



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

For we are God's

*masterpiece.*

He has *created* us anew in

Christ Jesus, so we can do the

*good* things He *planned*  
for us long ago.

Ephesians 2:10

## *The 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost*

*September 8, 2024*

*10:30 Service of the Word*

Last week we read the beginning of Ephesians. It was all about grace – the unearned favor we have from God. The idea of grace flows through all of Ephesians. Grace is great. It is God's work, not our own. But now what? If you've been saved by grace, then what is the rest of life about? The author of Ephesians picks up that topic as we continue into chapter 2 of Ephesians 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 shown in the nursery.

# † GATHERING †

## Prelude and Announcements

### Opening of the 2024-2025 Sunday School Year

P: For the marvels of your creation,

**C: we praise you, O God.**

P: For the opportunity to explore and study,

**C: we praise you, O God.**

P: For those who guide us, teachers and mentors,

**C: we praise you, O God.**

P: Teach us your ways and guide us in your path, for you are the creator of all this us, seen and unseen.

**C: Amen**

P: Let us pray: Almighty God, you give wisdom and knowledge. Grant teachers the gift of joy and insight, and students the gift of diligence and openness, that all may grow in what is good and honest and true.

Support all who teach and all who learn, that together we may know and follow your ways; through Jesus the Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen**

P: We begin the 2024-2025 academic year in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

### Gathering Hymn You Are Mine

*(for music see Hymn 581 in the Red Hymnal)*

1. **I will come to you in the silence,  
I will lift you from all your fear.  
You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice,  
be still and know I am here.**

2. **I am hope for all who are hopeless,  
I am eyes for all who long to see.  
In the shadows of the night, I will be your light,  
come and rest in me.**

### *Refrain*

**Do not be afraid, I am with you.  
I have called you each by name.  
Come and follow me, I will bring you home;**

**I love you and you are mine.**

**3. I am strength for all the despairing,  
healing for the ones who dwell in shame.  
All the blind will see, the lame will all run free,  
and all will know my name.     *Refrain***

**4. I am the Word that leads all to freedom,  
I am the peace the world cannot give.  
I will call your name, embracing all your pain.  
Stand up, now walk and live!     *Refrain***

Text and music: David Haas; copyright 1991 GIA Publications; Reprinted under OneLicense.net #S-902689

*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...

O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## † WORD †

### First Reading Ephesians 1:15-2:10

B: <sup>15</sup>I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup>so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup>God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup>And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. <sup>2</sup>You were dead through the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup>All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. <sup>4</sup>But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— <sup>9</sup>not the result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Scripture Poetry Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 (*read responsively*)

D: Give thanks to the Lord of goodness,  
for God is lasting love.

**C: Let those saved by God  
tell their story:**

D: how the Lord snatched them  
from the oppressor's might,

**C: gathering them from east and west,  
from north and south.**

D: Disease struck down others  
for rebelling in their sin.

**C: Sickened by food,  
they almost died.**

D: Then they cried out,  
and God snatched them from danger,

**C: spoke a word of healing,  
and kept them alive.**

D: Let them celebrate God's love,  
all the wonders revealed to them.

**C: Let them offer a sacrifice of praise  
and tell their story with joy.**

Gospel Acclamation (*John 3:16*)

**C: Alleluia. God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life. Alleluia.**

Gospel Reading John 3:14-21

*The gospel is announced:*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

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

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup>Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup>And this is the judgment, that the light has come into

the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

*After the reading:*

P: The gospel of the Lord

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

### Children's Sermon

### Sermon

Hymn of the Day The Church of Christ, in Every Age  
(For music see Hymn 729 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **The church of Christ, in ev'ry age  
beset by change, but Spirit led,  
must claim and test its heritage  
and keep on rising from the dead.**
2. **Across the world, across the street,  
the victims of injustice cry  
for shelter and for bread to eat,  
and never live before they die.**
3. **Then let the servant church arise,  
a caring church that longs to be  
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,  
and clothed in Christ's humanity.**
4. **For he alone, whose blood was shed,  
can cure the fever in our blood,  
and teach us how to share our bread  
and feed the starving multitude.**
5. **We have no mission but to serve  
in full obedience to our Lord;  
to care for all, without reserve,  
and spread his liberating word.**

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

### Hymn of Thanksgiving

Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil

*For music turn to Hymn 713 in the Blue Hymnal*

**Lord, let my heart be good soil,  
open to the seed of your Word.**

**Lord, let my heart be good soil,  
where love can grow and peace is understood.**

**When my heart is hard,  
break the stone away.**

**When my heart is cold,  
warm it with the day.**

**When my heart is lost,  
lead me on your way.**

**Lord, let my heart,**

**Lord, let my heart,**

**Lord, let my heart be good soil.**

Text and music: Handt Hanson, b. 1950, Copyright 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing/Changing Church, Inc.

## 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 The Lord Now Sends Us Forth  
*(For music see Hymn 538 in the Red Hymnal)*

**1. The Lord now sends us forth  
with hands to serve and give,  
to make of all the earth  
a better place to live. (Repeat Verse)**

**2. The angels are not sent  
into our world of pain  
to do what we were meant  
to do in Jesus' name;  
that falls to you and me  
and all who are made free.  
Help us, O Lord, we pray,  
to do your will today. (*Repeat Verse*)**

Text: Jose Aguiar; tr. Gerhard Cartford. Music: Attr. Pedro Infante

**Dismissal**

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

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

"...ABOVE EVERY  
NAME THAT IS  
NAMED..."  
SOUNDS LIKE A  
MARKETING  
SLOGAN



IT'S NOT JUST A  
SLOGAN. JESUS'  
REPUTATION IS  
WITHOUT PARALLEL.



HE ALONE HAS  
THE POWER OF  
LIFE OVER  
DEATH.



SO, A MARKETING  
SLOGAN WITH **HIGH**  
**BRAND VALUE!**



**Worship assistants TODAY:**

Greeters and Ushers	Linda Flood
Acolyte	Thomas Bullwinkle
Counters	Linda Flood and Sue Kaufmann
Coffee Hour	God's Work Our Hands Lunch

**Worship assistants for next Sunday, September 15**

Greeters and Ushers	Janice Lockwood
Acolyte	Alyssa Young
Altar Care	Linn Griffio
Communion Assistant	Sally Mansfield
Counters	John and Linda Thompson
Coffee Hour	

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The Rev. Jonathan Deibler, Pastor  
William Shi, Pianist