



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Luke 12:13-59

September 29, 2019

10:30 Holy Communion

Today we read a long collection of Jesus' teachings about patience, readiness, and the cost of discipleship. Jesus' teachings bring people to health and wholeness of life. But many do not want to hear it. Jesus knew that following him wouldn't be easy. His words are both a warning and an encouragement to us who follow him.

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 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

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, 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 †

Scripture Poetry Psalm 103 (read responsively)

A: My soul, bless the Lord,
bless God's holy name!

**C: My soul, bless the Lord,
hold dear all God's gifts!**

A: Bless God, who forgives your sin
and heals every illness,

**C: who snatches you from death
and enfolds you with tender care,**

A: who fills your life with richness
and gives you an eagle's strength.

**C: The Lord, who works justice
and defends the oppressed,**

A: teaches Moses and Israel
divine ways and deeds.

**C: The Lord is tender and caring,
slow to anger, rich in love.**

A: God will not accuse us long,
nor bring our sins to trial,

**C: nor exact from us in kind
what our sins deserve.**

A: As high as heaven above earth,
so great is God's love for believers.
As far as east from west,
so God removes our sins.

**C: As tender as father to child,
so gentle is God to believers.
The Lord knows how we are made,
remembers we are dust.**

A: Our days pass by like grass,
our prime like a flower in bloom.

**C: A wind comes, the flower goes,
empty now its place.**

A: God's love is from all ages,
God's justice beyond all time
for believers of each generation:

**C: those who keep the covenant,
who take care to live the law.**

A: The Lord reigns from heaven,
rules over all there is.

**C: Bless the Lord, you angels,
strong and quick to obey,
attending to God’s word.**

A: Bless the Lord, you powers,
eager to serve God’s will.

**C: Bless the Lord, you creatures,
everywhere under God’s rule.
My soul, bless the Lord!**

Gospel Reading Luke 12:13-21

¹³Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus], “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” ¹⁴But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” ¹⁵And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” ¹⁶Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’” ¹⁸Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’” ²⁰But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’” ²¹So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

Reflections By R. Alan Culpepper, *New Interpreter’s Bible*, Volume 11.

Gospel Reading Luke 12:22-34

²²He said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. ²³For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. ²⁴Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds!” ²⁵And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁶If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? ²⁷Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ²⁸But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! ²⁹And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. ³⁰For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. ³²“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for

yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Reflections By R. Alan Culpepper, *New Interpreter's Bible*, Volume 11.

Gospel Reading Luke 12:35-48

³⁵“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. ³⁹“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

⁴¹Peter said, “Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for everyone?” ⁴²And the Lord said, “Who then is the faithful and prudent manager whom his master will put in charge of his slaves, to give them their allowance of food at the proper time? ⁴³Blessed is that slave whom his master will find at work when he arrives. ⁴⁴Truly I tell you, he will put that one in charge of all his possessions. ⁴⁵But if that slave says to himself, ‘My master is delayed in coming,’ and if he begins to beat the other slaves, men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk, ⁴⁶the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour that he does not know, and will cut him in pieces, and put him with the unfaithful. ⁴⁷That slave who knew what his master wanted, but did not prepare himself or do what was wanted, will receive a severe beating. ⁴⁸But the one who did not know and did what deserved a beating will receive a light beating. From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded.

Hymn Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying
(For music see Hymn 436 in the Red Hymnal)

**1. Wake, awake, for night is flying,
the watchmen on the heights are crying;
awake, Jerusalem, at last.
Midnight hears the welcome voices,
and at the thrilling cry rejoices:
“Come forth, you maidens! Night is past.
The bridegroom comes! Awake;
your lamps with gladness take!”
Alleluia!**

**Rise and prepare the feast to share;
go, meet the bridegroom, who draws near.**

**2. Zion hears the watchmen singing,
and all her heart with joy is springing.
She wakes, she rises from her gloom.
Her dear friend comes down, all glorious,
the strong in grace, in truth victorious:
her star is ris'n; her light is come.
Now come, O Blessed One,
Lord Jesus, God's own Son.
Sing hosanna!
Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,
and follow to the banquet hall.**

**3. Gloria! Let heav'n adore you!
Let saints and angels sing before you,
with harp and cymbal's clearest tone.
Gates of pearl, twelve portals gleaming,
lead us to bliss beyond all dreaming,
with angel choirs around your throne.
No eye has caught the light,
no ear the thund'ring might
of such glory.
There we will go; what joy we'll know!
There sweet delight will ever flow.**

Text: Pphilipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; tr. composite. Text copyright 1999 Augsburg Fortress. Music: Philipp Nicolai

***Gospel Reading* Luke 12:49-59**

⁴⁹“I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵²From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

⁵⁴He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain’; and so it happens. ⁵⁵And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat’; and it happens. ⁵⁶You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time? ⁵⁷“And why do you not judge for yourselves what is right? ⁵⁸Thus, when you go with your accuser before a magistrate, on the way make an effort to settle the case, or

you may be dragged before the judge, and the judge hand you over to the officer, and the officer throw you in prison. ⁵⁹I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the very last penny.”

Reflections By R. Alan Culpepper, *New Interpreter's Bible*, Volume 11.

Hymn of the Day Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God
(for music, please turn to Hymn 783 in the Blue Hymnal)

1. **Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia.**
2. **Ask and it shall be given unto you; seek and you shall find;
knock and the door shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, alleluia.**
3. **We do not live by bread alone, but by ev'ry word
that proceeds from the mouth of God,
Allelu, alleluia.**

Text: Matt. 4:4,6:33,7:7, adapt. Karen Lafferty; Music: Karen Lafferty; Copyright 1972 Maranatha! Music

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)

250 *Blessed Be the God of Israel (Red Hymnal)*

40 *Grace Alone (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...

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 Do Justice

(For music turn to Hymn 59 [second half of medley] in the Songbook binder)

- 1. Racing around, chasing idols,
unfulfilled, empty vessels.
World on the edge, out of control,
will we survive, God only knows.**

Refrain: **Do justice, love mercy,
Walk humbly, with our God, with our God.**

2. **People broken, falling pieces,
dignity lost, loving ceases.
Hopeless eyes, lonely faces,
Yearning hearts, hurting places.**

3. **Deadly hunger, desp'rate crying,
Wounded living, children dying.
Nails in the flesh, piercing fear,
Why can't we see Christ hanging here?**

Text and music: Andy Park, Copyright 1995 Dakota Road Music, CCLI# 1810119

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	Jim and Karen Spawton
Acolyte	Rudy Stroup
Altar Care	Sally Mansfield
Communion Assistants	Ivan and Nancy Shuler
Nursery Care	Beth Perdan
Counters	John and Linda Thompson
Coffee Hour	Church Council

Worship assistants for next Sunday, October 6

Greeters and Ushers	Mike and Bettina Kalish
Acolyte	Jacob Kurilovitch
Nursery Care	Kristi Bullwinkle
Counters	Tim Brown and Bill Hagerman
Coffee Hour	Linda Flood

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