



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



CAIN AND ABEL

The Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 28, 2017

10:30 Service of the Word

Last week we read about Adam and Eve getting expelled from the Garden of Eden. In today's reading things get worse. Humanity has just begun but anger and jealousy are already leading to murder. What a mess of creation we humans can make! But God is not just a passive observer. We discover that God allows humans their freedom, and when they mess up God responds. God responds with both accountability and forgiveness.

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

Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Just as God's work of creation never ends,
so the gifts received in baptism are renewed every day.
Let us give thanks together for the life given in baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life:
for water to bathe in, and for water to drink,
for the rain, the snow, and the water in the ground.

C: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life.

P: We give you thanks, O God for the waters of this place:
the Finger Lakes, the Genesee River, and Lake Ontario;
for waters to play in and waters that inspire wonder,
for water that gives life to our planet.

C: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of wonder.

P: We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
and for all who gather in this place;
for godparents and baptismal sponsors,
for children and grandchildren,
for our brothers and sisters in Christ whom we have never seen but to
whom we are bound.

C: We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized.

P: We give you thanks, O God, for water, for life, for grace, for
forgiveness, for resurrection and for eternal life.

**C: We give you thanks, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.
Amen.**

Gathering Hymn My Lord, What a Morning

(For music turn to Hymn 438 in the Red Hymnal)

Refrain

**My Lord, what a morning;
my Lord, what a morning;
oh my Lord, what a morning,
when the stars be-gin to fall.**

1. **You'll hear the trumpet sound,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand,
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain***
2. **You'll hear the sinner cry,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand,
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain***
3. **You'll hear the Christian shout,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand,
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain***

Text and music: African American Spiritual

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 (Romans 10)

A: The word is near you,

C: on your lips and in your heart.

A: If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,

C: and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

A: Faith comes from what is heard,

C: and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

Gracious and glorious God, you have chosen us as your own, and by the powerful name of Christ you protect us from evil. By your Spirit transform us and your beloved world, that we may find our joy in 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 Genesis 4

Now the man knew his wife Eve, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have produced a man with the help of the LORD." ²Next she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a tiller of the ground.

³In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, ⁴and Abel for his part brought of the firstlings of his flock, their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, ⁵but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

⁶The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your countenance fallen? ⁷If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is lurking at the door; its desire is for you, but you must master it."

⁸Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let us go out to the field." And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel, and killed him.

⁹Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" ¹⁰And the LORD said, "What have you done? Listen; your brother's blood is crying out to me from the ground! ¹¹And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹²When you till the ground, it will no longer yield to you its strength; you will be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth."

¹³Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is greater than I can bear!

¹⁴Today you have driven me away from the soil, and I shall be hidden from your face; I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and anyone who meets me may kill me." ¹⁵Then the LORD said to him, "Not so! Whoever kills Cain will suffer a sevenfold vengeance." And the LORD put a mark on Cain, so that no one who came upon him would kill him.

¹⁶Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD, and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden. ¹⁷Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch; and he built a city, and named it Enoch after his son Enoch.

¹⁸To Enoch was born Irad; and Irad was the father of Mehujael, and Mehujael the father of Methushael, and Methushael the father of Lamech.

¹⁹Lamech took two wives; the name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah. ²⁰Adah bore Jabal; he was the ancestor of those who live in tents and have livestock. ²¹His brother's name was Jubal; he was

the ancestor of all those who play the lyre and pipe. ²²Zillah bore Tubalcain, who made all kinds of bronze and iron tools. The sister of Tubalcain was Naamah.

²³Lamech said to his wives: “Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; you wives of Lamech, listen to what I say: I have killed a man for wounding me, a young man for striking me. ²⁴If Cain is avenged sevenfold, truly Lamech seventy-sevenfold.”

²⁵Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, for she said, “God has appointed for me another child instead of Abel, because Cain killed him.” ²⁶To Seth also a son was born, and he named him Enosh. At that time people began to invoke the name of the LORD.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 27:1-6 (*read responsively*)

A: The Lord is my saving light;
whom should I fear?
God is my fortress;
what should I dread?

**C: When the violent come at me
to eat me alive,
a mob eager to kill –
they waver, they collapse.**

A: Should battalions lay siege,
I will not fear;
should war rage against me,
even then will I trust.

**C: One thing I ask the Lord,
one thing I seek:
to live in the house of God
every day of my life,
caught up in God’s beauty,
at prayer in his temple.**

A: The Lord will hide me there,
hide my life from attack:
a sheltering tent above me,
a firm rock below.

**C: I am now beyond reach
of those who besiege me.
In his temple I will offer
a joyful sacrifice,
I will play and sing to God.**

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 4:7-15

⁷But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.

⁸We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. ¹¹For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. ¹²So death is at work in us, but life in you. ¹³But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—"I believed, and so I spoke"—we also believe, and so we speak, ¹⁴because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. ¹⁵Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (2 Corinthians 4:7)

C: Alleluia. We have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading Luke 12:22-30

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 12th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. ²³For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. ²⁴Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! ²⁵And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁶If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? ²⁷Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ²⁸But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! ²⁹And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep

worrying. ³⁰For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them.

After the reading:

P: The gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Change My Heart, O God
(For music turn to Hymn 801 in the Red Hymnal)

**Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.
You are the potter; I am the clay.
Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.
Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.**

Text and music: Eddie Espinosa, 1982 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing, admin. Music Services.

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 & Special Music

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.

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray:

C: Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus our Savior and Lord. 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: May God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn Precious Lord, Take My Hand

(For music see Hymn 773 in the Red Hymnal)

**1. Precious Lord, take my hand,
lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night,
lead me on to the light.
Take my hand, precious Lord,
lead me home.**

2. **When my way grows drear,
precious Lord, linger near,
when my life is almost gone,
hear my cry, hear my call,
hold me hand lest I fall.
Take my hand, precious Lord,
lead me home.**

3. **When the darkness appears
and the night draws near,
and the day is past and gone,
at the river I stand,
guide my feet, hold my hand.
Take my hand, precious Lord,
lead me home.**

Text: Tomas A. Dorsey, 1899-1993. Music: George N. Allen, 1812-1877, adapt. Thomas A Dorsey. Text and music copyright 1938, 1966 Unichappell Music Inc., admin. Hal Leonard Corp.

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

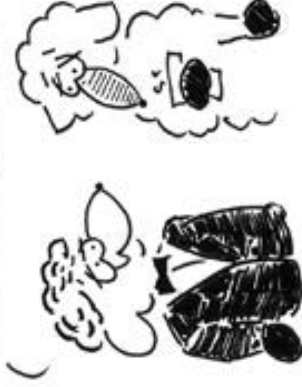
C: God's Work. Our Hands.

WHAT'S WITH THE
TRAT PAKK LOOK?
YOU NEVER DRESS
UP FOR CHURCH.



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I'VE CHANGED! IF JESUS
IS LEADING ME TO THE
GOOD LIFE, I NEED
TO LOOK THE PART.



BY CHANNEUNG
DEAN MARTIN??



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PSAM 23

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	Jack and Pat Hortop
Acolyte	Joe Wyman
Nursery Care	Beth Perdan
Counters	Don Mansfield and Tim Brown
Coffee Hour	Deb Gregory

Worship assistants for next Sunday, June 4

Greeters and Ushers	Mike and Cassie Ross
Acolyte	Sarah Brownlee
Altar Care	Linda Thompson
Communion Assistants	Connie and Bruce Stevenson
Nursery Care	Katy Stimmel
Counters	Babette Huber and Burdie Gillern
Coffee Hour	Confirmation Reception

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