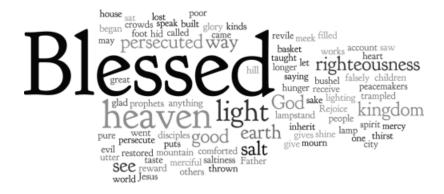


St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America God's work. Our hands.



4th Sunday of Easter May 3, 2020 10:30 Worship

Since December we have been reading through Matthew's gospel. We've read the whole thing with the exception of the Sermon on the Mount. This is the greatest and longest sermon we have from Jesus. We will be studying it throughout the month of May. Today we look at the sermon's beginning, but before that we notice the way the sermon has been structured by Matthew.

Welcome to worship today!

This order of worship is designed to accompany what is happening live on Zoom. In order to make things work smoothly please keep your computer's microphone off unless you have a speaking part. It may be helpful to use a headset or earbuds to minimize feedback. You are welcome to use the chat feature to ask questions or provide feedback. Following worship we will have a time for those who would like to chat. That would also be a time to use the chat feature for side conversations.

⊕ OPENING ⊕

Welcome and Announcements

Greeting

P. The grace of our risen Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

A: Joined in the waters of baptism, we are raised with him to new life.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism

Water is poured into the baptismal font as the following is said:

A: We praise you for your salvation through water,

for the water in this font,

and for all water everywhere.

Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.

Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give.

To you be given honor and praise

through Jesus Christ our Lord

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen

Opening Music

Prayer of the Day

B: O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through 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 Deuteronomy 9:9-13

D: [Moses said to the people] "When I went up the mountain to receive the stone tablets, the tablets of the covenant that the LORD made with you, I remained on the mountain forty days and forty nights; I neither ate bread nor drank water. ¹⁰And the LORD gave me the two stone tablets written with the finger of God; on them were all the words that the LORD had spoken to you at the mountain out of the fire on the day of the assembly. ¹¹At the end of forty days and forty nights the LORD gave me the two stone tablets, the tablets of the covenant. ¹²Then the LORD said to me, "Get up, go down quickly from here, for your people whom you have brought from Egypt have acted corruptly. They have been quick to turn from the way that I commanded them; they have cast an image for themselves." ¹³Furthermore the LORD said to me, "I have seen that this people is indeed a stubborn people."

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

C: Thanks be to God!

Scripture Poetry Psalm 1
E: If you would be blessed:
never walk with the wicked,
never stand with sinners,
never sit among cynics,
but delight in the Lord's teaching
and study it night and day.
You will stand like a tree
planted by a stream,
bearing fruit in season,
its leaves never fading,
its yield always plenty.

Not so for the wicked, like chaff they are blown by the wind. They will not withstand judgment, nor assemble with the just. The Lord marks the way of the upright, but the corrupt walk to ruin.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

F: [Paul writes] Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. ²You know that when you were pagans,

you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. ³Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit. ⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Matthew 28:19)

C: Alleluia. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading Matthew 28:16-20

 ${\it The gospel is announced:}$

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 28^{th} chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad,

⁴"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

^{8&}quot;Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

¹³"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. ¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. *After the reading:*

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

Response to the Word

P: In Christ you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

C: We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

G: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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.

G: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

C: pray in the Holy Spirit.

(Jude 20)

G: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

C: look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Jude 21)

G: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

C: Everything old has passed away;

behold, everything has become new!

(2 Corinthians 5:17)

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. These three petitions will be read by people in the congregation:

B. Creating God, we praise you for those who maintain and operate farm equipment, for those who plant and harvest crops, and for those involved in agriculture of any kind. Strengthen their hands as they feed the world. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

E. You wish to have all people know your love. Guide us to share the gospel, and be with the missionaries we support: the Rev. Matthew Nickoloff and the Rev. Deborah Troester. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

G: Let your presence be felt with all those who have contracted the coronavirus. Heal them quickly. Help them if they are struggling. Give healthcare workers who are dealing with extreme cases the wisdom they need for treatment. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

You are invited to add you own petition. Please conclude 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

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

C: And also with you.

B: We share that peace with one another.

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

Special Music

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

⊕ ENDING ⊕

<u>Blessing</u>

P: The blessing of the living God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, surround and sustain you, keep you from harm, and fill you with courage.

C: Amen.

Closing Music

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the risen Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

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