



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## *Finding God in the Last Place You Would Look*

### *(The Theology of the Cross)*

*October 22, 2017*

*10:30 Service of the Word*

The cross is God's promise – God's solemn commitment – to be present in the last place human reason would look for God... in the midst of suffering, oppression, violence, even death. Be clear about this – God does not cause the suffering. Suffering is the result of sin, human nature, and the brokenness of creation. But God has promised to meet us in our suffering and draw us into God's preferred future.

*-from Working Preacher.org, "Preaching the 500<sup>th</sup> 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

### 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.**

### Gathering Hymn As the Deer

*(For music turn to Hymn 2 in the Songbook binder)*

**1. As the deer panteth for the water,  
so my soul longeth after thee.  
You alone are my heart's desire  
And I long to worship thee.**

**Refrain: You alone are my strength, my shield;  
To you alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire  
And I long to worship thee.**

**2. You're my friend and You are my brother  
even though you are a King.  
I love you more than any other,  
So much more than anything.** *Refrain*

3. **I want you more than gold or silver,  
only You can satisfy.  
You alone are the real joy-giver  
And the apple of my eye.** *Refrain*

Text and music: Martin Nystrom; Copyright 1984 Maranatha Praise, Inc. CCLI # 1431

Greeting (2 Corinthians 13:13)

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.**

Gathering Dialog (Deuteronomy 26, 11, 8)

A: You are the treasured people of the Lord,

**C: a people holy to the Lord our God.**

A: Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children.

**C: Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away,  
when you lie down and when you rise.**

A: One does not live by bread alone,

**C: but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.**

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts.

Created by you,

let us live in your image;

created for you,

let us act for your glory;

redeemed by you,

let us give you what is yours,

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

† WORD †

First Reading Micah 4:1-4

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised up above the hills.

Peoples shall stream to it, <sup>2</sup>and many nations shall come and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup>He shall judge between many peoples, and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more; <sup>4</sup>but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Scripture Poetry Psalm 12 (*Read responsively*)

A: Help us, Lord,  
for no one stays loyal,  
the faithful have vanished.

**C: People lie to each other  
no one speaks from the heart.**

A: May the Lord silence  
the smooth tongue  
and boasting lips that say:

**C: “Our words will triumph!  
With weapons like these  
who can master us?”**

A: The Lord speaks out:  
“I will act now,  
for the poor are broken  
and the needy groan.  
when they call out,  
I will protect them.”

**C: The Lord’s word is pure,  
like silver from the furnace,  
seven times refined.**

A: Lord, keep your promise,  
always protect your own.

**C: Guard them from this age  
when wickedness abounds  
and evil is prized above all.**

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:2

<sup>18</sup>For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of

the discerning I will thwart.”<sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?<sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe.<sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom,<sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,<sup>24</sup>but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.<sup>25</sup>For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.<sup>26</sup>Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.<sup>27</sup>But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;<sup>28</sup>God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are,<sup>29</sup>so that no one might boast in the presence of God.<sup>30</sup>He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption,<sup>31</sup>in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom.<sup>2</sup>For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Acclamation (Mark 15:39)*

**C: Alleluia. When the centurion saw that he had breathed his last, he said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!” Alleluia.**

*Gospel Reading* Mark 15:33-39

*The gospel is announced:*

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

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

<sup>33</sup>When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.<sup>34</sup>At three o’clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”<sup>35</sup>When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “Listen, he is calling for Elijah.”<sup>36</sup>And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.”<sup>37</sup>Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.<sup>38</sup>And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.<sup>39</sup>Now when the centurion, who stood facing

him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!”

*After the reading:*

P: The gospel of the Lord

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

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Take Up Your Cross

*For music turn to Hymn 81 in the Songbook Binder*

1. **In a world of many  
voices calling at me,  
it’s hard to hear the one that’s true.  
Even when I hear it,  
when my heart discerns it,  
I lack the will to see it through.  
Though I’m falling, falling,  
the voice is always calling:  
Take up your cross.  
Take up your cross.  
Take up your cross and follow me,  
and follow me.**
  
2. **The call is hard to swallow:  
Take up your cross and follow.  
The words reach deep inside of me.  
I find myself so troubled,  
to lose my life, be humble,  
the sins within refuse to see,  
Though I’m falling, falling,  
the voice is always calling:  
Take up your cross.  
Take up your cross.  
Take up your cross and follow me,  
and follow me.**

### 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 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. 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

A: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

A: Let us share that peace with one another.

*The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.*

# † THANKSGIVING †

## Offering & Special Music

Hymn of Thanksgiving As the offering is brought forward the congregation sings:

Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil

*For music turn to Hymn 713 in the Blue Hymnal*

**Lord, let my heart be good soil,  
open to the seed of your Word.  
Lord, let my heart be good soil,  
where love can grow and peace is understood.  
When my heart is hard,  
break the stone away.  
When my heart is cold,  
warm it with the day.  
When my heart is lost,  
lead me on your way.  
Lord, let my heart,  
Lord, let my heart,  
Lord, let my heart be good soil.**

Text and music: Handt Hanson, b. 1950, Copyright 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing/Changing Church, Inc.

## 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.**

## Lord's Prayer

A: 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: 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* I Want Jesus to Walk With Me  
(For music turn to Hymn 325 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **I want Jesus to walk with me;  
I want Jesus to walk with me;  
all along my pilgrim journey,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**
2. **In my trials, Lord, walk with me;  
in my trials, Lord, walk with me;  
when my heart is almost breaking,  
Lord I want Jesus to walk with me.**
3. **When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;  
When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;  
when my head is bowed in sorrow,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

Text and music: African American Spiritual, arr. J. Jefferson Cleveland, Verolga Nix; copyright 1981 Abingdon Press

*Dismissal*

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

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

HE NEVER DRINKS  
THE MYRRA,  
DOES HE?

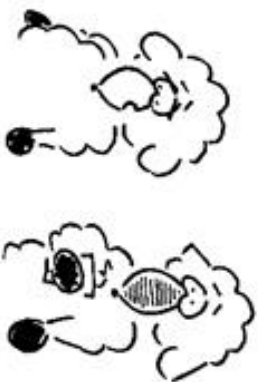


www.Aquidstay.org

NO, THE ROMAN'S USED IT  
TO MAKE THE CRUCIFIED  
MORE COMPLIANT, BUT  
JESUS GOES TO THE  
CROSS WILLINGLY FOR US.



HUH — SO THE  
MAGI  
BROUGHT IT  
FOR NOTHING.



MARK 15: 22-29

© WETZSTEIN 09.01.01



**Worship assistants TODAY:**

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 the Urbanics

**Worship assistants for next Sunday, October 29**

Greeters and Ushers	Paul and Babetter Huber
Acolyte	Mary Ehrlinger
Altar Care	Gary Boisseau
Communion Assistants	Bruce and Diane Boncke
Nursery Care	Lynne Minkel
Counters	Tom Kurilovitch and Helen Crown
Coffee Hour	German Lunch

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 2017* copyright 2016 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