



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

“ May a merciful God preserve me from a Christian Church in which everyone is a saint! I want to be and remain in the church and little flock of the fainthearted, the feeble and the ailing, who feel and recognize the wretchedness of their sins, who sigh and cry to God incessantly for comfort and help, who believe in the forgiveness of sins.”



Martin Luther



Forgiveness

October 15, 2017 10:30 Holy Communion

The Bible proclaims this good news: “in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us” (2 Corinthians 5:19). We are all born into sin, into brokenness, into death. We all sin. In Christ, there is forgiveness for all. And the forgiven in turn forgive and forgive and forgive.

-from Working Preacher.org, “Preaching the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation”

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 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
(For music turn to Hymn 631 in the Red Hymnal)

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart.
2. Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit;
let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.
3. Come, Almighty, to deliver;
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.
4. Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee!
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise!

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, the one who fashions us, the one who heals us, the one who reforms us again and again.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P: Source of all life,

C: we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free. We still fear that we are not good enough. We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. We turn the church inward, rather than moving it outward. Forgive us. Stir us. Reform us to be a church powered by your will, willing to speak for what is right and work for what is just. Amen.

P: God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us and to empower our lives in the world. Our sins are forgiven and God continues to work in us. God's love is unconditional, and we are raised up as God's people who will always be made new, in the name of Jesus our Lord.

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

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

Almighty God, by our baptism into the death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, you turn us from the old life of sin. Grant that we who are reborn to new life in him may live in righteousness and holiness all our days, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading 1 John 1:5-10

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 49 (*read responsively*)

A: Everyone, take heed,
all the world, listen,
high and low,
rich and poor alike.

C: I have wisdom you need to hear.

I see to the heart of things.

I tune my ear to the truth

and set my insight to music.

A: Why should I be afraid of bad times
when enemies surround me,
disdainful in their power,
arrogant in their wealth?

**C: We cannot save ourselves,
cannot set things right with God;
the price is too high,**

well beyond our means.

A: There is no escaping death,
no avoiding the grave.
Look, even the wisest die.
Fool and idiots perish with them,
and others claim their wealth.

**C: The grave is their only home
where they settle for good,
even if their land
still bears their name.**

A: No matter how great,
no one sees the truth:
we die like beasts

**C: Here is the fate of those
only concerned for themselves:
they go straight to Sheol.**

A: Death shepherds them
right into the grave,
where flesh is eaten up
and earth consumes them.

**C: But I know God will rescue me,
save me from the grip of death.**

A: Do not worry about wealth,
when someone else becomes rich.

**C: You cannot take it to your grave,
wealth is worth nothing in death.**

A: No matter how wealthy,
no matter how many tell you,
“My, how well you have done,”
the rich join the dead
never to see light again.

**C: No matter how great,
no one sees the truth:
we die like beasts.**

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

[Paul writes] For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

¹⁶From 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. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For 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.

Gospel Acclamation (John 20:21)

C: Alleluia. “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” Alleluia.

Gospel Reading John 20:19-23

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 20th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

After the reading:

P: The gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Touch the Earth Lightly
(For music see Hymn 739 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Touch the earth lightly,
use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder,
ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.**
2. **We who endanger,
who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster
clouds of disaster-
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!**
3. **Let there be greening,
birth from the burning,
water that blesses, and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden,
hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.**
4. **God of all living,
God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow, and the sun,
teach us, deflect us,
Christ reconnect us,
using us gently, and making us one.**

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931. Music: Colin Gibson, b. 1933. Text and music copyright 1992 Hope Publishing Company

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 & Anthem *When in Our Music God Is Glorified* by Fred Pratt Green

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 of life,

C: you give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life and our labor. Take them, offered in great thanksgiving, and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation; through 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.**

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)

468 *Around You, O Lord Jesus (Red Hymnal)*

27 *Purify My Heart (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.

Holy and compassionate God, in bread and wine you give us gifts that form us to be both humble and courageous. May your word come to life in our serving and in our witness, that we might speak a living voice of

healing and justice to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer.

C: Amen.

† **SENDING** †

Blessing

P: God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being; Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead; Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the church: Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn The Power of Your Love
(for music, turn to Hymn 71 in the Songbook binder)

**1. Lord, I come to You, let my heart be changed, renewed,
Flowing from the grace that I've found in You.
And, Lord, I've come to know the weaknesses I see in me
will be stripped away by the pow'r of Your love.**

Refrain

**Hold me close, let Your love surround me;
Bring me near, draw me to Your side
And as I wait, I'll rise up like an eagle, and I will soar with You.
Your Spirit leads me on in the pow'r of Your love.**

**2. Lord, unveil my eyes, let me see You face to face,
the knowledge of Your love as You live in me.
Lord, renew my mind, as Your will unfolds in my life,
in living ev 'ry day in the pow'r of Your love. *Refrain***

Text and music by Geoff Bullock; copyright 1992 Word Music, Inc.; CCLI #917491

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

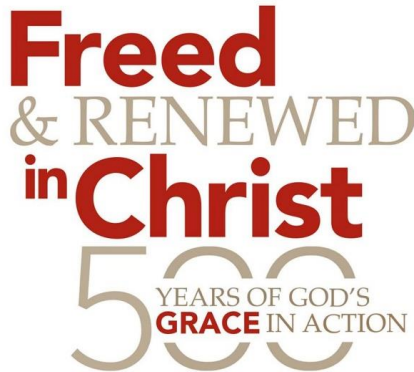
Worship assistants TODAY:

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Greeters and Ushers | Mike and Bettina Kalish |
| Acolyte | Ben Deibler |
| Altar Care | Gary Boisseau |
| Communion Assistants | Bruce and Connie Stevenson |
| Nursery Care | Beth Perdan |
| Counters | Don Mansfield and Tim Brown |
| Coffee Hour | The Christmans |

Worship assistants for next Sunday, October 22

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|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Greeters and Ushers | Mike and Cassie Ross |
| Acolyte | Morgan Sackett |
| Nursery Care | Katy Stimmel |
| Counters | Babette Huber and Burdie Gillern |
| Coffee Hour | The Wymans and Urbanics |

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