>He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. <sup>8</sup>He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; <sup>9</sup>but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. <sup>10</sup>He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. <sup>11</sup>If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” <sup>12</sup>So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. <sup>13</sup>They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them. <sup>14</sup>King Herod heard of it, for Jesus’ name had become known. Some were saying, “John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him.” <sup>15</sup>But others said, “It is Elijah.” And others said, “It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.” <sup>16</sup>But when Herod heard of it, he said, “John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.” <sup>17</sup>For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, because Herod had married her. <sup>18</sup>For John had been telling Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.” <sup>19</sup>And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, <sup>20</sup>for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. <sup>21</sup>But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. <sup>22</sup>When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, “Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it.” <sup>23</sup>And he solemnly swore to her, “Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom.” <sup>24</sup>She went out and said to her mother, “What should I ask for?” She replied, “The head of John the baptizer.” <sup>25</sup>Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, “I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.” <sup>26</sup>The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. <sup>27</sup>Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John’s head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, <sup>28</sup>brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. <sup>29</sup>When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

*After the reading:*

P: The gospel of the Lord  
C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Beauty for Brokenness (God of the Poor)  
(For music see Hymn 102 in the Songbook Binder)

1. **Beauty for brokenness,  
hope for despair,  
Lord, in your suff'ring world,  
this is our prayer.  
Bread for the children,  
justice, joy, peace,  
sunrise to sunset  
Your kingdom increase.**
2. **Shelter for fragile lives,  
cures for their ills  
work for the craftsmen,  
trade for their skills  
land for the dispossessed,  
rights for the weak  
voices to plead the cause,  
of those who can't speak.**

*Chorus* **God of the poor  
friend of the weak,  
give us compassion we pray,  
melt our cold hearts,  
let tears fall like rain.  
Come change our love  
from a spark to a flame.**

3. **Refuge from cruel wars,  
havens from fear  
cities for sanctu'ry,  
freedoms to share  
peace to the killing fields,  
scorched earth to green  
Christ for the bitterness,**

his cross for the pain. *Chorus*

4. **Rest for the ravaged earth,  
oceans and streams  
plundered and poisoned,  
our future our dreams  
Lord end our madness,  
carelessness, greed  
make us content with  
the things that we need.** *Chorus*

5. **Lighten our darkness,  
breath on this flame  
until your justice  
burns brightly again  
until the nations  
learn of your ways  
seek your salvation  
and bring you their praise.** *Chorus*

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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

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.**

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 Awesome God

(For music turn to Hymn 3 in the Songbook binder)

### *Refrain*

**Our God is an awesome God.  
He reigns in heaven above  
with wis-dom pow'r and love.  
Our God is an awesome God.**

1. L: When he rolls up his sleeves he ain't puttin' on the ritz

**C: Our God is an awesome God.**

L: There is thunder in his footsteps and lightning in his fists.

**C: Our God is an awesome God.**

L: And the Lord wasn't jokin' when He kicked 'em out of E-den.  
It wasn't for no reason that he shed his blood.

His return is very close so you better start believin'

**C: that our God is an awesome God.   *Refrain***

2. L: When the sky was starless in the void of the night,

**C: Our God is an awesome God.**

L: He spoke into the darkness and created the light.

**C: Our God is an awesome God.**

L: The judgment and wrath he poured out on Sodom;  
the mercy and grace he gave us at the cross;

I hope that we have not too quickly forgotten

**C: that our God is an awesome God.   *Refrain***

Text and music: Rich Mullins, copyright 1988 BMG Songs, Inc.; CCLI #41099

## 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	Hanna Stroup
Nursery Care	Lynne Minkel
Counters	Bruce and Connie Stevenson
Coffee Hour	

**Worship assistants for next Sunday, February 4**

Greeters and Ushers	Ivan and Nancy Shuler
Acolyte	Abbie Bullwinkle
Altar Care	Sally Mansfield
Communion Assistants	Babette Huber and Nancy Shuler
Nursery Care	Laura Stroup
Counters	Beth Perdan and Bettina Kalish
Coffee Hour	<i>Please sign up!</i>

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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