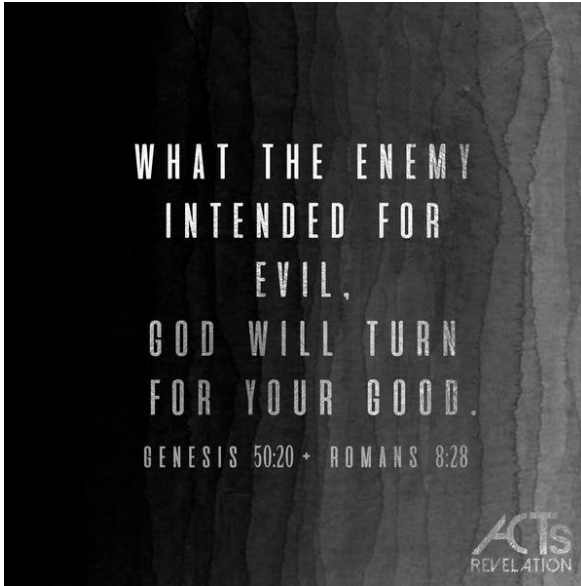




St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Joseph Forgives?

November 19, 2017

10:30 Holy Communion

Jacob has died. Will Joseph forgive his brothers for all their treachery or will he seek revenge. We'll look at the text of Genesis 50 today and discover that he does neither. He make a remarkable statement that reflects God's own nature. As we finish Genesis today we'll discover that at the beginning God created the universe. Now at the end at least one person has caught on to God's nature and is able to reflect it in his life.

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 Washed in the Promise
(for music see Hymn 86 in the Songbook binder)

1. **Chaos rages, tears run dry,
painful laughter, a sea of selfish cries.
Gifting waters on your head,
words of welcome, you are born again.**

Refrain **You are washed in the promise,
the cross of forgiveness,
the mystery of grace.
You are held in the hope
and wrapped in the reach of the Savior's embrace.**

2. **The Spirit's pouring joy and light,
understanding, liberty and sight.** *Refrain*

Text and music: Hans Peterson and Larry Olson; Copyright 1997 Dakota Road Music, used by permission.

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 and self-examination

P: O God, our merciful redeemer,

C: we confess the ways 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 the hungry and the oppressed. In your great mercy, forgive 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 He Is Exalted
(For music turn to Hymn 14 in the Songbook binder)

**1. He is exalted, the King is exalted on high,
I will praise Him.
He is exalted, forever exalted
And I will praise His name!**

Chorus

**He is the Lord, forever His truth shall reign.
Heaven and earth
Rejoice in His holy name.
He is exalted, the King is exalted on high!**

**2. He is exalted, the King is exalted on high,
I will praise Him.
He is exalted, forever exalted
And I will praise His name!**

Chorus 2 times

Text and music by Twila Paris. CCLI #17827. Copyright 1985 Straightway Music, administered by EMI Christian Music Publishing

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

Righteous judge, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God

of your father.” Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, “We are here as your slaves.”¹⁹But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God?²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 77:12-21 (*read responsively*)

A: I recall your awesome deeds,
your wonders of old.

**C: I reflect on all you have done,
on all your works.**

A: You alone are holy.
what god compares to you?

**C: You are the God of power,
strong among the nations.**

A: You reached out to save your people,
the children of Jacob and Joseph.

**C: Seeing you, the waters churned,
shuddering, writhing,
convulsed to the depths.**

A: Clouds poured down rain,
thunder shook the heavens,
lightning darted like arrows.

**C: And the thunder rolled,
flashes lit up the world,
the earth trembled and quaked.**

A: You set a path through the sea,
a way through raging waters,
with no trace of your footprints.

**C: You led your flock
under Moses and Aaron.**

Second Reading Romans 8:26-30

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the

will of God. ²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Matthew 18:20)

C: Alleluia. [Jesus said] “Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading Matthew 18:15-22

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 18th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

[Jesus said] “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

²¹Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

After the reading:

P: The gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Goodness is Stronger than Evil
(For harmonization see Hymn 721 in the Red Hymnal)

**Goodness is stronger than evil;
love is stronger than hate;
light is stronger than darkness;
life is stronger than death;
vict'ry is ours,
vict'ry is ours,
through God who loes us.
Vict'ry is ours,
vict'ry is ours,
through God who loves us.**

Text: From *An African Prayer Book*, Desmond Tutu, b. 1931, copyright 1995 Desmond Tutu, admin. Random House, Inc. and Lynn C. Franklin Associates, Ltd. Music: John L. Bell, b. 1949, copyright 1996 Iona Community, Admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

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; through Jesus, our 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.**

Invitation to Communion

P: Speak to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, and make us one with you.

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)

749 *When Love is Found (Blue Hymnal)*

612 *Healer of Our Every Ill (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.

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 North
(For music turn to Hymn 31 in the Songbook binder)

**1. Men of faith, rise up and sing
of the great and glorious King.
You are strong when you are weak,
in your brokenness complete.**

Refrain

**Shout to the north and the south;
sing to the east and the west.
Jesus is Savior of all, Lord of heaven and earth.**

**2. Rise up women of the truth,
stand and sing to broken hearts
who can know the healing pow'r
of our awesome King of love.**

Refrain

**3. We've been through fire, we've been through rain;
We've been refined by the pow'r of His name.
We've fallen deeper in love with You.
You've burned the truth on our lips.**

Refrain

**4. Rise up church with broken wings,
Fill this place with songs again
of our God who reigns on high.
By His grace again we'll fly.**

Refrain

Text and music: Martin Smith; Copyright 1996 Curious? Music UK; CCLI #156226

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

DO THESE
STEPS
EVER
WORK?



SURE.



BUT EVEN WHEN THEY
DON'T SEEM TO WORK,
THEY GUIDE US IN A
COMMITMENT TO
RECONCILIATION!



OH, I GET IT!
THE JOURNEY
IS ITS OWN
REWARD!



THANK YOU
HOMER,
BUT NO.



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

MATTHEW 18:15-20

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Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	Karen and Jim Spawton
Acolyte	Julia Bullwinkle
Altar Care	Beth Perdan
Communion Assistants	Nancy and Ivan Shuler
Nursery Care	Katy Stimmel
Counters	Nancy and Ivan Shuler
Coffee Hour	The Bullwinkles

Worship assistants for next Sunday, November 26

Greeters and Ushers	Bruce and Connie Stevenson
Acolyte	Kelsey Sackett
Nursery Care	Lynne Minkel
Counters	Bruce Boncke and Art Fields
Coffee Hour	Perdans and Stevensons

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