



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



The 5th Sunday After Pentecost

June 23, 2024

10:30 Service of the Word

We've been reading from Job. Thus far we've heard of Job's wealth and comforts, and the way he lost them all plus his health. We've heard Job's three friends debate with him over why the bad things happened. We've also heard from Elihu, a young man who just appears in the story. The one we have not heard from yet is God. Today we get God's words to Job. We will not like God's answer, but God speaks truths that we cannot deny.

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: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God,
the God of manna,
the God of miracles,
the God of mercy.

C: Amen.

P: Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sins.
A moment of silence for reflection.

P: God our provider,

C: help us.

It is hard to believe there is enough to share.

**We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world
in which we live.**

**We turn to our own understanding
rather than trusting in you.**

We take offense at your teachings and your ways.

Turn us again to you.

Where else can we turn?

**Share with us the words of eternal life
and feed us for life in the world.**

Amen.

P: Beloved people of God,
in Jesus, the manna from heaven,
you are fed and nourished.

By Jesus, the worker of miracles,
there is always more than enough.

Through Jesus, the bread of life,
you are shown God's mercy:
you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

C: Amen

Gathering Hymn Lord of the Dance
(for music, see Hymn 24 in the Songbook)

**1. I danced in the morning when the world was begun
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth;**

at Bethlehem I had my birth.

Refrain:

**Dance, dance wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the dance said he.
“And I’ll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I’ll lead you all in the dance,” said he.**

**2. I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
and they would not dance and they wouldn’t follow me.
I danced for the fishermen and James and John;
They came with me and the dance went on. *Refrain***

**3. I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;
the holy people said it was a shame;
they whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high,
they left me there on the cross to die. *Refrain***

**4. I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
it’s hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried my body and they thought I’d gone,
but I am the dance and I still go on. *Refrain***

**5. They cut me down and I leapt up high;
I am the life that will never, never die,
And I’ll live in you if you live in me,
for I am the Lord of the dance, said he. *Refrain***

Text: Sydney Carter. Music: American Folk Tune. Copyright 1963 Stainer and Bell, Ltd. (Admin. by Hope Publishing Company)

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 (“On Creation” from the *Small Catechism*)

A: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**C: I believe that God has created me together with all that exists.
God has given me and still preserves my body and soul: eyes, ears,
and all limbs and senses; reason and all mental faculties.**

**A: In addition, God daily provides shoes and clothing, food and drink,
house and farm, spouse and children, fields livestock, and all property –
along with all the necessities and nourishment for this bodily life.**

C: God protects me against all danger and shields and preserves me from all evil.

A: And all this is done out of pure, fatherly, and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness of mine at all!

C: For all of this I owe it do God to thank and praise, serve and obey him.

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray:

God of all creation, you alone are God and you rule the universe. Guide us to fear, love and trust you above all things. Preserve our bodies and souls and abundantly provide for our daily needs. Glory and praise to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading Job 38:1-21

B: Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind:

²“Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

³Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

⁴“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?

Tell me, if you have understanding.

⁵Who determined its measurements— surely you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it?

⁶On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone

⁷when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

⁸“Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb?—

⁹when I made the clouds its garment, and thick darkness its swaddling band,

¹⁰and prescribed bounds for it, and set bars and doors,

¹¹and said, ‘Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stopped’?

¹²“Have you commanded the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place,

¹³so that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth, and the wicked be shaken out of it?

¹⁴It is changed like clay under the seal, and it is dyed like a garment.

¹⁵Light is withheld from the wicked, and their uplifted arm is broken.

¹⁶“Have you entered into the springs of the sea,
or walked in the recesses of the deep?”

¹⁷Have the gates of death been revealed to you,
or have you seen the gates of deep darkness?

¹⁸Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth?
Declare, if you know all this.

¹⁹“Where is the way to the dwelling of light, and where is the place of
darkness,

²⁰that you may take it to its territory and that you may discern the paths
to its home?”

²¹Surely you know, for you were born then, and the number of your days
is great!

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Job 39:19-30 (Read responsively)

D: [God continued to Job]

¹⁹“Do you give the horse its might?

Do you clothe its neck with mane?

C: Do you make it leap like the locust?

Its majestic snorting is terrible.

D: It paws violently, exults mightily;
it goes out to meet the weapons.

**C: It laughs at fear, and is not dismayed;
it does not turn back from the sword.**

D: Upon it rattle the quiver,
the flashing spear, and the javelin.

**C: With fierceness and rage it swallows the ground;
it cannot stand still at the sound of the trumpet.**

D: When the trumpet sounds, it says ‘Aha!’

From a distance it smells the battle,
the thunder of the captains, and the shouting.

**C: “Is it by your wisdom that the hawk soars,
and spreads its wings toward the south?”**

D: Is it at your command that the eagle mounts up
and makes its nest on high?

**C: It lives on the rock and makes its home
in the fastness of the rocky crag.**

D: From there it spies the prey;
its eyes see it from far away.

**C: Its young ones suck up blood;
and where the slain are, there it is.”**

Second Reading Job 40:1-14

E: And the LORD said to Job:

²“Shall a faultfinder contend with the Almighty?
Anyone who argues with God must respond.”

³Then Job answered the LORD:

⁴“See, I am of small account; what shall I answer you?
I lay my hand on my mouth.

⁵I have spoken once, and I will not answer;
twice, but will proceed no further.”

⁶Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind:

⁷“Gird up your loins like a man; I will question you, and you declare to me.

⁸Will you even put me in the wrong?

Will you condemn me that you may be justified?

⁹Have you an arm like God, and can you thunder with a voice like his?

¹⁰“Deck yourself with majesty and dignity;
clothe yourself with glory and splendor.

¹¹Pour out the overflowings of your anger,
and look on all who are proud, and abase them.

¹²Look on all who are proud, and bring them low;
tread down the wicked where they stand.

¹³Hide them all in the dust together;
bind their faces in the world below.

¹⁴Then I will also acknowledge to you
that your own right hand can give you victory.”

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Isaiah 6:3)

C: Alleluia. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts, God’s glory fills the whole earth. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading John 3:17-21

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 3rd chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the

only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

After the reading:

P: The gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day All Creatures of our God and King

(The melody for this hymn may be found as Hymn 835 in the Red Hymnal)

**1. All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice with us and sing:**

Alleluia! Alleluia!

**O burning sun with golden beam
and silver moon with softer gleam:**

Refrain **Oh, praise him! Oh, praise him!**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**2. O rushing wind and breezes soft,
O clouds that ride the winds aloft:
oh, praise him! Alleluia!**

**O rising morn, in praise rejoice,
O lights of evening, find a voice. *Refrain***

**3. O flowing waters, pure and clear,
make music for your Lord to hear.**

Oh, praise him! Alleluia!

**O fires so masterful and bright,
providing us with warmth and light, *Refrain***

**4. Dear mother earth, who day by day
unfolds rich blessings on our way,
oh, praise him! Alleluia!**

**The fruits and flow'rs that verdant grow,
let them his praise abundant show. *Refrain***

5. **O ev'ryone of tender heart,
forgiving others, take your part,
oh, praise him! Alleluia!
All you who pain and sorrow bear,
praise God and lay on him your care. *Refrain***
6. **And you, most kind and gentle death,
waiting to hush our final breath,
oh, praise him! Alleluia!
You lead to heav'n the child of God,
where Christ our Lord the way has trod. *Refrain***
7. **Let all things their Creator bless
and worship God in humbleness.
Oh, praise him! Alleluia!
Oh, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One, *Refrain***

Text (Lutheran Book of Worship, Hymn 527): Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226; tr. William H. Draper, 1855-1933, alt. Tune: Geistliche Kirchengaslinge, Koln, 1623

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)*

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 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: Let us share that peace with one another.

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

† THANKSGIVING †

Special Music

Hymn of Thanksgiving

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

P: Let us pray: Blessed are you, O God,

C: ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus our Savior and Lord. 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 blessing of God,
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,

be upon you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee
(For music, turn to Hymn 836 in the Red Hymnal)

1. Joyful, joyful we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.
2. All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird, and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in thee.
3. Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine!

©Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852-1933; Tune: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827, adapt.

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 Alyssa Young
Counters Bill and Katy Stimmel
Coffee Hour

Worship assistants for next Sunday, June 30

Greeters and Ushers Helen Crown
Acolyte Thomas Bullwinkle
Counters Mary and Greg Zuege
Coffee Hour Father's Day

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