



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## *Generosity – Matthew 16:16-30*

*November 24, 2024*

*10:30 Service of the Word*

This is the final Sunday of our stewardship drive about generosity. We look at the rich young man who comes to Jesus and asks about inheriting eternal life. He's a good guy all around but he relies on what his wealth provide for him. Jesus gives him a life direction based upon God and not his riches. But the man refuses. How do we avoid that trap and truly focus on God?

### *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,  
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.**

### Gathering Hymn All Are Welcome

*(For music turn to Hymn 1 in the Songbook binder)*

#### *Chorus*

**All are welcome, friend and stranger,**

**At the banquet of the Savior.**

**All are welcome. All are welcome here.**

- 1. From the woman who comes crying  
Leaving tears at Jesus' feet,**

**To the man who knows the right way  
But cannot see.** *Chorus*

2. **From the ones who feel forgotten,  
Those who sense their place is gone,  
To the ones who live in hunger,  
Here you belong.** *Chorus*

3. **Go into the streets and cities,  
To the farms and families,  
Tell about the splendid table,  
God's mercy** *Chorus*

Text and music: Hans Peterson, Larry Olson; copyright 1999 Dakota Road Music; CCLI #2944348

*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* (Deuteronomy 26, 11, 8)

A: You are the treasured people of the Lord,

**C: a people holy to the Lord our God.**

A: Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children.

**C: Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away,  
when you lie down and when you rise.**

A: One does not live by bread alone,

**C: but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.**

*Prayer of the Day*

A: Let us pray...

Almighty and ever-loving God, increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what lies ahead, we may follow the way of your commandments and receive the crown of everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

† WORD †

*First Reading* Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

B: <sup>6</sup>Seek the LORD and live,

or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire,  
and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it.

<sup>7</sup>Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood,  
and bring righteousness to the ground!

<sup>10</sup>They hate the one who reproves in the gate,  
and they abhor the one who speaks the truth.

<sup>11</sup>Therefore because you trample on the poor  
and take from them levies of grain,

you have built houses of hewn stone,  
but you shall not live in them;

you have planted pleasant vineyards,  
but you shall not drink their wine.

<sup>12</sup>For I know how many are your transgressions,  
and how great are your sins—

you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe,  
and push aside the needy in the gate.

<sup>13</sup>Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time;  
for it is an evil time.

<sup>14</sup>Seek good and not evil,  
that you may live;

and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you,  
just as you have said.

<sup>15</sup>Hate evil and love good,  
and establish justice in the gate;

it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts,  
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Scripture Poetry* Psalm 90:12-17 (read responsively)

D: Teach us to make use of our days  
and bring wisdom to our hearts.

**C: How long, O Lord, before you return?**

**Pity your servants,**

D: shine your love on us each dawn,  
and gladden our days.

**C: Balance our past sorrows  
with present joys**

D: and let your servants, young and old,  
see the splendor of your work.

**C: Let your loveliness shine on us,  
and bless the work we do,  
bless the work of our hands.**

*Second Reading* Hebrews 4:12-16

E: <sup>12</sup>Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. <sup>13</sup>And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account. <sup>14</sup>Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. <sup>15</sup>For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup>Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Acclamation* (Matthew 5:3)

**C: Alleluia. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Alleluia.**

Gospel Reading Matthew 19:16-30

*The gospel is announced:*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 19<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>16</sup>Then someone came to him and said, “Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?” <sup>17</sup>And he said to him, “Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.” <sup>18</sup>He said to him, “Which ones?” And Jesus said, “You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; <sup>19</sup>Honor your father and mother; also, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>20</sup>The young man said to him, “I have kept all these; what do I still lack?” <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to him, “If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” <sup>22</sup>When the young man heard this word, he went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

<sup>23</sup>Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly I tell you, it will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>24</sup>Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” <sup>25</sup>When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astounded and said, “Then who can be saved?” <sup>26</sup>But Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible.”

<sup>27</sup>Then Peter said in reply, “Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?” <sup>28</sup>Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. <sup>29</sup>And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name’s sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. <sup>30</sup>But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.

*After the reading:*

P: The gospel of the Lord

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

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

*Hymn of the Day* Take My Life, That I May Be  
For music turn to Hymn 685 in the Red Hymnal

1. **Take my life, that I may be  
consecrated, Lord to thee;  
take my moments and my days;  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**
2. **Take my hands and let them move  
at the impulse of thy love;  
take my feet and let them be  
swift and beautiful for thee.**
3. **Take my voice and let me sing  
always only for my King;  
take my lips and let them be  
filled with messages from thee.**
4. **Take my silver and my gold  
not a mite would I withhold;  
take my intellect and use  
ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.**
5. **Take my will and make it thine;  
it shall be no longer mine;  
take my heart, it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne.**
6. **Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure store;  
take myself, and I will be  
ever only, all for thee.**

Text: Francis R. Havergal, 1836-1879, alt. Music: William H. Havergal, 1793-1870

*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: 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.**

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

**C: Amen.**

Sending Hymn Shout to the North  
(For music turn to Hymn 31 in the Songbook binder)

1. **Men of faith, rise up and sing  
of the great and glorious King.  
You are strong when you are weak,  
in your brokenness complete.**

*Refrain*

**Shout to the north and the south;  
sing to the east and the west.  
Jesus is Savior of all, Lord of heaven and earth.**

2. **Rise up women of the truth,  
stand and sing to broken hearts  
who can know the healing pow'r  
of our awesome King of love.** *Refrain*

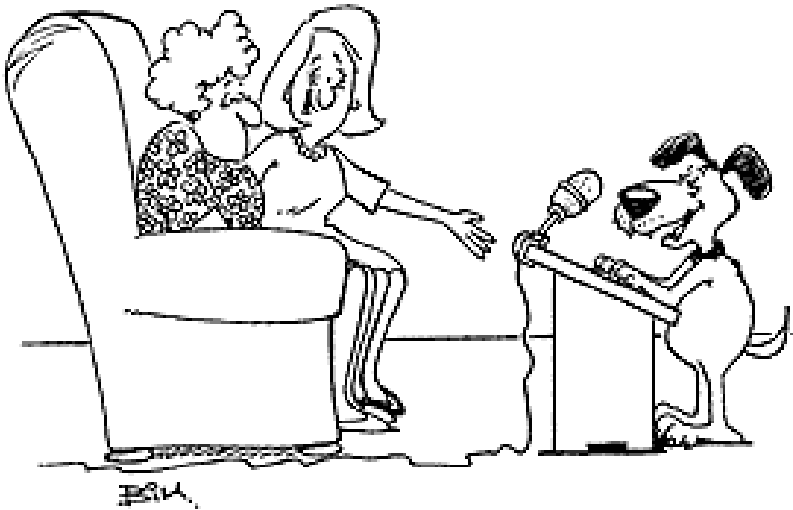
3. **We've been through fire, we've been through rain;  
We've been refined by the pow'r of His name.  
We've fallen deeper in love with You.  
You've burned the truth on our lips.** *Refrain*

4. **Rise up church with broken wings,  
Fill this place with songs again  
of our God who reigns on high.  
By His grace again we'll fly.** *Refrain*

Text and music: Martin Smith; Copyright 1996 Curious? Music UK; CCLI #156226

Dismissal

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



"It does seem strange, but Tom said this is how all pastors train their dogs to speak."

**Worship assistants TODAY:**

Greeters and Ushers	Janice Lockwood
Acolyte	Alyssa Young
Counters	Bill and Katy Stimmel
Coffee Hour	Parish Thanksgiving Dinner

**Worship assistants for next Sunday, December 1**

Greeters and Ushers	Rob Stroup
Acolyte	Thomas Bullwinkle
Altar Care	Mary Zuege
Communion Assistant	Sue Kaufmann
Counters	Bruce and Connie Stevenson
Coffee Hour	Urbanic and Schuller

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