



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



The First Sunday in Lent

March 9, 2025

10:30 Service of the Word

In our gospel reading today we'll find Jesus being in touch with things that are considered "unclean". They are a Roman military leader and the body of a dead boy. Jesus is not afraid of the unclean things of the world. When it comes to witnessing to God's love, nothing will keep Jesus away.

Welcome to worship today!

If you are visiting 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,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's
abiding love.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P: Compassionate One,

**C: you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
but our lives do not always reflect you
and your love for the world.**

**We do not show others the tender compassion
you have shown to us.**

**We do not welcome others with the hospitality
you grant to all people.**

**Our lives end up oppressing others,
even though you have set us free again and again.**

We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.

Transform our lives

and guide us again in the way of the cross.

Amen.

P: Beloved in Christ,
God's arms are always stretched wide
to welcome the wandering ones home.
In Christ your sins are forgiven.
You have a place in God's house forever.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn The River is Here
(For music turn to Hymn 34 in the Songbook binder)

**1. Down the mountain the river flows,
and it brings refreshing wherever it goes;
Through the valleys and over the fields,
the river is rushing and the river is here.**

**Refrain: The river of God sets our feet to dancing,
the river of God fills our hearts with cheer;
The river of God fills our mouths with laughter,
and we rejoice for the river is here.**

**2. The river of God is teeming with life,
and all who touch it can be revived.
And all who linger on this river's shore
will come back thirsting for more of the Lord. Refrain**

**3. Up to the mountain we love to go,
to find the presence of the Lord.
Along the banks of the river we run,
we dance with laughter, giving praise to the Son. Refrain**

Text and music by: Andy Park; CCLI# 1475231; copyright 1994 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing (Admin by Music Services)

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 (Romans 10)

A: The word is near you,

C: on your lips and in your heart.

A: If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,

C: and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

A: Faith comes from what is heard,

C: and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

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 2 Kings 5:1-14

B: Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master, because by him the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. ²Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. ³She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." ⁴So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said. ⁵And the king of Aram said, "Go then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel." He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. ⁶He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his leprosy." ⁷When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me." ⁸But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel."

⁹So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. ¹⁰Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean." ¹¹But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! ¹²Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage. ¹³But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean'?" ¹⁴So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of

God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 146 (*read responsively*)

D: Praise the Lord, my heart!

My whole life, give praise.

**C: Let me sing to God
as long as I live.**

D: Never depend on rulers:

born of earth, they cannot save.

**C: They die, they turn to dust.
That day, their plans crumble.**

D: They are wise who depend on God,
who look to Jacob's Lord,

**C: creator of heaven and earth,
maker of the teeming sea.**

D: The Lord keeps faith for ever,
giving food to the hungry,

**C: justice to the poor,
freedom to captives.**

D: The Lord opens blind eyes
and straightens the bent,

**C: comforting widows and orphans,
protecting the stranger.**

D: The Lord loves the just
but blocks the path of the wicked.

**C: Zion, praise the Lord!
Your God reigns for ever,
from generation to generation.**

Gospel Acclamation (*Mark 1:15*)

C: The kingdom of heaven has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.

Gospel Reading Luke 7:1-17

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 7th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

After Jesus had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. ²A centurion there had a slave whom he valued highly, and who was ill and close to death. ³When he heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders to him, asking him to come and heal his slave. ⁴When they came to Jesus, they appealed to him earnestly, saying, "He is worthy of having you do this for him, ⁵for he loves our people, and it is he who built our synagogue for us." ⁶And Jesus went with them, but when he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to say to him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; ⁷therefore I did not presume to come to you. But only speak the word, and let my servant be healed. ⁸For I also am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and the slave does it." ⁹When Jesus heard this he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, he said, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith." ¹⁰When those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave in good health.

¹¹Soon afterwards he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went with him. ¹²As he approached the gate of the town, a man who had died was being carried out. He was his mother's only son, and she was a widow; and with her was a large crowd from the town. ¹³When the Lord saw her, he had compassion for her and said to her, "Do not weep." ¹⁴Then he came forward and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, rise!" ¹⁵The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. ¹⁶Fear seized all of them; and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen among us!" and "God has looked favorably on his people!" ¹⁷This word about him spread throughout Judea and all the surrounding country.

After the reading:

P: The gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Healer of Our Every Ill
(For music turn to Hymn 612 in the Red Hymnal)

Refrain: **Healer of our ev'ry ill,
light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.**

1. **You who know our fears and sadness,
grace us with your peace and gladness;
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts. *Refrain***
2. **In the pain and joy beholding
how your grace is still unfolding,
give us all your vision, God of love. *Refrain***
3. **Give us strength to love each other,
ev'ry sister, ev'ry brother;
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide. *Refrain***
4. **You who know each thought and feeling,
teach us all your way of healing;
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart. *Refrain***

Text and music: Marty Haugen, Copyright 1987 GIA Publications

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: Gracious God,

C: in the abundance of your steadfast love, you call us from death to life, from silence to speech, from idleness to action. With these gifts we offer ourselves to you, and with the Church through all the ages we give thanks for your saving love in 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: May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ fill you with every spiritual blessing.

C: Amen.

P: May the God of faithfulness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

C: Amen.

P: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn There is a Balm in Gilead
(For music turn to Hymn 614 in the Red Hymnal)

Refrain:

**There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.**

1. **Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work's in vain,
but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.** *Refrain*
2. **If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,
you can tell the love of Jesus and say, "He died for all."**
Refrain
3. **Don't ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend,
and if you lack for knowledge, he'll ne'er refuse to lend.**
Refrain

Text and Music: African American Spiritual

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C: **God's Work. Our Hands.**



When Second Avenue Church members
become Fishers of Men, they use live bait.

Worship assistants TODAY:

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

Worship assistants for next Sunday, March 16

Greeters and Ushers Linda Flood
Acolyte Elijah Young
Altar Care Gary Boisseau
Communion Assistant Nancy Pape
Counters John and Linda Thompson
Coffee Hour St. Patrick's Day Potluck Lunch

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