



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Cast the First Stone

November 18, 2018

10:30 Holy Communion

Last week we read from John's gospel about the time Jesus went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Booths. Today we continue that story. The religious officials have caught a woman in adultery and plan to publically stone her to death. Jesus replies with the famous words, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." There are many layers to this story and we'll explore many of them today.

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 All Are Welcome
(For music turn to Hymn 1 in the Songbook binder)

Chorus

**All are welcome, friend and stranger,
At the banquet of the Savior.
All are welcome. All are welcome here.**

- 1. From the woman who comes crying
Leaving tears at Jesus' feet,
To the man who knows the right way
But cannot see.** *Chorus*
- 2. From the ones who feel forgotten,
Those who sense their place is gone,
To the ones who live in hunger,
Here you belong.** *Chorus*
- 3. Go into the streets and cities,
To the farms and families,
Tell about the splendid table,
God's mercy** *Chorus*

Text and music: Hans Peterson, Larry Olson; copyright 1999 Dakota Road Music; CCLI #2944348

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,
who calls us into an everlasting hope,
who guides us to springs of the water of life,
who enlightens us with the spirit of wisdom.

C: Amen.

P: One with the communion of saints in all times and places, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

(Silence for reflection)

P: O God, our merciful redeemer,

C: we confess the ways that we live only for ourselves.

We fail to see you in our neighbor's face.

We turn our ears from voices that cry out.

We pass by the hungry and the oppressed.

In your great mercy, forgive us our sin and strengthen us for service to all in need;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake, God forgives you all your sin. Blessed are you!

Rejoice and be glad, beloved people of God.

C: Amen

Hymn of Praise Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
(For music see Hymn 807 in the Red Hymnal)

1. Come, thou fount of every blessing,

tune my heart to sing thy grace;

streams of mercy, never ceasing,

call for songs of loudest praise.

While the hope of endless glory

fills my heart with joy and love,

teach me ever to adore thee;

may I still thy goodness prove.

2. Here I raise my Ebenezer:

“Hither by thy help I’ve come”;

and I hope, by thy good pleasure,

safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger,

wand’ring from the fold of God;

he, to rescue me from danger,

interposed his precious blood.

3. Oh, to grace how great a debtor

daily I’m constrained to be;

let thy grace now like a fetter

bind my wand’ring heart to thee.

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;

prone to leave the God I love.

Here’s my heart, oh, take and seal it;

seal it for thy courts above.

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading Leviticus 20:6-12

⁶If any turn to mediums and wizards, prostituting themselves to them, I will set my face against them, and will cut them off from the people.⁷Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy; for I am the Lord your God. ⁸Keep my statutes, and observe them; I am the Lord; I sanctify you. ⁹All who curse father or mother shall be put to death; having cursed father or mother, their blood is upon them.

¹⁰If a man commits adultery with the wife of his neighbor, both the adulterer and the adulteress shall be put to death. ¹¹The man who lies with his father's wife has uncovered his father's nakedness; both of them shall be put to death; their blood is upon them. ¹²If a man lies with his daughter-in-law, both of them shall be put to death; they have committed perversion, their blood is upon them.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 119:1-8

A: Happy the blameless,
who keep the Lord's decrees,

**C: walking the path of the law,
seeking God with all their heart.**

A: They never choose evil
but follow God's way.

**C: Lord, you charge us
to cherish your law.**

A: Steady me,
that I may keep your commands.

**C: Then, without shame,
I can reflect on your ways.**

A: I truly sing your praise,

when I learn your justice.

**C: Hold me closely,
I shall keep your commands.**

Second Reading James 3:13-18

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Revelation 7:15)

C: Alleluia. A harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading John 8:2-11

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 8th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

²Early in the morning [Jesus] came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. ³The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, ⁴they said to him, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. ⁵Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” ⁶They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. ⁷When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” ⁸And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. ⁹When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. ¹⁰Jesus straightened up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” ¹¹She said, “No one, sir.” And Jesus said,

“Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.”

After the reading:

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day 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' 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 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. Creator God,

C: you made everything, and you provide for every need. The bread we break and the wine we pour come from you. As we eat and drink with thanksgiving, fill us with your love; let that love flow through us to others; and join us to the saints before us in a holy and boundless communion; through Jesus our Lord, 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 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. 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)

739 *Touch the Earth Lightly (Red Hymnal)*

588 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy (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: Sovereign God, in this meal you give us a foretaste of the great feast to come. Keep us faithful to you, that we, with all your saints, may at length celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

† SENDING †

Blessing

P: The love of God surround you;
the grace of Christ release you;
and the Holy Spirit be your guide and strength, now and forevermore.

C: Amen

Sending Hymn Shout to the Lord
(For music turn to Hymn 821 in the Red Hymnal)

Verse

**My Jesus, my Savior,
Lord there is none like you;
All of my days
I want to praise
The wonders of your mighty love.
My comfort, my shelter,
Tower of refuge and strength;
Let ev'ry breath, all that I am
Never cease to worship You.**

Chorus

**Shout to the Lord all the earth
Let us sing power and majesty, praise to the King;
Mountains bow down
And the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name.
I sing for joy at the work of Your hands,
Forever I'll love You,
Forever I'll stand,
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.**

Repeat Verse and Chorus

Text and music: Darlene Zschech; copyright 1993 Darlene Zschech, Admin. Integrity's Hosanna! Music; CCLI #1406918

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C: God's Work. Our Hands.

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	Kim and Gary Boisseau
Acolyte	Katya Kurilovitch
Altar Care	Beth Perdan
Communion Assistants	Bruce and Diane Boncke
Nursery Care	Laura Stroup
Counters	John and Linda Thompson
Coffee Hour	Browns and Thompsons

Worship assistants for next Sunday, November 25, 2018

Greeters and Ushers	Nancy and Ivan Shuler
Acolyte	Viala Wagner
Nursery Care	Judy VanDeVelde
Counters	Tim Brown and Bill Hagerman
Coffee Hour	Sue Kaufmann

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