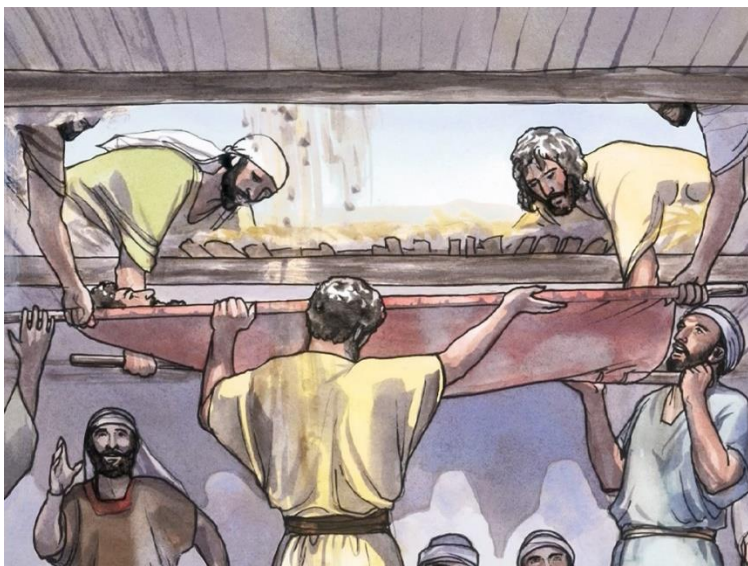




# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## *Forgiveness and Healing*

*February 16, 2025*

*10:30 Holy Communion*

We want the world to make sense. We want punishments to fit the crimes and rewards that reflect the effort given. We want good things to happen to good people and bad things to happen to bad people. But the world does not work that way. Why? People have been asking that for as far back as there is written history. In today's gospel we see the whole situation is wrapped in God's boundless grace.

### *Welcome to worship today!*

If you are visiting with us we invite you to sign the Guest Book in the back of the sanctuary.

Large print bulletins are available on the usher's stand.

The Zoom feed for this service is available in the nursery.

# † GATHERING †

## Prelude and Announcements

Gathering Hymn Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life  
(For music turn to Hymn 816 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Come, my way, my truth, my life:**  
Such a way as gives us breath;  
Such a truth as ends all strife;  
Such a life as killeth death.
2. **Come, my light, my feast, my strength:**  
Such a light as shows a feast;  
Such a feast as mends in length;  
Such a strength as makes his guest.
3. **Come, my joy, my love, my heart:**  
Such a joy as none can move;  
Such a love as none can part;  
such a heart as joys in love.

Text: George Herbert, 1593-1632; Music: R. Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958

## Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C: Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom are hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination*

P: Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on**

**us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

*Hymn of Praise* Now the Feast and Celebration  
(For music turn to Hymn 789 in the Blue Hymnal)

*Refrain*

**Now the feast and celebration,  
all of creation sings for joy  
to the God of life and love and freedom  
praise and glory forevermore!**

**1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain,  
whose blood has freed and united us  
to be one great people of God.** *Refrain*

**2. Power and riches, wisdom and might,  
all honor and glory to Christ forever.** *Refrain*

**3. For God has come to dwell with us,  
to make us people of God;  
to make all things new.** *Refrain*

Text and music: Marty Haugen; Copyright 1990 GIA Publications Inc.

*Prayer of the Day*

A: Let us pray...

Almighty God, in signs and wonders your Son revealed the greatness of your saving love. Renew us with your grace, and sustain us by your power, that we may stand in the glory of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

*First Reading* Isaiah 43:18-25

B: <sup>18</sup>Do not remember the former things,  
or consider the things of old.

<sup>19</sup>I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert.

<sup>20</sup>The wild animals will honor me,  
the jackals and the ostriches;  
for I give water in the wilderness,  
rivers in the desert,

to give drink to my chosen people,  
<sup>21</sup>the people whom I formed for myself  
so that they might declare my praise.

<sup>22</sup>Yet you did not call upon me, O Jacob;  
but you have been weary of me, O Israel!

<sup>23</sup>You have not brought me your sheep for burnt offerings,  
or honored me with your sacrifices.  
I have not burdened you with offerings,  
or wearied you with frankincense.

<sup>24</sup>You have not bought me sweet cane with money,  
or satisfied me with the fat of your sacrifices.  
But you have burdened me with your sins;  
you have wearied me with your iniquities.

<sup>25</sup>I, I am He who blots out your transgressions for my own sake,  
and I will not remember your sins.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Scripture Poetry Psalm 41 (*read responsively*)

D: Blest are those ready to help the poor;  
in hard times God repays their care.

**C: God watches, protects,  
blesses them in their land,  
lets no enemy swallow them up!**

D: God comforts them on their sickbed  
and nurses them to health.

**C: I said, "God, pity me,  
heal me for I have failed you."  
Enemies predict the worst for me:  
"How soon till this one dies,  
how soon forgotten?"**

D: Visitors wish me well,  
but they come seeking bad news

to gossip on the street.

**C: My enemies whisper  
and spread the worst about me:**

D: “Something fatal has taken hold,  
this one will not get well.”

**C: Even my trusted friend  
who used to eat with me  
now turns on me.**

D: Pity me, God, restore me  
so I can pay them back.

**C: Then I will know you favor me  
when my foes cannot prevail.**

D: I am innocent; uphold me!  
Let me stand with you forever.

**C: Blessed be the Lord,  
God of Israel forever.  
Amen! Amen!**

Second Reading Galatians 3:23-29

E: [Paul writes] <sup>23</sup>Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. <sup>24</sup>Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup>But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, <sup>26</sup>for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. <sup>27</sup>As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>28</sup>There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup>And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to the promise.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation (Isaiah 43:19)

**C: Alleluia. God says, “I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” Alleluia.**

## Gospel Reading Luke 5:12-26

*The gospel is announced:*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you O Lord.**

<sup>12</sup>Once, when he was in one of the cities, there was a man covered with leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he bowed with his face to the ground and begged him, “Lord, if you choose, you can make me clean.” <sup>13</sup>Then Jesus stretched out his hand, touched him, and said, “I do choose. Be made clean.” Immediately the leprosy left him. <sup>14</sup>And he ordered him to tell no one. “Go,” he said, “and show yourself to the priest, and, as Moses commanded, make an offering for your cleansing, for a testimony to them.” <sup>15</sup>But now more than ever the word about Jesus spread abroad; many crowds would gather to hear him and to be cured of their diseases. <sup>16</sup>But he would withdraw to deserted places and pray.

<sup>17</sup>One day, while he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting near by (they had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem); and the power of the Lord was with him to heal. <sup>18</sup>Just then some men came, carrying a paralyzed man on a bed. They were trying to bring him in and lay him before Jesus; <sup>19</sup>but finding no way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the middle of the crowd in front of Jesus. <sup>20</sup>When he saw their faith, he said, “Friend, your sins are forgiven you.” <sup>21</sup>Then the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, “Who is this who is speaking blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?” <sup>22</sup>When Jesus perceived their questionings, he answered them, “Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? <sup>23</sup>Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Stand up and walk’? <sup>24</sup>But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins” —he said to the one who was paralyzed—“I say to you, stand up and take your bed and go to your home.” <sup>25</sup>Immediately he stood up before them, took what he had been lying on, and went to his home, glorifying God. <sup>26</sup>Amazement seized all of them, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, “We have seen strange things today.”

*After the reading:*

P: The Gospel of the Lord

**C: Praise to you O Christ.**

## Children's Sermon

### Sermon

Hymn of the Day      Amazing Grace  
(For music turn to Hymn 779 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
Was blind, but now I see.**
2. **'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed!**
3. **Through many dangers, toils and snares  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.**
4. **The Lord has promised good to me;  
His Word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.**
5. **When we've been there ten thousand years,  
bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we'd first begun.**

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807; music W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835; arr. Edwin O Excell.

Apostles' Creed

P: 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.**

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.*

Special Music and Gathering of Prayers and Offerings

*You are invited to write a prayer concern on the small blank slip of paper in your worship bulletin. This slip will be collected by the ushers in the offering plates. The concerns raised will be prayed for later in the service.*

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray: God of grace,

**C: your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. 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.

*Issues raised by the congregation are prayed for.*

*The prayer concludes:*

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen.**



† MEAL †

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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 Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son, and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join in 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.

Invitation to Communion

P: The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

Communion Distribution

*Welcome to the Lord's Supper! All who are baptized are invited to receive communion. We use wheat bread and wine for communion. If you would prefer a gluten free wafer instead of bread please tell the communion assistant. Also, if you prefer grape juice to wine, it is available pre-filled in the individual glasses. As we commune together everyone is invited to sing the following hymns:*

*Lamb of God (Page 39 of the Blue Hymnal)*

**599** *Lord Jesus Think on Me (Red Hymnal)*

**603** *God, When Human Bonds Are Broken (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: Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation of healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray.

**C: Amen.**

†    SENDING    †

Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

*Sending Hymn* Travelers on the Journey  
(For music turn to Hymn 37 in the Songbook binder)

*Refrain*

**We are  
trav'lers on the journey  
yearning to believe!  
Hearts are burning  
eyes are opened.  
We are  
trav'lers on the journey of love.**

**1. What is life really all about  
in the struggle of faith?  
Hear the word reaching out to you,  
Jesus is alive today.** *Refrain*

**2. Do we walk in our foolishness  
with our hearts ever slow  
to the touch of the Holy One  
who is with us on this road?** *Refrain*

**3. We are blessed in the gathering  
at the table of grace.  
free to see in another's pain  
the face of Jesus here today.** *Refrain*

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*Dismissal*

**P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.**

**C: God's Work. Our Hands.**

**Worship assistants TODAY:**

Greeters and Ushers     John and Linda Thompson  
Acolyte                     Elijah Young  
Altar Care                 Linda Thompson  
Communion Assistant     Greg Zuege  
Counters                    Mary and Greg Zuege  
Coffee Hour

**Worship assistants for next Sunday, February 23, 2025**

Greeters and Ushers     Sue Kaufmann  
Acolyte                     Thomas Bullwinkle  
Counters                    Bill and Katy Stimmel  
Coffee Hour

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