



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## *Seventh Sunday After Epiphany*

*February 23, 2025*

*10:30 Service of the Word*

The religious leaders of Jesus' day didn't mind that Jesus spent so much time with "sinners." They would have been perfectly happy if Jesus had criticized them and condemned them for their bad behavior. The problem was that Jesus loved them despite their failings, and even enjoyed spending time with them! Notice though that while Jesus did enjoy them he also called them to repentance. Many of them did. Jesus called the religious leaders to repentance too, but in their conviction that they were already in the right they were unable to accept his words.

### *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 shown in the nursery.

# † GATHERING †

## Prelude and Announcements

### 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 our 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.**

Gathering Hymn Come, Now Is the Time to Worship  
(For music turn to Hymn 8 in the Songbook binder)

*Refrain*

**Come, now is the time to worship;  
Come, now is the time to give your heart.  
Come, just as you are to worship;  
Come, just as you are before your God, come.**

**1. Open up the doors to our heart and our soul,  
leaving earthly cares far behind.**

**Come, unite us all to serve you now  
With love and faith in our mind. Refrain**

**2. One day every tongue will confess you are God,  
one day every knee will bow;  
still the greatest treasure remains  
for those who gladly choose you now. Refrain**

Text and Music by Brian Doerksen; copyright 1998 Vineyard Songs, admin by Mercy/Vineyard Publishing; CCLI #2430948

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 (John 1)

A: In the beginning was the Word,

**C: and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

A: In the Word was life,

**C: and the life was the light of all people.**

A: The Word became flesh and lived among us,

**C: and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.**

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

God of heaven and earth, before the foundation of the universe and the beginning of time you are God: Author of creation, eternal Word of salvation, life-giving Spirit of wisdom. Guide us to all truth by your Spirit, that we may proclaim all that Christ has revealed and rejoice in the glory he shares with us. Glory and praise to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

† WORD †

First Reading Deuteronomy 5:12-15

B: Observe the sabbath day and keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you. <sup>13</sup>Six days you shall labor and do all your work. <sup>14</sup>But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, or your son or your daughter, or your male or female slave, or your ox or your donkey, or any of your livestock, or the resident alien

in your towns, so that your male and female slave may rest as well as you.<sup>15</sup> Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the sabbath day.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Scripture Poetry Psalm 75 (read responsively)

D: We praise you, God,  
and give you thanks.  
You are present to us  
as we tell your wonders.

**C: “I, your God, choose the moment  
to set things right.**

D: Though earth and its people tremble,  
I secure its foundations.

**C: I say to the proud, stop boasting!  
to the wicked, stop it!**

D: Stop promoting yourselves,  
pitting yourselves against the Rock.”

**C: No help from east or west,  
from desert or mountain,**

D: for God alone judges,  
levels some, raises others.

**C: The Lord holds a foaming cup,  
pours the wicked a heady wine;  
they drain it to the dregs.**

D: But I sing praise forever,  
make music for the God of Jacob,

**C: who breaks the power of the wicked  
and strengthens the just.**

Second Reading 1 Samuel 21:1-6

E: David came to Nob to the priest Ahimelech. Ahimelech came trembling to meet David, and said to him, “Why are you alone, and no one with you?”<sup>2</sup> David said to the priest Ahimelech, “The king has charged me with a matter, and said to me, ‘No one must know anything of the matter about which I send you, and with which I have charged you.’ I have made an appointment with the young men for such and such

a place. <sup>3</sup>Now then, what have you at hand? Give me five loaves of bread, or whatever is here.” <sup>4</sup>The priest answered David, “I have no ordinary bread at hand, only holy bread—provided that the young men have kept themselves from women.” <sup>5</sup>David answered the priest, “Indeed women have been kept from us as always when I go on an expedition; the vessels of the young men are holy even when it is a common journey; how much more today will their vessels be holy?” <sup>6</sup>So the priest gave him the holy bread; for there was no bread there except the bread of the Presence, which is removed from before the Lord, to be replaced by hot bread on the day it is taken away.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel Acclamation

**C: Alleluia. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in us the fire of your love. Alleluia.**

### Gospel Reading Luke 5:27-6:16

*The gospel is announced:*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> chapters.

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

<sup>27</sup>After this [Jesus] went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, “Follow me.” <sup>28</sup>And he got up, left everything, and followed him. <sup>29</sup>Then Levi gave a great banquet for him in his house; and there was a large crowd of tax collectors and others sitting at the table with them. <sup>30</sup>The Pharisees and their scribes were complaining to his disciples, saying, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?” <sup>31</sup>Jesus answered, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; <sup>32</sup>I have come to call not the righteous but sinners to repentance.” <sup>33</sup>Then they said to him, “John’s disciples, like the disciples of the Pharisees, frequently fast and pray, but your disciples eat and drink. <sup>34</sup>Jesus said to them, “You cannot make wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them, can you? <sup>35</sup>The days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast in those days.” <sup>36</sup>He also told them a parable: “No one tears a piece from a new garment and sews it on an old garment; otherwise the new will be torn, and the piece from the new will not match the old. <sup>37</sup>And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the new wine will burst the skins and will be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed. <sup>38</sup>But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins. <sup>39</sup>And no one after drinking old wine desires new wine, but says, ‘The old is good.’”

One sabbath while Jesus was going through the grainfields, his disciples plucked some heads of grain, rubbed them in their hands, and ate them. <sup>2</sup>But some of the Pharisees said, “Why are you doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, “Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? <sup>4</sup>He entered the house of God and took and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and gave some to his companions?” <sup>5</sup>Then he said to them, “The Son of Man is lord of the sabbath.” <sup>6</sup>On another sabbath he entered the synagogue and taught, and there was a man there whose right hand was withered. <sup>7</sup>The scribes and the Pharisees watched him to see whether he would cure on the sabbath, so that they might find an accusation against him. <sup>8</sup>Even though he knew what they were thinking, he said to the man who had the withered hand, “Come and stand here.” He got up and stood there. <sup>9</sup>Then Jesus said to them, “I ask you, is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to destroy it?” <sup>10</sup>After looking around at all of them, he said to him, “Stretch out your hand.” He did so, and his hand was restored. <sup>11</sup>But they were filled with fury and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus.

<sup>12</sup>Now during those days he went out to the mountain to pray; and he spent the night in prayer to God. <sup>13</sup>And when day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles: <sup>14</sup>Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew, and James, and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, <sup>15</sup>and Matthew, and Thomas, and James son of Alphaeus, and Simon, who was called the Zealot, <sup>16</sup>and Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

*After the reading:*

P: The gospel of the Lord

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

### Children's Sermon

#### Sermon

Hymn of the Day Children of the Heavenly Father  
(For music turn to Hymn 781 in the Red Hymnal)

**1. Children of the heav'nly Father  
safely in his bosom gather;  
nestling bird nor star in heaven  
such a refuge e're was given.**

2. **God his own doth tend and nourish,  
in his holy courts they flourish.  
From all evil things he spares them,  
in his mighty arms he bears them.**

3. **Neither life nor death shall ever  
from the Lord his children sever;  
unto them his grace he showeth,  
and their sorrows all he knoweth.**

4. **Though he giveth or he taketh,  
God his children ne'er forsaketh;  
his the loving purpose solely  
to preserve them pure and holy.**

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903, tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870-1958. Music: Swedish folk tune.  
Text copyright 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America

*Response to the Word*

P: In Christ you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

**C: We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.**

P: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**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.**

A: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

**C: pray in the Holy Spirit.**

*(Jude 20)*

A: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

**C: look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.** *(Jude 21)*

A: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

**C: Everything old has passed away;**

**behold, everything has become new!**

*(2 Corinthians 5:17)*

### Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us share that peace with one another.

*The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.*

## ‡ THANKSGIVING ‡

### 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.*

### Special Music

### Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray: Merciful God,

**C: in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you embrace our lives with your great love for humanity. With joy and gladness we ask that these gifts may be for many a sign of that love, and that we may continue to share in your divine life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.**



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.**

✠ 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 On Eagle's Wings  
(For music turn to Hymn 787 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,  
who abide in this shadow for life,  
say to the Lord: "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"**

*Refrain*

**"And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
bear you on the breath of dawn,  
make you to shine like the sun,  
and hold you in the palm of his hand."**

2. **Snare of the fowler will never capture you,  
and famine will bring you no fear;  
under God's wings your refuge**

**with faithfulness your shield. *Refrain***

3. **You need not fear the terror of the night,  
nor the arrow that flies by the day;  
though thousands fall about you,  
near you it shall not come. *Refrain***
  
4. **For to the angels God's given a command  
to guard you in all of your ways;  
upon their hands they will bear you up,  
lest you dash your foot against a stone. *Refrain***

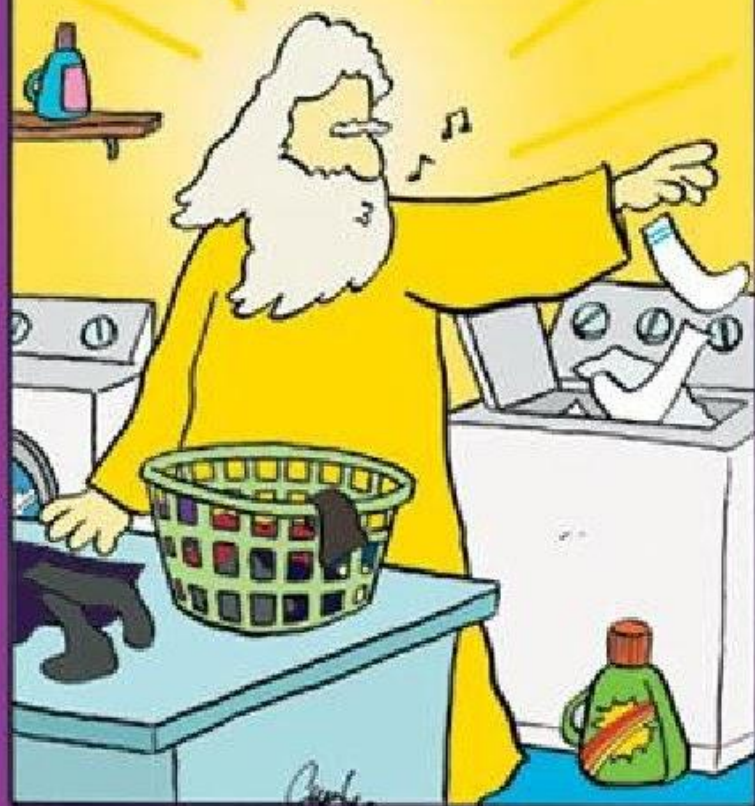
Text and Music by Michael Jonas, b. 1951; copyright 1979 OCP Publication

**Dismissal**

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

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

**A**nd God separated  
the light from the dark...



**Worship assistants TODAY:**

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

**Worship assistants for next Sunday, March 2**

Greeters and Ushers     Linn Griffo and Morgan Sackett  
Acolyte                     Alyssa Young  
Altar Care                 Gary Boisseau  
Communion Assistant   Sue Kaufmann  
Counters                    Bruce and Connie Stevenson  
Coffee Hour

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