



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



19th Sunday after Pentecost

September 25, 2016

10:30 Service of the Word

Consideration of and care for those in need (especially those “at our gate,” visible to us, of whom we are aware) is an essential component of good stewardship. It is in the sharing of wealth that we avoid the snare of wealth. It is the one whom death could not hold – who comes to us risen from the dead – who can free us from the death grip of greed.

- Sundays and Seasons 2016

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

A: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God:
the only Sovereign, who dwells in light;
Christ Jesus, who came to save sinners;
the Holy Spirit, who lives within us.

C: Amen.

A: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(A moment of silence for reflection)

A: God of overflowing grace,

C: we come to you with repentant hearts.

Forgive us for shallow thankfulness.

Forgive us for passing by the ones in need.

Forgive us for setting our hopes on fleeting treasures.

Forgive us our neglect and thoughtlessness.

Bring us home from the wilderness of sin,

and strengthen us to serve you in all that we do and say;

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

A: There is joy in heaven over every sinner who repents. By the grace of God in Christ Jesus, he gave himself up for us all, our sins are forgiven and we are made free. Rejoice with the angels and with one another! We are home in God's mercy, now and forever.

C: Amen

Gathering Hymn Grace Alone

(For music turn to Hymn 40 in the Songbook binder)

1. Ev'ry promise we can make,
ev'ry prayer and step of faith,
ev'ry diff'rence we will make
is only by His grace.
Ev'ry mountain we will climb,
ev'ry ray of hope we shine,
ev'ry blessing left behind
is only by His grace.

Refrain

**Grace alone which God supplies,
strength unknown**

**He will provide.
Christ in us, our cornerstone,
we will go forth in grace alone.**

2. **Ev'ry soul we long to reach,
ev'ry heart we hope to teach,
ev'rywhere we share his peace
is only by His grace.
Ev'ry loving word we say,
ev'ry tear we wipe away,
ev'ry sorrow turned to praise
is only by His grace. Refrain**

Text and music: Scott Wesley Brown, Jeff Nelson; copyright 1998 Maranatha Music; CCLI #2335524

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. O God, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading Amos 6:1a, 4-7

Alas for those who are at ease in Zion,
and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria,

⁴Alas for those who lie on beds of ivory,

and lounge on their couches,
and eat lambs from the flock,
and calves from the stall;

⁵who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp,
and like David improvise on instruments of music;

⁶who drink wine from bowls,
and anoint themselves with the finest oils,
but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!

⁷Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile,
and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 146 (*read responsively*)

L: Hallelujah!

Praise the Lord, my heart!
My whole life, give praise.
Let me sing to God
as long as I live.

**C: Never depend on rulers:
born of earth, they cannot save.
They die, they turn to dust.
That day, their plans crumble.**

L: They are wise who depend on God,
who look to Jacob's Lord,
creator of heaven and earth,
maker of the teeming sea.

**C: The Lord keeps faith forever,
giving food to the hungry,
justice to the poor,
freedom to captives.**

L: The Lord opens blind eyes
and straightens the bent,
comforting widows and orphans,
protecting the stranger.
The Lord loves the just
but blocks the path of the wicked.

**C: Zion, praise the Lord!
Your God reigns forever,
from generation to generation.
Hallelujah!**

Second Reading 1 Timothy 6:6-19

⁶Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; ⁷for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; ⁸but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. ⁹But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

¹¹But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. ¹²Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

¹³In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you ¹⁴to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. ¹⁶It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen. ¹⁷As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, ¹⁹thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (2 Corinthians 8:9)

C: Alleluia. You know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading Luke 16:19-31

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 16th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

[Jesus said] “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹who longed to satisfy his

hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²²The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried.

²³In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.'

²⁵But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' ²⁷He said, 'Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house— ²⁸for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' ²⁹Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.'

³⁰He said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' ³¹He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

After the reading:

P: The gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day My Latest Sun Is Sinking Fast

(For music see Hymn 99 in the Songbook Binder)

**1. My latest sun is sinking fast,
my race is nearly run;
my strongest trials now are past,
my triumph is begun.**

**Refrain O come, angel band,
come and around me stand;
O bear me away on your snowy wings
to my immortal home,
O bear me away on your snowy wings
to my immortal home.**

2. **I know I'm near the holy ranks
of friends and kindred dear,
for I hear the waves on Jordan's banks,
the crossing must be near. *Refrain***

3. **I've almost reached my heav'nly home,
my spirit loudly sings;
the holy ones, behold, they come!
I hear the noise of wings. *Refrain***

4. **O bear my longing heart to Him,
who bled and died for me;
whose blood now cleanses from all sin,
and give me victory.**

Text: Jefferson Hascall, 1860 Music: William B. Bradbury, 1862. Copyright 2012 by Nathan Sarvis.

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:*

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.

Thanksgiving Prayer

A: Let us pray. Merciful God,

C: as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus our Lord, now and forever. 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: The Lord bless you and keep you,
the Lord's make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you,
the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen

Sending Hymn We Are Marching in the Light

(For music turn to 866 in the Red Hymnal)

**We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of, the light of God.**

**We are marching, marching,
we are marching, marching
we are marching in the light of,
the light of God.**

**We are marching, marching,
we are marching, marching,
we are marching in the light of God.**

Text: South African traditional; tr. *Freedom Is Coming*, 1984. Music: South African traditional; arr. *Freedom Is Coming*. Tr. and arr. ©1984 Utryck, admin. Walton Music Corp.

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

An excerpt from *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver. Here she shares the thoughts of missionary wife Orleanna Price:

“It wasn’t just me; there were crimes strewn six ways to Sunday, and I had my own mouths to feed. I didn’t know. I had no life of my own.

“And you’ll say I did. You’ll say I walked across Africa with my wrists unshackled, and now I am one more soul walking free in a white skin, wearing some thread of stolen goods: cotton or diamonds, freedom at the very least, prosperity. Some of us know how we came by our fortune, and some of us don’t, but we wear it all the same. There’s only one question worth asking now: How do we aim to live with it?

“... I know people. Most have no earthly notion of the price of a snow-white conscience.”

(Pg. 9)

Archbishop Richard Trench written in 1915:

“The sin of Dives in its root is unbelief: hard-hearted contempt of the poor, luxurious squandering on self, are only the forms which his sin assumes. The seat of the disease is within; these are but the running sores which witness for the inward plague. He who believes not in an invisible world of righteousness and truth and spiritual joy, must place hope in things which he sees, which he can handle, and taste and smell. It is not the essence of the matter, whether he hoards [like the rich fool, 12:16-21] or squanders [like the prodigal son, 15:11-32]: in either case he puts his trust in the world.”

(Cited by R. Alan Culpepper, the New Interpreter’s Bible, Volume 9, Pg. 319)

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers Sue Kaufmann and Helen Crown
Lector
Acolyte Ally Buch
Nursery Care Beth Perdan
Counters Ethan and Lynne Minkel
Coffee Hour

Worship assistants for next Sunday, October 2nd

Greeters and Ushers Linda and Al Morley
Lector Linn Griffo
Acolyte Sarah Brownlee
Altar Care Beth Perdan
Communion Assistants Gary Boisseau and Cindy Swigart
Nursery Care Katy Stimmel
Counters Bruce Boncke and Art Fields
Coffee Hour *Please sign up*

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St. John's Lutheran Church

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