



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Luke 11:33-54

September 15, 2019

10:30 Holy Communion

It's easy to point a finger at the bad actions of other people. In today's gospel Jesus criticizes two groups we like to point fingers at: Pharisees and lawyers. Yet his criticism for them can also apply to us. We want to use Jesus' teachings to open our own eyes to our failings and then more fully live in a way that gives life to ourselves and others.

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 This Little Light of Mine
(For music see Hymn 677 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **This little light of mine, I'm goin' a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin' a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin' a let it shine;
let is shine, let it shine, let is shine.**
2. **Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin' a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin' a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin' a let it shine;
let is shine, let it shine, let is shine.**
3. **Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin' a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin' a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin' a let it shine;
let is shine, let it shine, let is shine.**

Text and music: African American Spiritual

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, the strength of our ancestors, the host of this meal, the builder of the city that is to come.

C: Amen

P: If we have died with Christ, we will also live with Christ. Let us confess our sin to the one who is faithful.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)

P: God our helper,

C: we confess the many ways

we have failed to live as your disciples.

We have not finished what we began.

We have feasted with friends but ignored strangers.

We have been captivated by our possessions.

**Lift our burdens, gracious God.
Refresh our hearts and forgive our sin.
Raise us to the new life you have chosen for us
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

P: There is rejoicing in heaven when sinner repent. Put your trust in these promises: God will never leave you or forsake you. You who were lost have been found. For the sake of Jesus the Christ, your sins are forgiven. Rejoice with the angels at this good news.

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...

O God overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve you people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading Jeremiah 17:5-13

⁵Thus says the Lord:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the Lord.

⁶They shall be like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷Blessed are those who trust in the Lord,
whose trust is the Lord.

⁸They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

⁹The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse—
who can understand it?

¹⁰The Lord test the mind and search the heart,
to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.

¹¹Like the partridge hatching what it did not lay,
so are all who amass wealth unjustly;
in mid-life it will leave them,
and at their end they will prove to be fools.

¹²O glorious throne, exalted from the beginning,
shrine of our sanctuary!

¹³O hope of Israel! O Lord!

All who forsake you shall be put to shame;
those who turn away from you shall be recorded in the underworld,
for they have forsaken the fountain of living water, the Lord.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 15 (*read responsively*)

A: Lord, who is welcome in your house?

Who can rest on your holy mountain?

**C: Those who walk with integrity
and do only what is right,
speaking the truth with courage.**

A: They never spread slander
or abuse their friends
or condemn their neighbors.

**C: They disdain the godless,
but honor those who believe.**

**Before God, they give their word
and keep it at any cost.**

A: They neither lend for gain
nor take bribes against the guiltless.

**C: These are the just:
they stand forever unshaken.**

Second Reading 1 John 3:18-24

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him

²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Luke 15:10)

C: Alleluia. There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading Luke 11:33-54

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 11th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

³³“No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar, but on the lampstand so that those who enter may see the light. ³⁴Your eye is the lamp of your body. If your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light; but if it is not healthy, your body is full of darkness. ³⁵Therefore consider whether the light in you is not darkness. ³⁶If then your whole body is full of light, with no part of it in darkness, it will be as full of light as when a lamp gives you light with its rays.”

³⁷While he was speaking, a Pharisee invited him to dine with him; so he went in and took his place at the table. ³⁸The Pharisee was amazed to see that he did not first wash before dinner. ³⁹Then the Lord said to him, “Now you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. ⁴⁰You fools! Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also? ⁴¹So give for alms those things that are within; and see, everything will be clean for you. ⁴²“But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and herbs of all kinds, and neglect justice and the love of God; it is these you ought to have

practiced, without neglecting the others. ⁴³Woe to you Pharisees! For you love to have the seat of honor in the synagogues and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces. ⁴⁴Woe to you! For you are like unmarked graves, and people walk over them without realizing it.”

⁴⁵One of the lawyers answered him, “Teacher, when you say these things, you insult us too.” ⁴⁶And he said, “Woe also to you lawyers! For you load people with burdens hard to bear, and you yourselves do not lift a finger to ease them. ⁴⁷Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets whom your ancestors killed. ⁴⁸So you are witnesses and approve of the deeds of your ancestors; for they killed them, and you build their tombs. ⁴⁹Therefore also the Wisdom of God said, ‘I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and persecute,’ ⁵⁰so that this generation may be charged with the blood of all the prophets shed since the foundation of the world, ⁵¹from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who perished between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, it will be charged against this generation. ⁵²Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge; you did not enter yourselves, and you hindered those who were entering.” ⁵³When he went outside, the scribes and the Pharisees began to be very hostile toward him and to cross-examine him about many things, ⁵⁴lying in wait for him, to catch him in something he might say.

After the reading:

P: The gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy
(For music see Hymn 588 in the Red Hymnal)

- 1. There’s a wideness in God’s mercy,
like the wideness of the sea;
there’s a kindness in God’s justice
which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth’s sorrows
are more felt than up in heav’n.
There is no place where earth’s failings
have such kindly judgment giv’n.**
- 2. There’s a welcome for the sinner,
and a promised grace made good;
there is mercy with the Savior;
there is healing in his blood.**

**There is grace enough for thousands
of new worlds as great as this;
there is room for fresh creations
in that upper home of bliss.**

- 3. For the love of God is broader
that the measures of our mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is more wonderfully kind.
But we make this love too narrow
by false limits of our own;
and we magnify its strictness
with a zeal God will not own.**
- 4. 'Tis not all we owe to Jesus;
it is something more than all:
greater good because of evil,
larger mercy through the fall.
Make our love, O God, more faithful;
let us take you at your word,
and our lives will be thanksgiving
for the goodness of the Lord.**

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, alt. Music: North American, 19th century

Apostles' Creed

A: Let us 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: God our provider,

C: we bring nothing into this world and we can take nothing out of it. Accept the gifts you have first given us, which we bring to your table, and with them the offering of our lives. Nourish us now with the life that really is life, revealed to us in 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.

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. (If you need gluten free wafers please ask the assistant distributing bread.) 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)

492 *Eat This Bread (Red Hymnal)*

611 *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say (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...

God of blessing, at this table we have seen you face to face, and in the gift of Christ's body and blood, our hearts have been refreshed. Send us now to shine with your goodness and bear witness to the one we have received; Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

✠ SENDING ✠

Blessing

P: Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us. Almighty God bless you with grace, mercy, and peace, now and forever.

C: Amen

Sending Hymn Beauty for Brokenness (God of the Poor)

(For music see Hymn 102 in the Songbook Binder)

**1. Beauty for brokenness,
hope for despair,
Lord, in your suff'ring world,**

**this is our prayer.
Bread for the children,
justice, joy, peace,
sunrise to sunset
Your kingdom increase.**

- 2. Shelter for fragile lives,
cures for their ills
work for the craftsmen,
trade for their skills
land for the dispossessed,
rights for the weak
voices to plead the cause,
of those who can't speak.**

Chorus **God of the poor
friend of the weak,
give us compassion we pray,
melt our cold hearts,
let tears fall like rain.
Come change our love
from a spark to a flame.**

- 3. Refuge from cruel wars,
havens from fear
cities for sanctu'ry,
freedoms to share
peace to the killing fields,
scorched earth to green
Christ for the bitterness,
his cross for the pain.** *Chorus*

- 4. Rest for the ravaged earth,
oceans and streams
plundered and poisoned,
our future our dreams
Lord end our madness,
carelessness, greed
make us content with
the things that we need.** *Chorus*

- 5. Lighten our darkness,
breath on this flame
until your justice**

**burns brightly again
until the nations
learn of your ways
seek your salvation
and bring you their praise. *Chorus***

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Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	John and Gay Card
Acolyte	Tierney White
Altar Care	Sally Mansfield
Communion Assistants	Sara DeMuzio and Tricia Kolczynski
Nursery Care	Laura Stroup
Counters	Linda Flood and Sue Kaufmann
Coffee Hour	Connie Stevenson

Worship assistants for next Sunday, September 22

Greeters and Ushers	Mike and Cassie Ross
Acolyte	Morgan Sackett
Nursery Care	Bill & Katy Stimmel
Counters	Tom Kurilovitch and Helen Crown
Coffee Hour	Linda Thompson

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St. John's Lutheran Church

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Heidi Griffith, Music Director