



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Ephesians 4:17 – 5:5

October 13, 2024 10:30 Service of the Word

Being “saved by grace through faith” sounds good, but how do you apply it properly? It is open to all sorts of distortions one way or another. Ephesians 4 give it a direction. Though this chapter of Ephesians is complicated to understand the teaching it gives is quite simple.

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 all 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.

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are captive 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: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen

Gathering Hymn We are a Chosen People of God
For music please turn to Hymn 79 in the Songbook binder

Refrain

**We are a chosen people of God;
called into light and gathered in love;
redeemed and held by the holy one.
We are a chosen people of God.**

1. **Look around you and see
people in your neighborhood;
endless variety
God has created good.
We're a part of it all, chosen and called. *Refrain***

2. **Look around you and see
the blessing given us;
earth, sky, and sea;
they're all placed in our trust.
We're a part of it all, chosen and called. *Refrain***

3. **Look around you and see
not all is going right.
In this mystery;
We're called to be a light.
We're a part of it all, chosen and called. *Refrain***

Text and music: David Lee Brown, Larry Olson, Karol Baer; copyright 1990 Dakota Road Music, used by permission

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...

Gracious God, your blessed Son came down from heaven to be the true bread that gives life to the world. Give us this bread always, that he may live in us and we in him, and that, strengthened by this food, we may live as his body in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

‡ WORD ‡

First Reading Zechariah 8:16-17

B: ¹⁶These are the things that you shall do: Speak the truth to one another, render in your gates judgments that are true and make for peace, ¹⁷do not devise evil in your hearts against one another, and love no false oath; for all these are things that I hate, says the LORD.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 4 (*read responsively*)

D: Answer me when I call, faithful God.

You cleared away my trouble;

C: be good to me, listen to my prayer.

D: How long, proud fools,
will you insult my honor,
loving lies and chasing shadows?

**C: Look! God astounds believers,
the Lord listens when I call.**

D: Tremble, but do not despair.

Attend to your heart,
be calm through the night,

**C: worship with integrity,
trust in the Lord.**

D: But let those who trust you
be glad and celebrate for ever.
Protect those who love your name,
then they will delight in you.

**C: For you bless the just, O God,
your grace surrounds them like a shield.**

Second Reading Ephesians 4:17-5:5

¹⁷Now this I affirm and insist on in the Lord: you must no longer live as the Gentiles live, in the futility of their minds. ¹⁸They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of their ignorance and hardness of heart. ¹⁹They have lost all sensitivity and have abandoned themselves to licentiousness, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. ²⁰That is not the way you learned Christ! ²¹For surely you have heard about him and were taught in him, as truth is in Jesus. ²²You were

taught to put away your former way of life, your old self, corrupt and deluded by its lusts, ²³and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴and to clothe yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. ²⁵So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. ²⁶Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷and do not make room for the devil. ²⁸Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. ²⁹Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. ³¹Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, ³²and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, ²and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

³But fornication and impurity of any kind, or greed, must not even be mentioned among you, as is proper among saints. ⁴Entirely out of place is obscene, silly, and vulgar talk; but instead, let there be thanksgiving. ⁵Be sure of this, that no fornicator or impure person, or one who is greedy (that is, an idolater), has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (John 6:51)

C: Alleluia. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading John 6:27-35

The gospel is announced:

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

C: Glory to you O Lord.

[Jesus said] ²⁷Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.”

²⁸Then they said to him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?” ²⁹Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” ³⁰So they said to him, “What sign are you

going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? ³¹Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” ³²Then Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” ³⁴They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.” ³⁵Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

After the reading:

P: The gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me
(For music see Hymn 755 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Jesus, Savior, pilot me
over life’s tempestuous sea;
unknown waves before me roll,
hiding rock and treach’rous shoal;
chart and compass come from thee,
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.**
2. **As a mother stills her child,
thou canst hush the ocean wild;
boist’rous waves obey thy will
when thou say’st to them: “Be still.”
Wondrous sov’reign of the sea,
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.**
3. **When at last I near the shore,
and the fearful breakers roar
twixt me and the peaceful rest,
then, while leaning on thy breast,
may I hear thee say to me:
“Fear not, I will pilot thee.”**

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: God all mighty,
God most merciful
bless you, keep you,
and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn You Are the Way

(For music turn to Hymn 758 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **You are the way; to you alone
from sin and death we flee;
all those who search for God, you find
and by your grace set free.**

2. **You are the truth; your word alone
true wisdom can impart;
you only can inform the mind
and purify the heart.**

3. **You are the life; the rending tomb
proclaims your conqu'ring arm;
and those who put their trust in you
not death or hell shall harm.**

4. **You are the way, the truth, the life;
grant us that way to know,
that truth to keep, that life to win,
whose joys eternal flow.**

Text: George W. Doane, 1799-1859, alt. Music: *Psalter*, Edinburgh, 1615

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

PRAYER PUPS BY JEFFREY SMITH



**IT'S NOT WHAT YOU WEAR THAT'S IMPORTANT,
IT'S WHO YOU PUT YOUR FAITH IN!**



Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers Greg and Mary Zuege
Acolyte Alyssa Young
Counters Bruce and Connie Stevenson
Coffee Hour

Worship assistants for next Sunday, October 20

Greeters and Ushers John and Linda Thompson
Acolyte Thomas Bullwinkle
Altar Care Emma Deibler
Communion Assistant Rob Stroup
Counters Linda Flood and Sue Kaufmann
Coffee Hour

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