



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## *Ephesians 5:6-20*

*October 20, 2024*

*10:30 Holy Communion*

“Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord,” says Ephesians 5:10. That is easier said than done! ...or is it actually all that hard? Ephesians gives us what we need to see things through God's grace and God's love. That grace and love are not quaint feelings but powerful forces that challenge evil at all times and places.

### *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 Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus  
(for music, please turn to Hymn 802 in the Red Hymnal)

1. Let us ever walk with Jesus,  
follow his example pure,  
through a world that would deceive us  
and to sin our spirits lure.  
Onward in his footsteps treading,  
trav'lers here, our home above,  
full of faith and hope and love,  
let us do our Savior's bidding.  
Faithful Lord, with me abide;  
I shall follow where you guide.
2. Let us suffer here with Jesus,  
and with patience bear our cross.  
Joy will follow all our sadness;  
where he is there is no loss.  
Though today we sow no laughter,  
we shall reap celestial joy;  
All discomforts that annoy  
shall give way to mirth here after.  
Jesus, here I share your woe;  
help me there your joy to know.
3. Let us gladly die with Jesus.  
Since by death he conquered death,  
he will free us from destruction,  
give to us immortal breath.  
Let us mortify all passion  
that would lead us into sin;  
and the grave that shuts us in  
shall but prove the gate of heaven.  
Jesus, here with you I die,  
there to live with you on high.
4. Let us also live with Jesus.  
He has risen from the dead  
that to life we may awaken,

**Jesus, you are now our head,  
we are your own living members;  
where you live, there we shall be  
in your presence constantly,  
living there with you forever.  
Jesus, let me faithful be;  
life eternal grant to me.**

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626-1681; tr. Luthlean Book of Worship, alt. Music: Georg G. Boltze, 18<sup>th</sup> cent..

*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**

Hymn of Praise Goodness is Stronger than Evil  
(For harmonization see Hymn 721 in the Red Hymnal)

**Goodness is stronger than evil;  
love is stronger than hate;  
light is stronger than darkness;  
life is stronger than death;  
vict'ry is ours,  
vict'ry is ours,  
through God who loves us.  
Vict'ry is ours,  
vict'ry is ours,  
through God who loves us.**

Text: From *An African Prayer Book*, Desmond Tutu, b. 1931, copyright 1995 Desmond Tutu, admin. Random House, Inc. and Lynn C. Franklin Associates, Ltd. Music: John L. Bell, b. 1949, copyright 1996 Iona Community, Admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

† WORD †

First Reading Proverbs 9:1-6

B: Wisdom has built her house,  
she has hewn her seven pillars.

<sup>2</sup>She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine,  
she has also set her table.

<sup>3</sup>She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls  
from the highest places in the town,

<sup>4</sup>“You that are simple, turn in here!”

To those without sense she says,

<sup>5</sup>“Come, eat of my bread

and drink of the wine I have mixed.

<sup>6</sup>Lay aside immaturity, and live,  
and walk in the way of insight.”

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Scripture Poetry Psalm 34:9-14 (*Read responsively*)

D: Live in awe of God, you saints:

you will want for nothing.

**C: Even if lions go hungry,  
those seeking God are fed.**

D: Come to me, children, listen:

learn to cherish the Lord.

**C: Do you long for life,  
for time to enjoy success?**

D: Keep your tongue from evil,  
keep lies far from your lips.

**C: Shun evil, go after good,  
press on, seek after peace.**

Second Reading Ephesians 5:6-20

E: <sup>6</sup>Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes on those who are disobedient. <sup>7</sup>Therefore do not be associated with them. <sup>8</sup>For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— <sup>9</sup>for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup>Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; <sup>13</sup>but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” <sup>15</sup>Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, <sup>16</sup>making the most of the time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup>So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. <sup>18</sup>Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup>as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, <sup>20</sup>giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation (Luke 6:35,37)

**C: Alleluia. Love your enemies, and you will be children of the Most High; forgive, and you will be forgiven. Alleluia.**

Gospel Reading Luke 6:32-38

*The gospel is announced:*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>32</sup>“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup>If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup>If 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. <sup>35</sup>But 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. <sup>36</sup>Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

<sup>37</sup>“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup>give, 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.”

*After the reading:*

P: The gospel of the Lord

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

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

*For music turn to Hymn 815 in the Red Hymnal*

**1. I want to walk as a child of the light.**

**I want to follow Jesus.**

**God set the stars to give light to the world.**

**The star of my life is Jesus.**

**Refrain In him there is no darkness at all.**

**The night and the day are both alike.**

**The Lamb is the light of the city of God.**

**Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

**2. I want to see... the brightness of God.  
I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,  
and show me the way to the Father. Refrain**

**3. I'm looking for... the coming of Christ.  
I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run... with patience the race,  
we shall know the joy of Jesus. Refrain**

Text and music: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934, copyright 1970,1975 Celebration

*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: Blessed are you, O God,

**C: source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, 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.**

† 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: Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.

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)*

**818** *O Master, Let Me Walk with You (Red Hymnal)*

**798** *Will You Come and Follow Me (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:

Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

Blessing

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

**C: Amen.**

Sending Hymn Sent Forth by God's Blessing  
(For music see Hymn 547 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Sent forth by God's blessing,  
our true faith confessing,  
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.  
The supper is ended,  
Oh, now be extended  
the fruits of this service in all who believe.  
The seed of Christ's teaching,  
receptive souls reaching,  
shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
Your grace shall incite us,  
your love shall unite us  
to work for your kingdom  
and answer your call.**
2. **With praise and thanksgiving  
to God ever-living,  
the tasks of our ev'ry day life we will face –**

**our faith ever sharing,  
in love ever caring,  
embracing God's children, the whole human race.  
With your feast you feed us,  
with your light now lead us;  
unite us as one in this life that we share.  
Then may all the living  
with praise and thanksgiving  
give honor to Christ  
and his name that we bear.**

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt. Text copyright 1964 World Library Publications Music: Welsh folk tune

*Dismissal*

**P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.**

**C: God's Work. Our Hands.**

**Worship assistants TODAY:**

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	

**Worship assistants for next Sunday, October 27**

Greeters and Ushers	Sue Kaufmann
Acolyte	Alyssa Young
Altar Care	Emma Deibler
Communion Assistant	Linda Flood
Counters	John and Linda Thompson
Coffee Hour	Pie Sunday

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