



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## *Tower of Babel*

*June 18, 2017      10:30 Holy Communion*

We've arrived at the story of the Tower of Babel in Genesis. This story marks a turning point in the Genesis story. Up to this point humanity has been united by language and all living in the same place. But in their ambition to reach God -by their own power- their unity fractures. Humans go their separate ways.

### *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

Gathering Hymn We Bow Down  
(For music turn to Hymn 39 in the Songbook binder)

- 1. You are Lord of creation and Lord of my life,  
Lord of the land and the sea.  
You were Lord of the heavens before there was time.  
And Lord of all Lords you will be.  
We bow down and we worship you Lord,  
We bow down and we worship you Lord,  
We bow down and we worship you Lord,  
Lord of all Lords you will be!**
- 2. You are King of creation and King of my life,  
King of the land and the sea.  
You were King of the heavens before there was time.  
And King of all Kings you will be.  
We bow down and we worship you King,  
We bow down and we worship you King.  
We bow down and we worship you King.  
King of all Kings you will be!**

Text and music: Twila Paris; Copyright 1984 Sinspiration Music; CCLI #20003

## Apostles' Greeting

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, full of compassion and mercy, abounding in steadfast love.

**C: Amen.**

P: Trusting in God's promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination*

P: Eternal God our creator,

**C: in you we live and move and have our being. Look upon us, your children, the work of your hands. Forgive us all our offenses, and**

**cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires. By your grace draw us near to you, our refuge and our strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P: Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us. In the mercy of almighty God, Christ died for us while we still were sinners; and for his sake, God forgives us all our sins.

**C: Amen.**

*Hymn of Praise* He Is Exalted

*(For music turn to Hymn 14 in the Songbook binder)*

**1. He is exalted, the King is exalted on high,  
I will praise Him.  
He is exalted, forever exalted  
And I will praise His name!**

*Chorus*

**He is the Lord, forever His truth shall reign.  
Heaven and earth  
Rejoice in His holy name.  
He is exalted, the King is exalted on high!**

**2. He is exalted, the King is exalted on high,  
I will praise Him.  
He is exalted, forever exalted  
And I will praise His name!**

*Chorus 2 times*

Text and music by Twila Paris. CCLI #17827. Copyright 1985 Straightway Music, administered by EMI Christian Music Publishing

*Prayer of the Day*

A: Let us pray...

Most high and holy God, pour out upon us your one and unifying Spirit, and awaken in everyone a hunger and thirst for unity in you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## † WORD †

### First Reading Genesis 11:1-9

Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. <sup>2</sup>And as they migrated from the east, they came upon a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. <sup>3</sup>And they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly.” And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. <sup>4</sup>Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves; otherwise we shall be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.” <sup>5</sup>The Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which mortals had built. <sup>6</sup>And the Lord said, “Look, they are one people, and they have all one language; and this is only the beginning of what they will do; nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. <sup>7</sup>Come, let us go down, and confuse their language there, so that they will not understand one another’s speech.” <sup>8</sup>So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. <sup>9</sup>Therefore it was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### Scripture Poetry

A1: I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. (*Joel 2:28*)

A2: Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. (*1 Corinthians 8:2*)

A3: If I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. (*1 Corinthians 13:2*)

A1: Put away from you crooked speech,  
and put devious talk far from you. (*Proverbs 4:24*)

A2: Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer everyone. (*Colossians 4:6*)

A3: Fear God and give him glory, for the hour of his judgment has come; and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water. (*Revelation 14:7*)

Gospel Acclamation (Small Catechism, 1<sup>st</sup> Commandment Explanation)

**C: Alleluia. We are to fear, love, and trust God above all things.  
Alleluia.**

Gospel Reading Matthew 19:16-26

*The gospel is announced:*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 19<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>16</sup>Then someone came to [Jesus] and said, “Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?” <sup>17</sup>And he said to him, “Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.” <sup>18</sup>He said to him, “Which ones?” And Jesus said, “You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; <sup>19</sup>Honor your father and mother; also, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>20</sup>The young man said to him, “I have kept all these; what do I still lack?” <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to him, “If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” <sup>22</sup>When the young man heard this word, he went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

<sup>23</sup>Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly I tell you, it will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>24</sup>Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” <sup>25</sup>When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astounded and said, “Then who can be saved?” <sup>26</sup>But Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible.

*After the reading:*

P: The gospel of the Lord

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

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day      All My Hope on God Is Founded  
(For music see Hymn 757 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **All my hope on God is founded  
who will all my trust renew,  
who through change and chance will guide me,  
only good and only true.  
God unknown, God alone,  
call my heart to be thine own.**
2. **Mortal pride and earthly glory,  
sword and crown betray our trust;  
what with care and toil we fashion,  
tow'r and temple, fall to dust.  
But thy pow'r, hour by hour,  
is my temple and my tow'r.**
3. **Great thy goodness, e'er enduring;  
deep thy wisdom, passing thought;  
splendor, light, and life attend thee,  
beauty springing out of naught.  
Evermore from thy store  
newborn worlds rise and adore.**
4. **Still from earth to God eternal  
sacrifice of praise be done,  
high above all praises praising  
for the gift of God's own Son.  
Christ doth call one and all:  
ye who follow shall not fall.**

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; para. Robert Bridges, 1844-1930, alt. Music: Herbert Howells, 1892-1983. Music copyright 1968 Novello & Co. Ltd, London

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 the Church

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: We share that peace with one another.

*The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.*

† MEAL †

Offering & Special Music

Hymn of Thanksgiving Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful Lord  
*For music turn to page 35 in the Blue Hymnal*

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,  
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.  
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,  
that we may be fed with the bread of life.**

**Gather the hopes and dreams of all;  
unite them with the prayers we offer now.  
Grace our table with your presence, Lord,  
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

*Offering Prayer*

A: Let us pray: Merciful God,

**C: you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing. You have set this feast before us. Open our hands to receive it. Open our hearts to embrace it. Open our lives to live it. We pray this through Christ our Lord. 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 of Nazareth; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with church of yesterday, today and tomorrow; and the church here in this place and all churches throughout the world, we praise your name and join 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.**

Invitation to Communion

P: Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread. Our Lord's body let us take together.

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. 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)*

**496 One Bread, One Body (Red Hymnal)**

**812 Faith of Our Fathers (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: Let us pray.

Jesus our Lord, host of this meal, you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love. Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord forevermore.

**C: Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

Blessing

P: May God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

Sending Hymn    Let the Walls Fall Down

*(for music, please turn to Hymn 21 in the Songbook binder)*

*Refrain*

**Let the walls fall down,  
let the walls fall down,  
let the walls fall down;  
By his love let the walls fall down.**

1. **One by one, we're drawn together,  
one by one, to Jesus' side.  
One in Him, we'll live forever,  
strangers He has reconciled.    *Refrain***
  
2. **In His Love, no walls between us,  
in His love, a common ground.  
Kneeling at the cross of Jesus  
all our pride comes tumbling down.    *Refrain***

Text and music: Bill Balstone, John Barbour, Anne Barbour; copyright 1993 Maranatha Praise, Inc.; CCLI #1185954

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

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

I THINK IT'S FUNNY THAT  
IT SAYS "KNOWLEDGE  
PUFFS UP" IN A SECTION  
ABOUT EATING.



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

HAVING KNOWLEDGE  
WITHOUT LOVE CAN MAKE  
US ARROGANT.



YEAH, WELL, THAT  
MIGHT BE A PROBLEM  
FOR **SOME** PEOPLE.



1 CORINTHIANS 8:1-13

**Worship assistants TODAY:**

Greeters and Ushers	Lynne and Ethan Minkel
Acolyte	Ally Buch
Altar Care	Linda Thompson
Communion Assistants	Linda Flood and Sue Kaufmann
Nursery Care	Laura Stroup
Counters	Linda Flood and Sue Kaufmann
Coffee Hour	Women of the Church

**Worship assistants for next Sunday, June 25**

Greeters and Ushers	Mike and Bettina Kalish
Acolyte	Morgan Sackett
Nursery Care	Beth Perdan
Counters	John and Linda Thompson
Coffee Hour	Linda Flood

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