



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Wisdom – God's & Human

October 11, 2020 10:30 Service of the Word

In this second week in our look at the Corinthians we're exploring the idea of wisdom. Things like wisdom and secret knowledge of mysteries were a big part of many ancient religions. St. Paul writes to the Corinthians about a different sort of wisdom – God's wisdom. It is in God's wisdom that the crucifixion of Jesus was an act of power; even though it looks like complete foolishness to humans.

Welcome to worship today!

We are worshipping both in-person and online today. Everything you need for worship is included in this bulletin. For those in the sanctuary please remember to fill out the attendance sheet so that contact tracing can be done if necessary.

† GATHERING †

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence for reflection.

P: Faithful God,

C: have mercy on us.

We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways.

We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves.

We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.

We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.

Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,

and turn us again to life in you,

through Jesus the Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of Jesus the Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world.

C: Amen

Gathering Hymn My Faith Looks Up to Thee
(For music turn to Hymn 759 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **My faith looks up to thee,**

thou Lamb of Calvary,

Savior divine!

Now hear me while I pray,

take all my guilt away,

oh, let me from this day

be wholly thine!

2. **May thy rich grace impart
strength to my fainting heart,**

my zeal inspire;

as thou hast died for me,

**oh, may my love to thee
pure, warm, and changeless be,
a living fire!**

**3. While life's dark maze I tread
and griefs around me spread,
be thou my guide;
bid darkness turn to day,
wipe sorrow's tears away,
nor let me ever stray
from thee aside.**

**4. When ends life's transient dream,
when death's cold, sullen stream
shall o'er me roll;
blest Savior, then, in love,
fear and distrust remove;
oh, bear me safe above,
a ransomed soul!**

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808-1887. Music: Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray:

Lord, our ways are not your ways; and our wisdom is not your wisdom. Open our hearts and minds to the wonders and mysteries of your grace and love. Bring us to the day of salvation when we can see and know you fully, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

²as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—

to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

⁴From ages past no one has heard,

no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.

⁵You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

⁶We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

⁷There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

⁸Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 33:4-22 (*read responsively*)

A: The word of the Lord is true:
what God says, God does.

**C: This lover of truth and justice
fills the earth with love.**

A: God speaks: the heavens are made;
God breathes: the stars shine.

**C: God bottles the waters of the sea
and stores them in the deep.**

A: All earth, be astounded,
stand in awe of God.

**C: God speaks: the world is;
God commands: all things appear.**

A: God blocks the plans of nations,
disrupts all they contrive.

**C: But God's plan and designs
last from age to age.**

A: Blest is the land whose god is the Lord,

the heirs whom God has chosen.

**C: The Lord looks down
and sees our human kind.**

A: From heaven God surveys
all peoples on earth.

**C: The maker of human hearts
knows every human act.**

A: Armies do not save kings,
brute force does not spare soldiers.

**C: The warhorse is a sham;
despite its power, it will not save.**

A: God keeps a loving eye
on all who believe,
on those who count on God

**C: to bring relief from famine,
to rescue them from death.**

A: With all we are, we wait for God,
the Lord, our help, our shield.

**C: Our hearts find joy in the Lord;
we trust God's holy name.**

A: Love us, Lord!
We wait for you.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

[Paul writes] When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. ⁷But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"— ¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For what human being knows what

is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. ¹³And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual. ¹⁴Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny. ¹⁶"For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (1 Corinthians 2:12)

C: Alleluia. We have received not the spirit of the world, but that Spirit that is from God. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading John 3:11-21

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 3rd chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

[Jesus said to Nicodemus] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do

what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

After the reading:

P: The gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Lift High the Cross

(For music turn to Hymn 660 in the Red Hymnal)

Refrain **Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.**

- 1. Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God.** *Refrain*
- 2. All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.** *Refrain*
- 3. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As thou hast promised, draw us all to thee.** *Refrain*
- 4. So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory!** *Refrain*

Text: George W. Kitchin; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, Music: Sydney Nickolson, Copyright 1974 Hope Publishing Company

Response to the Word

A: 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.

A: 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.**

A: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

C: pray in the Holy Spirit. *(Jude 20)*

A: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

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

A: 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)*

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 messages of Christ's peace.

✠ PRAYER ✠

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 four petitions will be read by people in the congregation:

God our healer, we pray that the plague of the coronavirus will subside,
that all who are sick with the virus, from rulers to refugees, be healed,
that people living with fear be comforted,
that medical workers be supported and medical supplies be made
everywhere available,
and that a vaccine be developed and fairly distributed. Lord in your

mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

We pray that where the church has gone astray from its mission to spread your love you bring it back to a right course. Equip all who call upon you to be able to accomplish your work. Be with the missionaries we support: the Rev. Matthew Nickloff in Rochester and the Rev. Karen Anderson in Chile. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

Lord we pray that those who suffer from want be assisted,
that those without work find jobs,
that children be educated,
that ministries of care be strengthened to feed those who hunger and those without homes,
that extremism be lessened and a spirit of cooperation be nurtured. Lord in your mercy...

C: 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.

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**

† SENDING †

Blessing

P: Nurturing God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Bless you and lead you into the ways of truth and life.
C: Amen.

Sending Hymn Lift Every Voice and Sing
(For music see Hymn 841 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Lift ev'ry voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise high as the listn'ing skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a son full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.**

2. **Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast'ning rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
come to the place for which our parents sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
we have come, treading our path through the blood of the
slaughtered,
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.**

3. **God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.**

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

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



Campbell

"I'll bet Goliath is taking his vitamins."

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 2020* copyright 2019 Augsburg Fortress. Prayer petitions from the ELCA's Worship in the Home blog.

St. John's Lutheran Church
888 County Road 9, Victor, NY 14564
stjohnsvictor.com (585) 924-5192
The Rev. Jonathan Deibler, Pastor
Nathan Cheung, Pianist