



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Ruins of Capernaum from Roman times

Jesus' Ministry in Judea

February 2, 2025

10:30 Holy Communion

In today's gospel reading we meet Jesus in the town that he used for his home base during his public ministry: Capernaum. Capernaum was a small fishing and farming community on the north shore of the Sea of Galilee. While it was a reasonably successful community there was nothing special about it. Jesus chose it, and the other communities in which he worked, for his own reasons.

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 Lead Me to the Rock
(For music turn to Hymn 20 in the Songbook binder)

- 1. When my heart is overwhelmed,
Hear my cry,
Give heed to my prayer,
And my eyes are dim with tears,
O Father, make them clear;
From the ends of all the earth,
When my heart is fainting,
Let me know that You have heard,
Lead me into safety.**

Chorus (Repeat Chorus at end)

**And lead me to the Rock,
The Rock that is higher,
Lead me to the Rock that is higher than I.
Lead me to the Rock,
The Rock that is higher,
Higher than I.**

- 2. You, O Lord have been for me
A refuge from my enemies.
Let me live within your strength,
In the shelter of Your wings;
From the ends of all the earth,
When my heart is fainting,
Let me know that You have heard,
Lead me into safety. *Chorus***

Text and music by Lynn DeSchazo. CCLI # 80971. Copyright 1989 Intevity's Hosanna! Music, Admin: Integrity Music, Inc.

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 all 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*

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Transform us into the likeness of your Son, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity. We pray through that same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns forever.

C: Amen

† WORD †

First Reading Isaiah 58:6-9a

B: Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

⁹Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 49:1-19 (*read responsively*)

D: Everyone, take heed,
all the world, listen,
high and low,
rich and poor alike.

**C: I have wisdom you need to hear.
I see to the heart of things,
I tune my ear to the truth
and set my insight to music.**

D: Why should I be afraid in bad times

when enemies surround me,
disdainful in their power,
arrogant in their wealth?

**C: We cannot save ourselves,
cannot set things right with God;
the price is too high,
well beyond our means.**

D: There is no escaping death,
no avoiding the grave.
Look, even the wisest die.
Fools and idiots perish with them,
and others claim their wealth.

**C: The grave is the only home
where they settle for good,
even if their land
still bears their name.**

D: No matter how great,
no one sees the truth:
we die like beasts.

**C: Here is the fate of those
only concerned for themselves:
they go straight to Sheol.**

D: Death shepherds them
right into the grave,
where flesh is eaten up
and earth consumes them.

**C: But I know God will rescue me,
save me from the grip of death.**

D: Do not worry about wealth,
when someone else becomes rich.

**C: You cannot take it to your grave,
wealth is worth nothing in death.**

D: No matter how wealthy,
no matter how many tell you,
“My, how well you have done,”

**C: the rich all join the dead
never to see light again.**

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

E: Finally, brothers and sisters, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus that, as you learned from us how you ought to live and to please God (as, in fact, you are doing), you should do so more and more. ²For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. ³For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from fornication; ⁴that each one of you know how to control your own body in holiness and honor, ⁵not with lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; ⁶that no one wrong or exploit a brother or sister in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, just as we have already told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. ⁷For God did not call us to impurity but in holiness. ⁸Therefore whoever rejects this rejects not human authority but God, who also gives his Holy Spirit to you. ⁹Now concerning love of the brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anyone write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another; ¹⁰and indeed you do love all the brothers and sisters throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, beloved, to do so more and more, ¹¹to aspire to live quietly, to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we directed you, ¹²so that you may behave properly toward outsiders and be dependent on no one.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Psalm 49:2)

C: Alleluia. I have wisdom you need to hear. I see to the heart of things, I tune my ear to the truth and set my insight to music. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading Luke 4:31-44

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 4th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

[Jesus] went down to Capernaum, a city in Galilee, and was teaching them on the sabbath. ³²They were astounded at his teaching, because he spoke with authority. ³³In the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, ³⁴“Let us alone! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” ³⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” When the demon had thrown him down before them, he came out of him without having done him any harm. ³⁶They were all amazed and kept saying to one another, “What kind of utterance is this? For with authority and power he

commands the unclean spirits, and out they come!”³⁷ And a report about him began to reach every place in the region.³⁸ After leaving the synagogue he entered Simon’s house. Now Simon’s mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked him about her.³⁹ Then he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. Immediately she got up and began to serve them.⁴⁰ As the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various kinds of diseases brought them to him; and he laid his hands on each of them and cured them.⁴¹ Demons also came out of many, shouting, “You are the Son of God!” But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Messiah.⁴² At daybreak he departed and went into a deserted place. And the crowds were looking for him; and when they reached him, they wanted to prevent him from leaving them.⁴³ But he said to them, “I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other cities also; for I was sent for this purpose.”⁴⁴ So he continued proclaiming the message in the synagogues of Judea.

After the reading:

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day How Firm a Foundation

(For music see Hymn 796 in the Red Hymnal)

- 1. How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said
who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?**
- 2. “Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.”**
- 3. “When through fi’ry trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace, all sufficient, shall be your supply.
The flames shall not hurt you; I only design
your dross to consume and your gold to refine.”**

4. “Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove
my sov’ reign, eternal, unchangeable love;
and then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn,
like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne.”

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt. Music: Early American

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 †

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)

800 Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart (Red Hymnal)

801 Change My Heart, O God (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 Lead On, O King Eternal
(For music see Hymn 805 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Lead on, O King eternal!**
The day of march has come;
henceforth in fields of conquest
your tents will be our home.
Through days of preparation
your grace has made us strong;
and now, O King eternal,
we lift our battle song.

2. **Lead on, O King eternal,**
till sin's fierce war shall cease,
and holiness shall whisper
the sweet amen of peace;
for not with swords loud clashing,
nor roll of stirring drums,
but deeds of love and mercy
the heav'nly kingdom comes.

3. **Lead on, O King eternal;**
we follow, not with fears,
for gladness breaks like morning
where'er your face appears.
Your cross is lifted o're us;
we journey in its light;
the crown awaits the conquest;
lead on, O God of might!

Text: Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1862-1917. Music: Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

OBSERVANCE OF FEBRUARY 2



Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers Bruce and Connie Stevenson
Acolyte Alyssa Young
Altar Care Linda Thompson
Communion Assistant Mary Zuege
Counters Bill and Katy Stimmel
Coffee Hour

Worship assistants for next Sunday, February 9, 2025

Greeters and Ushers Mary and Greg Zuege
Acolyte Charlotte Stroup
Counters Linda Flood and Sue Kaufmann
Coffee Hour

Scripture readings from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible* copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States. Psalm from *The Psalter* copyright 1994, Liturgical Training Publications. Variable worship texts from *Sundays and Seasons 2025* copyright 2024 Augsburg Fortress.

St. John's Lutheran Church
888 County Road 9, Victor, NY 14564
stjohnsvictor.com (585) 924-5192
The Rev. Jonathan Deibler, Pastor
William Shi, Pianist