



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



The Eighth Sunday After Epiphany

March 2, 2025

10:30 Service of the Word

Today we read Jesus' great "Sermon on the Plain" from Luke's gospel. It is similar to the "Sermon on the Mount" that Matthew's gospel records. In this sermon Jesus lays out a new reality for those who follow him. Many old ways will die, and many new ways will take their place. Some who considered themselves "winners" in the world will feel threatened. But those who were "losers" will surely discover new life and hope in Jesus' 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 Open the Eyes of My Heart
(For music turn to Hymn 26 in the Songbook binder)

Chorus, Verse and Bridge are repeated however the musicians feel moved to play

Chorus **Open the eyes of my heart, Lord,
open the eyes of my heart;
I want to see You,
I want to see You.
Open the eyes of my heart, Lord,**

**open the eyes of my heart;
I want to see You,
I want to see You.**

Verse **To see you high and lifted up,
shining in the light of Your glory.
Pour out your pow'r and love
as we sing "Holy, holy, holy."**

Bridge **Holy, holy, holy.
Holy, holy, holy.
Holy, holy, holy.
I want to see You.**

Text and music: Paul Baloche; copyright 1997 Integrity's Hosanna! Music

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...

O Lord God, we bring before you the cries of a sorrowing world. In your mercy set us free from the chains that bind us, and defend us from everything that is evil, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading Isaiah 65:17-25

B: ¹⁷For I am about to create new heavens
and a new earth;
the former things shall not be remembered

or come to mind.

¹⁸But be glad and rejoice forever
in what I am creating;
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,
and its people as a delight.

¹⁹I will rejoice in Jerusalem,
and delight in my people;
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it,
or the cry of distress.

²⁰No more shall there be in it
an infant that lives but a few days,
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,
and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.

²¹They shall build houses and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

²²They shall not build and another inhabit;
they shall not plant and another eat;
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

²³They shall not labor in vain,
or bear children for calamity;
for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord—
and their descendants as well.

²⁴Before they call I will answer,
while they are yet speaking I will hear.

²⁵The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,
the lion shall eat straw like the ox;
but the serpent—its food shall be dust!

They shall not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 126 (read responsively)

D: The Lord brings us back to Zion,
we are like dreamers,
laughing, dancing,
with songs on our lips.

**C: Other nations say,
“A new world of wonders!
The Lord is with them.”**

D: Yes, God works wonders.

Rejoice! Be glad!

**C: Lord, bring us back
as water to thirsty land.**

D: Those sowing in tears
reap, singing and laughing.

**C: They left weeping, weeping,
casting the seed.
They come back singing, singing,
holding high the harvest.**

Gospel Acclamation (Luke 6:38)

**C: Alleluia. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together,
running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will
be the measure you get back. Alleluia.**

Gospel Reading Luke 6:17-49

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 6th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

¹⁷He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹“Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²²“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

²⁴“But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

²⁵“Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,

for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

²⁷“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³²“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

³⁹He also told them a parable: “Can a blind person guide a blind person? Will not both fall into a pit? ⁴⁰A disciple is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully qualified will be like the teacher. ⁴¹Why do you see the speck in your neighbor’s eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? ⁴²Or how can you say to your neighbor, ‘Friend, let me take out the speck in your eye,’ when you yourself do not see the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor’s eye.

⁴³“No good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit; ⁴⁴for each tree is known by its own fruit. Figs are not gathered from thorns, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. ⁴⁵The good person out of the good treasure of the heart produces good, and the evil person out of evil treasure produces evil; for it is out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks.

⁴⁶“Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I tell you? ⁴⁷I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, hears my words, and acts on them. ⁴⁸That one is like a man building a house, who dug deeply and laid the foundation on rock; when a flood arose, the river

burst against that house but could not shake it, because it had been well built. ⁴⁹But the one who hears and does not act is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the river burst against it, immediately it fell, and great was the ruin of that house.”

After the reading:

P: The gospel of the Lord

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day **Blest Are They**
(for music, please turn to Hymn 728 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Blest are they, the poor in spirit;**
 theirs is the kingdom of God.
 Blest are they, full of sorrow;
 they shall be consoled.

Refrain

Rejoice and be glad!
Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad!
Yours is the kingdom of God!

2. **Blest are they, the lowly ones;**
 they shall inherit the earth.
 Blest are they, who hunger and thirst
 they shall have their fill. *Refrain*

3. **Blest are they who show mercy;**
 mercy shall be theirs.
 Blest are they, the pure of heart:
 they shall see God. *Refrain*

4. **Blest are they who seek peace;**
 they are the children of God.
 Blest are they who suffer in faith;
 the glory of God is theirs. *Refrain*

5. **Blest are you who suffer hate**
 all because of me.
 Rejoice and be glad, yours is the kingdom;
 shine for all to see. *Refrain*

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 ✠

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.

Prayer of Intercession from *Lutheran Book of Worship* Page 75.

A: Let us pray:

O Lord our God, you have commanded light to shine out of darkness, and you have again brought us to your house of prayer to praise your goodness and ask for your gifts. Accept now in your endless mercy the sacrifice of our worship and thanksgiving, and grant us those requests which will be wholesome for us. Make us to be children of the light and of the day and heirs of your everlasting inheritance. Remember, O Lord, according to the multitude of your mercies, your whole Church, all who join with us in prayer, all our sisters and brothers wherever they may be in your vast kingdom who stand in need of your help and comfort. Pour out upon them the riches of your mercy, so that we, redeemed in soul and body and steadfast in faith, may ever praise your wonderful and holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and always through all ages of ages.

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 Amazing Love

(For music see Hymn 62 in the Songbook binder)

**1. My Lord, what love is this that pays so dearly;
That I the guilty one may go free.**

Refrain:

**Amazing love, O what sacrifice,
The son of God, giv'n for me;
My debt He pays and my death He dies,
That I might live, that I might live.**

**2. And so, they watched Him die, despised, rejected;
But O the blood he shed Flowed for me. *Refrain***

**3. And now this love of Christ shall flow like rivers;
Come wash your guilt away, live again. *Refrain***

Text and music: Graham Kendrick; Copyright 1989 Make Way Music; CCLI #192553

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

THE 13th DISCIPLE, REUBEN THE POLLSTER, TURNED OUT TO BE AN IRRITANT AND WAS SOON DISMISSED.

91% of people want to see more miracles, 58% believe your Sermon on the Mount could have opened with a better joke, and 100% don't understand the whole Trinity thing.



Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers Linn Griffo and Morgan Sackett
Acolyte Alyssa Young
Counters Bruce and Connie Stevenson
Coffee Hour

Worship assistants for next Sunday, March 9

Greeters and Ushers Helen Crown
Acolyte Charlotte Stroup
Counters Burdie Gillern and Helen Crown
Coffee Hour

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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