



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## *Luke 15*

*November 17, 2019*

*10:30 Holy Communion*

The psalm sets the tone this day: “Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!” Happy are those who have “become the righteousness of God” in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has “rolled away ...the disgrace” of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus’ sake. Rejoice!

### *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 Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life  
(For music turn to Hymn 816 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Come, my way, my truth, my life:**  
Such a way as gives us breath;  
Such a truth as ends all strife;  
Such a life as killeth death.
2. **Come, my light, my feast, my strength:**  
Such a light as shows a feast;  
Such a feast as mends in length;  
Such a strength as makes his guest.
3. **Come, my joy, my love, my heart:**  
Such a joy as none can move;  
Such a love as none can part;  
such a heart as joys in love.

Text: George Herbert, 1593-1632; Music: R. Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958

## 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, the strength of our ancestors, the host of this meal, the builder of the city that is to come.

**C: Amen**

P: If we have died with Christ, we will also live with Christ. Let us confess our sin to the one who is faithful.  
(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)

P: God our helper,

**C: we confess the many ways  
we have failed to live as your disciples.  
We have not finished what we began.  
We have feasted with friends but ignored strangers.  
We have been captivated by our possessions.**

**Lift our burdens, gracious God.  
Refresh our hearts and forgive our sin.  
Raise us to the new life you have chosen for us  
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

P: There is rejoicing in heaven when sinners repent. Put your trust in these promises: God will never leave you or forsake you. You who were lost have been found. For the sake of Jesus the Christ, your sins are forgiven. Rejoice with the angels at this good news.

**C: Amen**

Hymn of Praise Now the Feast and Celebration  
(For music turn to Hymn 789 in the Blue Hymnal)

*Refrain*

**Now the feast and celebration,  
all of creation sings for joy  
to the God of life and love and freedom  
praise and glory forevermore!**

- 1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain,  
whose blood has freed and united us  
to be one great people of God.** *Refrain*
- 2. Power and riches, wisdom and might,  
all honor and glory to Christ forever.** *Refrain*
- 3. For God has come to dwell with us,  
to make us people of God;  
to make all things new.** *Refrain*

Text and music: Marty Haugen; Copyright 1990 GIA Publications Inc.

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, 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* 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

<sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup>So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup>So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Scripture Poetry* Psalm 32 (*read responsively*)

A: Happy the pardoned,  
whose sin is canceled,  
in whom God finds  
no evil, no deceit.

**C: While I hid my sin,  
my bones grew weak  
from endless groaning.**

A: Day and night,  
under the weight of your hand,  
my strength withered  
as in a summer drought.

**C: Then I stopped hiding my sin  
and spoke out,  
“God, I confess my wrong.”**

**And you pardoned me.**

A: No wonder the faithful  
pray to you in danger!  
Even a sudden flood  
will never touch them.

**C: You, my shelter,  
you save me from ruin.  
You encircle me**

**with songs of freedom.**

A: "I show you the path to walk.  
As your teacher,  
I watch out for you.

**C: "Do not be a stubborn mule,  
needing bridle and bit  
to be tamed."**

A: Evil brings grief;  
trusting in God brings love.

**C: Rejoice in the Lord.  
Be glad and sing,  
you faithful and just.**

*Gospel Acclamation (Hebrews 4:12)*

**C: Alleluia. The word of God is living and active, able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Alleluia.**

*Gospel Reading* Luke 15

*The gospel is announced:*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. <sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." <sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup>"Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? <sup>5</sup>When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. <sup>6</sup>And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' <sup>7</sup>Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

<sup>8</sup>"Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>9</sup>When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' <sup>10</sup>Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

<sup>11</sup>Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that

will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup>A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. <sup>14</sup>When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup>He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup>But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup>I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ <sup>20</sup>So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup>Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ <sup>22</sup>But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup>And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup>for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate. <sup>25</sup>“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup>He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ <sup>28</sup>Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup>But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ <sup>31</sup>Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup>But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

*After the reading:*

P: The gospel of the Lord

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

*Children’s Sermon*

*Sermon*

*Hymn of the Day* The King of Love My Shepherd Is  
(For music, turn to hymn 502 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **The King of love my shepherd is,  
whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am his  
and he is mine forever**
2. **Where streams of living water flow,  
my ransomed soul he leadeth  
and, where the verdant pastures grow,  
with food celestial feedeth.**
3. **Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,  
but yet in love he sought me,  
and on his shoulder gently laid,  
and home, rejoicing, brought me.**
4. **In death's dark vale I fear no ill,  
with thee, dear Lord, beside me,  
thy rod and staff my comfort still;  
thy cross before to guide me.**
5. **Thou spreadst a table in my sight;  
thine unction grace bestoweth;  
and oh, what transport of delight  
from the pure chalice floweth!**
6. **And so, through all the length of days,  
thy goodness faileth never.  
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
within thy house forever.**

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821-1877

*Apostles' Creed*

A: Let us 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: God our provider,

**C: we bring nothing into this world and we can take nothing out of it. Accept the gifts you have first given us, which we bring to your table, and with them the offering of our lives. Nourish us now with the life that really is life, revealed to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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.**

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 need gluten free wafers please ask the assistant distributing 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)*

**608** *Softly and Tenderly (Red Hymnal)*

**740** *God of the Sparrow (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...

God of blessing, at this table we have seen you face to face, and in the gift of Christ's body and blood, our hearts have been refreshed. Send us now to shine with your goodness and bear witness to the one we have received; Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen**

† SENDING †

Blessing

P: Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us. Almighty God bless you with grace, mercy, and peace, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

Sending Hymn Lord of All Hopefulness  
(For music turn to Hymn 765 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
Whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy:  
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,  
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.**
2. **Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,  
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:  
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,  
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.**
3. **Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,  
Your hand swift to welcome, your arms to embrace:  
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,  
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.**
4. **Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,  
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:  
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,  
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.**

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

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

**Worship assistants TODAY:**

Greeters and Ushers	Bill and Katy Stimmel
Acolyte	Tierney White
Altar Care	Beth Perdan
Communion Assistants	Paul and Babette Huber
Nursery Care	Judy VanDeVelde
Counters	Sue Kaufmann and Helen Crown
Coffee Hour	Bettina Kalish and Sue Kaufmann

**Worship assistants for next Sunday, November 24**

Greeters and Ushers	Tom and Carol Urbanic
Acolyte	Morgan Sackett
Nursery Care	Beth Perdan
Counters	
Coffee Hour	The Irelands

Scripture readings from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible* copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States. Psalm from *The Psalter* copyright 1994, Liturgical Training Publications. Variable worship texts from *Sundays and Seasons 2019* copyright 2018 Augsburg Fortress.

**St. John's Lutheran Church**

888 County Road 9, Victor, NY 14564  
stjohnsvictor.com (585) 924-5192

The Rev. Jonathan Deibler, Pastor  
Heidi Griffith, Music Director