



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



First Sunday in Lent

Matthew 17:14-27

March 1, 2020

10:30 Holy Communion

It is said that, “might makes right.” While our Christian faith disagrees with this statement it still finds its way into our thinking. In today’s gospel we’ll discover a curious story about how Jesus gets the money to pay his taxes to the temple. It may seem simple enough, but we’ll learn a lot about life as a Jew in the Roman Empire; and we’ll learn a lot about following Christ in our own time and country.

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 Purify My Heart
(For music turn to Hymn 27 in the Songbook binder)

**Purify my heart,
touch me with your cleansing fire.
Take me to the cross.
Your holiness is my desire.
Breathe your life in me,
kindle a love that flows from your throne.
Oh, purify my heart,
oh, purify my heart.**

Text and music by Jeff Nelson; CCLI #1314323

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: Blessed be the holy Trinity, on God, who is present, who gives life, who calls into existence the things that do not exist.

C: Amen.

P: If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand? Yet with you is forgiveness, and so we confess.

(During the 40 day season of Lent we pause 40 seconds for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us.

**We confess that we have turned away from you,
knowingly and unknowingly.**

We have wandered from your resurrection life.

We have strayed from your love for all people.

Turn us back to you, O God.

Give us new hearts and right spirits,

**that we may find what is pleasing to you
and dwell in your house forever. Amen.**

P: Receive the good news: God turns to you in love. “I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live,” says our God. All your sin is forgiven in the name of Jesus the Christ, who is the free and abounding gift of God’s grace for you.

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.

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

‡ WORD ‡

First Reading Malachi 4

See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ²But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall.

³And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.

⁴Remember the teaching of my servant Moses, the statutes and ordinances that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel. ⁵Lo, I will send

you the prophet Elijah before the great and terrible day of the LORD comes. ⁶He will turn the hearts of parents to their children and the hearts of children to their parents, so that I will not come and strike the land with a curse.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 47 (*read responsively*)

A: All the peoples, clap your hands,
shout your joy to God.

**C: For God Most High is awesome,
great king of all the earth.**

A: The One who conquers peoples
and sets them at our feet
chooses for beloved Jacob
a land to be our pride.

**C: God ascends the mountain
to cheers and trumpet blasts.**

A: Sing out your praise to God,
to the king, sing out your praise.

**C: For God rules the earth;
sing praise with all your skill.**

A: God rules over nations,
high on the sacred throne.

**C: Foreign rulers join
the people of Abraham's God;
all the powers on earth
belong to God on high.**

Second Reading Romans 9:20-24

²⁰But who indeed are you, a human being, to argue with God? Will what is molded say to the one who molds it, "Why have you made me like this?" ²¹Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one object for special use and another for ordinary use? ²²What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience the objects of wrath that are made for destruction; ²³and what if he has done so in order to make known the riches of his glory for the objects of mercy, which he has prepared

beforehand for glory—²⁴including us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles?

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Matthew 17:20)

C: For truly I tell you, if you had faith the size of a mustard seed nothing would be impossible for you.

Gospel Reading Matthew 17:14-27

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 17th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

¹⁴When [Jesus and the disciples] came to the crowd, a man came to him, knelt before him, ¹⁵and said, “Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; he often falls into the fire and often into the water. ¹⁶And I brought him to your disciples, but they could not cure him.” ¹⁷Jesus answered, “You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you? How much longer must I put up with you? Bring him here to me.” ¹⁸And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. ¹⁹Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?” ²⁰He said to them, “Because of your little faith. For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.” ²²As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into human hands, ²³and they will kill him, and on the third day he will be raised.” And they were greatly distressed.

²⁴When they reached Capernaum, the collectors of the temple tax came to Peter and said, “Does your teacher not pay the temple tax?” ²⁵He said, “Yes, he does.” And when he came home, Jesus spoke of it first, asking, “What do you think, Simon? From whom do kings of the earth take toll or tribute? From their children or from others?” ²⁶When Peter said, “From others,” Jesus said to him, “Then the children are free. ²⁷However, so that we do not give offense to them, go to the sea and cast a hook; take the first fish that comes up; and when you open its mouth, you will find a coin; take that and give it to them for you and me.”

After the reading:

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day O Lord, throughout These Forty Days
(For music see Hymn 319 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **O Lord, throughout these forty days
you prayed and kept the fast;
inspire repentance for our sin,
and free us from our past.**
2. **You strove with Satan, and you won;
your faithfulness endured;
lend us your nerve, your skill and trust
in God's eternal word.**
3. **Though parched and hungry, yet you prayer
and fixed your mind above;
so teach us to deny ourselves
that we may know God's love.**
4. **Be with us through this season, Lord,
and all our earthly days,
that when the final Easter dawns,
we join in heaven's praise.**

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838-1839; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930. Text copyright 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Music: A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003. Arr. 1969 Concordia Publishing House

Nicene Creed

A: Let us 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: Holy and generous host,
**C: you set a table where we feast as friends.
Prepare us to witness to your goodness
with every gift you have given us to share,
that all people may know your peace
through Jesus Christ, now and forever.
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: God's love is poured out in Christ for you. Open yourselves to receive it.

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. If you would prefer a gluten free wafer please ask the communion assistant distributing the bread.) 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)

343 My Song Is Love Unknown (Red Hymnal)

9 Communion Response (Songbook Binder)

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:

We thank you, living God, for the body and blood of your Son, which sustains us in the wilderness and the garden alike. As Christ has loved us in this feast, so send us to love Christ in our neighbors. In Jesus' name we pray

C: Amen.

† SENDING †

Blessing

P: Now is the acceptable time.

Now is the day of salvation.

Holy God,
speaking, spoken, and inspiring,
bless you, unbind you,
and send you in love and in peace.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn **I Want Jesus to Walk With Me**

(For music turn to Hymn 325 in the Red Hymnal)

- 1. I want Jesus to walk with me;
I want Jesus to walk with me;
all along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**
- 2. In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
in my trials, Lord, walk with me;
when my heart is almost breaking,**

Lord I want Jesus to walk with me.

3. **When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when my head is bowed in sorrow,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

Text and music: African American Spiritual, arr. J. Jefferson Cleveland, Verolga Nix; copyright 1981 Abingdon Press

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

Worship assistants TODAY:

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Greeters and Ushers | Rob and Laura Stroup |
| Acolyte | Creed White |
| Altar Care | Gary and Kim Boisseau |
| Communion Assistants | Paul and Babette Huber |
| Nursery Care | Kristi Bullwinkle |
| Counters | Nancy and Ivan Shuler |
| Coffee Hour | Nic and Julie Stuart |

Worship assistants for next Sunday, March 8

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Greeters and Ushers | Jim and Karen Spawton |
| Acolyte | Olivia DeLeon |
| Nursery Care | Laura Stroup |
| Counters | Bruce and Connie Stevenson |
| Coffee Hour | |

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St. John's Lutheran Church

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