



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## *Exodus 25:1-22 Ark and Tent*

*September 16, 2018*

*10:30 Holy Communion*

*Raiders of the Lost Ark* would be nowhere if it weren't for biblical legends about the Ark of the Covenant! Today we'll read about the construction of this mysterious ark as well as the tabernacle, or tent, that housed it. Far from the magical powers attributed to the ark in the movies, this rather simple box held Israel's most sacred relics. We discover that since God gave instructions for its construction it symbolizes a major change in God's relationship with people.

### *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 Isn't He

(For music turn to Hymn 88 in the Songbook binder)

1. **Isn't He** (*ECHO*)  
**Beautiful** (*ECHO*)  
**Beautiful** (*ECHO*)  
**Isn't He** (*ECHO*)  
**Prince of Peace Son of God**  
**Isn't He**
2. **Isn't He** (*ECHO*)  
**Wonderful** (*ECHO*)  
**Wonderful** (*ECHO*)  
**Isn't He** (*ECHO*)  
**Counselor Almighty God**  
**Isn't He isn't He**  
**Isn't He**
3. **Yes You are** (*ECHO*)  
**Beautiful** (*ECHO*)  
**Beautiful** (*ECHO*)  
**Yes You are** (*ECHO*)  
**Prince of Peace Son of God**  
**Yes You are yes You are**  
**Yes You are**
4. **Yes You are** (*ECHO*)  
**Wonderful** (*ECHO*)  
**Wonderful** (*ECHO*)  
**Yes You are** (*ECHO*)  
**Counselor Almighty God**  
**Yes You are yes You are**  
**Yes You are**

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 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 outward. Forgive us. Stir us. Reform us to be a church powered by love, willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just, and seek the healing of your whole creation. 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, 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 Kyrie Eleison

*"Kyrie Eleison" is Greek for "Lord have mercy."*

*(For music turn to Hymn 19 in the Songbook binder)*

*Refrain*

**Kyrie Eleison on our world and on our way.**

**Kyrie Eleison ev'ry day**

- 1. For peace in the world, for the health of the church,  
for the unity of all.  
For this holy house, for all who worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord! Refrain**
- 2. That we may live out your impassioned response to the  
hungry and the poor.  
That we may live out truth and justice and grace,  
let us pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord! Refrain**

- 3. For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes,  
for friends and family.  
For life and for love, for our work and our play,  
let us pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord! Refrain**
- 4. For your spirit to guide, that you center our lives  
in the water and the Word  
That you nourish our souls with your body and blood  
let us pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord! Refrain**

Text and music: Larry Olson, copyright 1989, Dakota Road Music, CCLI #1765776

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

† WORD †

First Reading Exodus 25:1-22

The Lord said to Moses: <sup>2</sup>Tell the Israelites to take for me an offering; from all whose hearts prompt them to give you shall receive the offering for me. <sup>3</sup>This is the offering that you shall receive from them: gold, silver, and bronze, <sup>4</sup>blue, purple, and crimson yarns and fine linen, goats' hair, <sup>5</sup>tanned rams' skins, fine leather, acacia wood, <sup>6</sup>oil for the lamps, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, <sup>7</sup>onyx stones and gems to be set in the ephod and for the breastpiece. <sup>8</sup>And have them make me a sanctuary, so that I may dwell among them. <sup>9</sup>In accordance with all that I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle and of all its furniture, so you shall make it.

<sup>10</sup>They shall make an ark of acacia wood; it shall be two and a half cubits long, a cubit and a half wide, and a cubit and a half high. <sup>11</sup>You shall overlay it with pure gold, inside and outside you shall overlay it, and you shall make a molding of gold upon it all around. <sup>12</sup>You shall cast four rings of gold for it and put them on its four feet, two rings on the one side of it, and two rings on the other side. <sup>13</sup>You shall make poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold. <sup>14</sup>And you shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark, by which to carry the ark. <sup>15</sup>The poles shall remain in the rings of the ark; they shall not be taken from it. <sup>16</sup>You shall

put into the ark the covenant that I shall give you. <sup>17</sup>Then you shall make a mercy seat of pure gold; two cubits and a half shall be its length, and a cubit and a half its width. <sup>18</sup>You shall make two cherubim of gold; you shall make them of hammered work, at the two ends of the mercy seat. <sup>19</sup>Make one cherub at the one end, and one cherub at the other; of one piece with the mercy seat you shall make the cherubim at its two ends. <sup>20</sup>The cherubim shall spread out their wings above, overshadowing the mercy seat with their wings. They shall face one to another; the faces of the cherubim shall be turned toward the mercy seat. <sup>21</sup>You shall put the mercy seat on the top of the ark; and in the ark you shall put the covenant that I shall give you. <sup>22</sup>There I will meet with you, and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim that are on the ark of the covenant, I will deliver to you all my commands for the Israelites.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Scripture Poetry Psalm 138 (read responsively)*

A: I thank you with all I am,

I join heaven's chorus.

**C: I bow toward your holy temple,  
to praise your name.**

A: By your love and fidelity,  
you display to all  
the glory of your name and promise.

**C: As soon as I call, you act,  
renewing my strength.**

A: Around the world,  
rulers praise you  
for your commanding word.

**C: They sing of your ways,  
"Great is your glory, Lord."**

A: Though high up,  
you see the lowly;  
though far away,  
you keep an eye on the proud.

**C: When I face an opponent,  
you keep me alive.**

A: You reach out your hand,  
your right hand saves me.

**C: Lord, take up my cause,  
your love lasts for ever.  
Do not abandon  
what your hands have made.**

Second Reading Hebrews 9:1-14

Now even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly sanctuary. <sup>2</sup>For a tent was constructed, the first one, in which were the lampstand, the table, and the bread of the Presence; this is called the Holy Place. <sup>3</sup>Behind the second curtain was a tent called the Holy of Holies. <sup>4</sup>In it stood the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which there were a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant; <sup>5</sup>above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot speak now in detail. <sup>6</sup>Such preparations having been made, the priests go continually into the first tent to carry out their ritual duties; <sup>7</sup>but only the high priest goes into the second, and he but once a year, and not without taking the blood that he offers for himself and for the sins committed unintentionally by the people.

<sup>8</sup>By this the Holy Spirit indicates that the way into the sanctuary has not yet been disclosed as long as the first tent is still standing. <sup>9</sup>This is a symbol of the present time, during which gifts and sacrifices are offered that cannot perfect the conscience of the worshiper, <sup>10</sup>but deal only with food and drink and various baptisms, regulations for the body imposed until the time comes to set things right. <sup>11</sup>But when Christ came as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation), <sup>12</sup>he entered once for all into the Holy Place, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. <sup>13</sup>For if the blood of goats and bulls, with the sprinkling of the ashes of a heifer, sanctifies those who have been defiled so that their flesh is purified, <sup>14</sup>how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God!

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Sanctuary  
(For music turn to Hymn 90 in the Songbook binder)

*Chorus*

**Lord prepare me  
To be a sanctuary  
Pure and holy  
Tried and true  
With thanksgiving  
I'll be a living  
Sanctuary for You**

**1. It is You, Lord,  
who came to save  
the heart and soul of  
every man.  
It is You, Lord,  
who knows my weakness,  
who gives me strength with  
Thine own hand.**

**2. Lead me on Lord,  
from temptation.  
Purify me  
from within.  
Fill my heart, Lord,  
with Your Holy Spirit.  
Take away  
all my sin.   *Chorus***

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*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 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 Light. 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)*

**484 You Satisfy the Hungry Heart (Red Hymnal)**

**496 One Bread (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...

Holy and compassionate God, in bread and wine you give us gifts that form us to be humble and courageous. May your words 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 the 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*    It Is You  
(For music turn to Hymn 91 in the Songbook)

*Verse*

**As we lift up our hands  
Will You meet us here?  
As we call on Your name  
Will You meet us here?  
We have come to this place  
To worship You  
God of mercy and grace  
It is You we adore  
It is You praises are for  
Only You the heavens declare  
It is You, it is You**

*Chorus*

**And holy holy is our God almighty  
And holy holy is His name alone yeah  
And holy holy is our God almighty  
And holy holy is His name alone  
It is You we adore  
It is You, only You**

*(Repeat Verse and Chorus)*

*Bridge*

**As we lift up our hands  
As we call on Your name  
Will You meet us in this place  
By Your mercy and grace  
As we lift up our hands  
As we call on Your name**

**Will You meet us in this place  
By Your mercy and grace  
It is You we adore  
It is You, it is You**

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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	Molly Perdan
Altar Care	Linda Thompson
Communion Assistants	Beth Bright and Tricia Kolczynski
Nursery Care	Judy VanDeVelde
Counters	John and Linda Thompson
Coffee Hour	Cassie Ross

**Worship assistants for next Sunday, September 23, 2018**

Greeters and Ushers	Tom and Carol Urbanic
Acolyte	Katya Kurilovitch
Nursery Care	Beth Perdan
Counters	Tim Brown and Bill Hagerman
Coffee Hour	Boisseaus and Hendersons

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