



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



2 Corinthians 8:1-9

November 17, 2024

10:30 Holy Communion

In Paul's second letter to the Corinthians he tells them to be generous to the poor. It is a nice thought, but it becomes complicated. What sort of generosity is Paul talking about? How are the Corinthians to know what kind of generosity is good and what kind is being an enabler to unhealthy habits? We'll look at the situation in worship today.

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 Blessed Assurance
(for music please turn to Hymn 638 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.**

Refrain **This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my savior all the day long.**

2. **Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.** *Refrain*

3. **Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with goodness, lost in his love.** *Refrain*

Text: Fanny Crosby, Music Phoebe Knapp

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God,
our refuge,
our delight,
our beginning and our end.
C: Amen.

P: Let us come in truth before the one who loves us and frees us from our sin.

A moment of silence for reflection.

P: Eternal One, robed in majesty and mercy,

**C: we confess that sin has taken hold of us
and we are unable to escape its power.**

**We are disturbed in spirit and our hearts cannot rest.
Unbind us and set us free.**

**Lead us again to the waters of rebirth,
that we may live just and generous lives
for the good of your world
and the care of our neighbors,
following in the way of Jesus. Amen.**

P: These words are trustworthy and true:
Christ bore our sins once, for all, on the cross,
swallowing up death forever.
For his sake you are forgiven
and God remembers your sin no more.
Let your heart be glad again, and rejoice in your salvation.
C: Amen.

Hymn of Praise 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!**

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading Proverbs 11:23-28

B: ²³The desire of the righteous ends only in good; the expectation of the wicked in wrath.

²⁴Some give freely, yet grow all the richer; others withhold what is due, and only suffer want.

²⁵A generous person will be enriched, and one who gives water will get water.

²⁶The people curse those who hold back grain, but a blessing is on the head of those who sell it.

²⁷Whoever diligently seeks good seeks favor, but evil comes to the one who searches for it.

²⁸Those who trust in their riches will wither, but the righteous will flourish like green leaves. *After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord*

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 112 (*read together*)

D: Hallelujah!

Happy are those who love God
and delight in the law.

Their children shall be blest,
strong and upright in the land.

**C: Their households thrive,
their integrity stands firm.
A light shines on them in darkness,
a God of mercy and justice.**

D: The good lend freely
and deal fairly,

they will never stumble;
their justice shall be remembered.

**C: Bad news holds no power,
strong hearts trust God.
Steady and fearless,
they look down on their enemy.**

D: They support the poor,
their integrity stands firm,
their strength brings them honor.

**C: Hatred devours the wicked.
They grind their teeth;
their hopes turn to ashes.**

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 8:1-9

[Paul writes] We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; ²for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. ³For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, ⁴begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints— ⁵and this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us, ⁶so that we might urge Titus that, as he had already made a beginning, so he should also complete this generous undertaking among you.

⁷Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking. ⁸I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. ⁹For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Matthew 6:20)

C: Alleluia. Store up for yourselves treasure in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading Matthew 6:19-21

The gospel is announced:

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

C: Glory to you O Lord.

[Jesus taught] “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

After the reading:

P: The gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day For the Fruit of All Creation

(For music see Hymn 679 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **For the fruit of all creation,
thanks be to God.
For these gifts to ev’ry nation,
thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth’s safe-keeping,
thanks be to God.**
2. **In the just reward of labor,
God’s will is done.
In the help we give our neighbor,
God’s will is done.
In our world-wide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God’s will is done.**
3. **For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,**

**for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us,
thanks be to God.**

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000, text copyright 1970 Hope Publishing Company. Music: Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958, arr. copyright Oxford University Press

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: Lord Jesus, our portion and our cup,

C: you offered yourself in love for the world, and in this meal you nourish us with your life. Fill us with your abundance, that we may feed the hungry and welcome the stranger, trusting in your name.

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 of Nazareth; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with church of yesterday, today and tomorrow; and the church here in this place and all churches throughout the world, we praise your name and join 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: There is a place for you at the banquet.
Come and feast at Jesus' table.

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)

574 *I the Lord of Sea and Sky (Red Hymnal)*

582 *Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling (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: Faithful God, you have spread before us a feast of food and drink in the body and blood of your Son. Now send us out to labor with you, in service to the world you have made, and among the people you have made your home, in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

Blessing

P: The Ancient One, enthroned,
the Crucified One, now risen,
the Indwelling One, poured out,
bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

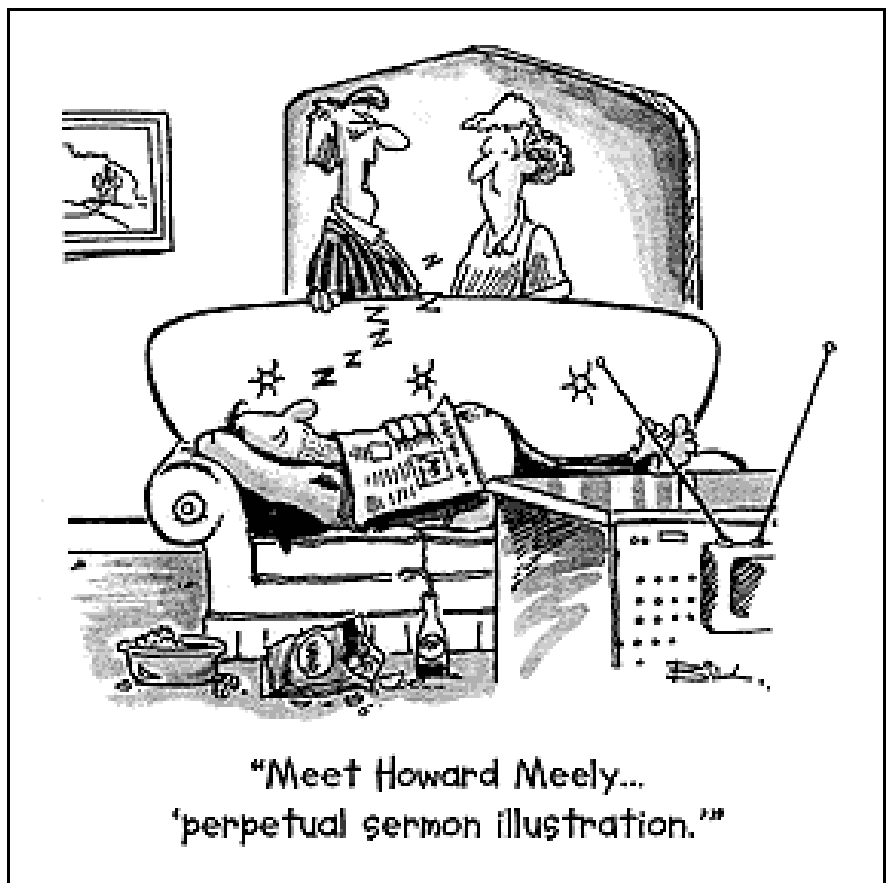
Sending Hymn This Little Light of Mine
(For music see Hymn 677 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **This little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine;
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**
2. **Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine;
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**
3. **Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'a let it shine;
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.



Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	Linda Flood
Acolyte	Thomas Bullwinkle
Altar Care	Sue Kaufmann
Communion Assistant	Greg Zuege
Counters	Anne Stromstad and Michel Myers
Coffee Hour	1 st Communion – Nancy Shuler

Worship assistants for next Sunday, November 24

Greeters and Ushers	Janice Lockwood
Acolyte	Thomas Bullwinkle
Counters	Bill and Katy Stimmel
Coffee Hour	Parish Thanksgiving Dinner

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