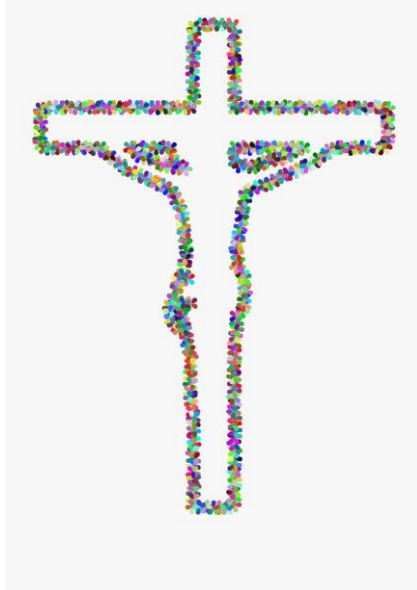




St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Luke 11:14-32

September 8, 2019

10:30 Service of the Word

What does it take to convince people of a truth? Will facts backed by research do it? Will personal experiences do it? What if it comes from the mouth of a charismatic person? It turns out that people want to hear the truths they want to hear. They ignore those they don't want to hear. In today's gospel we'll see Jesus trying to convince the crowds of truths they do not want to hear.

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

Opening of the 2019-2020 Sunday School Year

P: For the marvels of your creation,

C: we praise you, O God.

P: For the opportunity to explore and study,

C: we praise you, O God.

P: For those who guide us, teachers and mentors,

C: we praise you, O God.

P: Teach us your ways and guide us in your path, for you are the creator of all this us, seen and unseen.

C: Amen

P: Let us pray: Almighty God, you give wisdom and knowledge. Grant teachers the gift of joy and insight, and students the gift of diligence and openness, that all may grow in what is good and honest and true.

Support all who teach and all who learn, that together we may know and follow your ways; through Jesus the Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen

P: We begin the 2019-2020 academic year in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

Gathering Hymn Jesus Calls Us; O'er the Tumult
(For music turn to Hymn 696 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Jesus call us; o'er the tumult
of our life's wild, restless sea,
Day by day his clear voice sounding,
Saying, "Christian, follow me."**
2. **As of old St. Andrew heard it
by the Galilean lake,
turned from home and toil and kindred,
leaving all for his dear sake.**
3. **Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us,
saying "Christian, love me more."**

4. **In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
“Christian, love me more than these.”**

5. **Jesus calls us! In your mercy,
Savior, make us hear your call,
give our hearts to your obedience,
serve and love you best of all.**

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1823-1895; Tune: William H. Jude, 1851-1922

Greeting (2 Corinthians 13:13)

A: 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...

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading 2 Kings 1

²Ahaziah had fallen through the lattice in his upper chamber in Samaria, and lay injured; so he sent messengers, telling them, “Go, inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron, whether I shall recover from this

injury.”³ But the angel of the Lord said to Elijah the Tishbite, “Get up, go to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, and say to them, ‘Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron?’”⁴ Now therefore thus says the Lord, ‘You shall not leave the bed to which you have gone, but you shall surely die.’” So Elijah went.⁵ The messengers returned to the king, who said to them, “Why have you returned?”⁶ They answered him, “There came a man to meet us, who said to us, ‘Go back to the king who sent you, and say to him: Thus says the Lord: Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are sending to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron? Therefore you shall not leave the bed to which you have gone, but shall surely die.’”⁷ He said to them, “What sort of man was he who came to meet you and told you these things?”⁸ They answered him, “A hairy man, with a leather belt around his waist.” He said, “It is Elijah the Tishbite.”⁹ Then the king sent to him a captain of fifty with his fifty men. He went up to Elijah, who was sitting on the top of a hill, and said to him, “O man of God, the king says, ‘Come down.’”¹⁰ But Elijah answered the captain of fifty, “If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty.” Then fire came down from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty.¹¹ Again the king sent to him another captain of fifty with his fifty. He went up and said to him, “O man of God, this is the king’s order: Come down quickly!”¹² But Elijah answered them, “If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty.” Then the fire of God came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty.¹³ Again the king sent the captain of a third fifty with his fifty. So the third captain of fifty went up, and came and fell on his knees before Elijah, and entreated him, “O man of God, please let my life, and the life of these fifty servants of yours, be precious in your sight.”¹⁴ Look, fire came down from heaven and consumed the two former captains of fifty men with their fifties; but now let my life be precious in your sight.”¹⁵ Then the angel of the Lord said to Elijah, “Go down with him; do not be afraid of him.” So he set out and went down with him to the king,¹⁶ and said to him, “Thus says the Lord: Because you have sent messengers to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron, —is it because there is no God in Israel to inquire of his word? —therefore you shall not leave the bed to which you have gone, but you shall surely die.”¹⁷ So he died according to the word of the Lord that Elijah had spoken.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Isaiah 35:3-10 (*read responsively*)

A: Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

**C: Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
“Be strong, do not fear!**

A: Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,

**C: with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.”**

A: Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

**C: then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.**

A: For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

**C: the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;**

A: the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

**C: A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;**

A: the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God’s people;

**C: no traveler, not even fools,
shall go astray.**

A: No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;

**C: they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.**

A: And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;

**C: everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.**

Second Reading Acts 28:25-28

²⁵So they disagreed with each other; and as they were leaving, Paul made one further statement: “The Holy Spirit was right in saying to your ancestors through the prophet Isaiah,

²⁶“Go to this people and say,

You will indeed listen, but never understand,

and you will indeed look, but never perceive.

²⁷For this people's heart has grown dull,
and their ears are hard of hearing,
and they have shut their eyes;
so that they might not look with their eyes,
and listen with their ears,
and understand with their heart and turn—
and I would heal them.'

²⁸Let it be known to you then that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen."

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Psalm 119:135)

C: Alleluia. Let your face shine upon your servant, and teach me your statutes. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading Luke 11:14-32

The gospel is announced:

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

C: Glory to you O Lord.

¹⁴Now [Jesus] was casting out a demon that was mute; when the demon had gone out, the one who had been mute spoke, and the crowds were amazed. ¹⁵But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons." ¹⁶Others, to test him, kept demanding from him a sign from heaven. ¹⁷But he knew what they were thinking and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself becomes a desert, and house falls on house. ¹⁸If Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? —for you say that I cast out the demons by Beelzebul. ¹⁹Now if I cast out the demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your exorcists cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. ²⁰But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out the demons, then the kingdom of God has come to you. ²¹When a strong man, fully armed, guards his castle, his property is safe. ²²But when one stronger than he attacks him and overpowers him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his plunder. ²³Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. ²⁴"When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it wanders through waterless regions looking for a resting place, but not finding any, it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' ²⁵When it comes, it finds it swept and put in order. ²⁶Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and live there; and the last state of that person is worse than the first."

²⁷While he was saying this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, “Blessed is the womb that bore you and the breasts that nursed you!” ²⁸But he said, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it!”

²⁹When the crowds were increasing, he began to say, “This generation is an evil generation; it asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah. ³⁰For just as Jonah became a sign to the people of Nineveh, so the Son of Man will be to this generation. ³¹The queen of the South will rise at the judgment with the people of this generation and condemn them, because she came from the ends of the earth to listen to the wisdom of Solomon, and see, something greater than Solomon is here! ³²The people of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the proclamation of Jonah, and see, something greater than Jonah is here!

After the reading:

P: The gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Holy Spirit, Truth Divine
(For music see Hymn 398 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Holy Spirit, truth divine,
dawn upon this soul of mine;
breath of God and inward light,
wake my spirit, clear my sight.**
2. **Holy Spirit, love divine,
glow within this heart of mine;
kindle ev'ry high desire;
purge me with your holy fire.**
3. **Holy Spirit, pow'r divine,
fortify this will of mine;
by your will I strongly live,
bravely bear, and nobly strive.**
4. **Holy Spirit, peace divine,
still this restless heart of mine;
speak to calm this tossing sea,**

stayed in your tranquility.

4. **Holy Spirit, right divine,
king within my conscious reign;
be my guide, and I shall be
firmly bound, forever free.**

Text: Samuel Longfellow, 1819-1892.. Music: Orlando Gibbons, 1583-1625

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 worship leader 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 leader 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 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.

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: 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 Here I Am, Lord
For music turn to Hymn 574 in the Red Hymnal

1. **“I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?”**

Refrain

**Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord,
if you lead me.**

I will hold your people in my heart.

2. **“I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people’s pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?”** *Refrain*

3. **“I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?”** *Refrain*

Text and music: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946, copyright 1981 OCP Publications Inc.

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **God’s Work. Our Hands.**

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	Laura and Rob Stroup
Acolyte	Joe Wyman
Nursery Care	Kristi Bullwinkle
Counters	Beth Perdan and Bettina Kalish
Coffee Hour	Parish Picnic

Worship assistants for next Sunday, September 15, 2019

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

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