



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



The Third Sunday in Lent

Matthew 19-20

March 19, 2017

10:30 Holy Communion

Prestige, justice, power, sex, money – the stuff of Matthew 19 and 20. As we so often find, our Lord's take on these things is very different from our own. Today's gospel reading is sure to offend our sensibilities!

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 Will You Come and Follow Me
For music turn to Hymn 798 in the Red Hymnal

1. **“Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don’t know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?”**
2. **“Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare,
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer pray’r in you and you in me?”**
3. **“Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the pris’ners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?”**
4. **“Will you love the you you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you’ve found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?”**
5. **Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I’ll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.**

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949, copyright 1987 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. Music: Scottish Traditional

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.

P: People of God, why are you here?

**C: We have come to give thanks to God!
We do not go to church.
We are the church.**

Confession and Forgiveness

P: God of heaven and earth, you come in close and make us yours.
Equip us by your Spirit to confess our sin, embrace your forgiveness, and seek the way you set before us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: With honesty of heart, let us confess our sin.
(A moment of silence for reflection)

P: Merciful God,

C: forgive us.

Our will is handcuffed to sin, and we cannot break free.

We have spoken when we should have kept silent.

A: We were silent when we should have said something.

C: We acted when we knew better.

A: We were still when we know we should have moved.

**C: For the wrong we have done, for the good we have failed to do,
have mercy on us, oh God.**

P: People of God, look to the Son, given to heal you and set you free because God loved the world so much. Take hold of life – eternal life!

C: Amen

Hymn of Praise Kyrie

For music turn to page 28 in the Blue Hymnal

A: Kyrie eleison:

C: Lord, have mercy.

A: Christie eleison:

C: Christ, have mercy.

A: Kyrie eleison:

C: Lord, have mercy.

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray.

Merciful God, our certain source of love, there is nothing we can give you that you don't already have. There is nothing we can think that you haven't already thought. There is nothing we can create that you haven't already created. Fill us with awe at your infinite power and limitless

goodness that comes through your Son, our Savior, Jesus the Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

Scripture Poetry Psalm 75 (read responsively)

A: We praise you, God,
and give you thanks.
You are present to us
as we tell your wonders.

**C: “I, your God, choose the moment
to set things right.**

A: Though earth and its people tremble,
I secure its foundations.

**C: I say to the proud, stop boasting!
to the wicked, stop it!**

A: Stop promoting yourselves,
pitting yourselves against the Rock.”

**C: No help from east or west,
from desert or mountain,**

A: for God alone judges,
levels some, raises others.

**C: The Lord holds a foaming cup,
pours the wicked a heady wine;
they drain it to the dregs.**

A: But I sing praise forever,
make music for the God of Jacob,

**C: who breaks the power of the wicked
and strengthens the just.**

Scripture Reading Matthew 19-20

A1: When Jesus had finished saying these things, he left Galilee and went to the region of Judea beyond the Jordan. ²Large crowds followed him, and he cured them there.

³Some Pharisees came to him, and to test him they asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause?” ⁴He answered, “Have you not read that the one who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ ⁵and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and

mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?⁶ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”⁷ They said to him, “Why then did Moses command us to give a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her?”⁸ He said to them, “It was because you were so hard-hearted that Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.⁹ And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for unchastity, and marries another commits adultery.”¹⁰ His disciples said to him, “If such is the case of a man with his wife, it is better not to marry.”¹¹ But he said to them, “Not everyone can accept this teaching, but only those to whom it is given.¹² For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by others, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let anyone accept this who can.”

A2: Then little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them;¹⁴ but Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.”¹⁵ And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.

A3: Then someone came to him and said, “Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?”¹⁷ 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.”¹⁸ 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;¹⁹ Honor your father and mother; also, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”²⁰ The young man said to him, “I have kept all these; what do I still lack?”²¹ 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.”²² When the young man heard this word, he went away grieving, for he had many possessions.²³ Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly I tell you, it will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven.²⁴ 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.”²⁵ When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astounded and said, “Then who can be saved?”²⁶ But Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible.”²⁷ Then Peter said in reply, “Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?”²⁸ Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also

sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. ³⁰But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.

A4: "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

A5: While Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside by themselves, and said to them on the way, ¹⁸"See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death; ¹⁹then they will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified; and on the third day he will be raised."

A6: Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to him with her sons, and kneeling before him, she asked a favor of him. ²¹And he said to her, "What do you want?" She said to him, "Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom." ²²But Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking.

Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?" They said to him, "We are able."²³ He said to them, "You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father."²⁴ When the ten heard it, they were angry with the two brothers.²⁵ But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them.²⁶ It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant,²⁷ and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave;²⁸ just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

A7: As they were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him.³⁰ There were two blind men sitting by the roadside. When they heard that Jesus was passing by, they shouted, "Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!"³¹ The crowd sternly ordered them to be quiet; but they shouted even more loudly, "Have mercy on us, Lord, Son of David!"³² Jesus stood still and called them, saying, "What do you want me to do for you?"³³ They said to him, "Lord, let our eyes be opened."³⁴ Moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes. Immediately they regained their sight and followed him.

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 Lamb of God

For music turn to Hymn 54 in the Songbook Binder

**Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.**

**Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.**

**Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world,
Grant us your peace.**

Grant us your peace.

Nicene Creed

A: We confirm our faith with the Nicene Creed

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again, in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us share that peace with one another.

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

† MEAL †

Offering and 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: we offer to you what is already your own: ourselves, our time and our possessions. Guide us so that we may use your gifts in the service of your will; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus 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 Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join in 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: Return to God with all your heart. Receive bread for the journey and drink for the desert.

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)

64 *Bread in a Basket (Songbook Binder)*

334 *Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery (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:

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for fairness, our alms a making of peace, and our prayer the song on grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

Blessing

P: May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley
(For music see Hymn 95 in the Songbook Binder)

1. **Jesus walked this lonesome valley;
he had to walk it by himself.
Oh, nobody else could walk it for him;
he had to walk it by himself.**
2. **We must walk this lonesome valley;
we have to walk it by ourselves.
Oh, nobody else can walk it for us;
we have to walk it by ourselves.**
3. **You must go and stand your trial;
you have to stand it by yourself.
Oh, nobody else can stand it for you;
you have to stand it by yourself.**

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	Karen and Jim Spawton
Acolyte	Ally Buch
Altar Care	Sally Mansfield
Communion Assistants	Tim and Liz Brown
Nursery Care	Beth Perdan
Counters	Beth Perdan and Bettina Kalish
Coffee Hour	Preschool – 2 nd Grade Sunday School

Worship assistants for next Sunday, March 26

Greeters and Ushers	Bruce and Connie Stevenson
Acolyte	Sebastian Plouffe
Nursery Care	Katy Stimmel
Counters	Babette Huber and Burdie Gillern
Coffee Hour	Liz Brown and Helen Crown

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