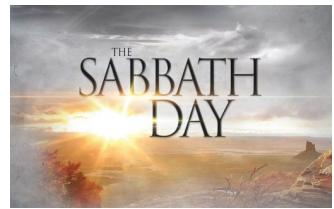


St. John Lutheran Church ELCA

Waseca, MN



Sunday, January 31, 2021

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

GATHERING

Introduction

Deuteronomy makes clear that sabbath-keeping is meant for the welfare of all. God delivered the Israelites out of slavery, so they should observe this freedom with a day of rest. Jesus does not reject sabbath-keeping but defends its original life-enhancing meaning. In three separate sabbath-related stories, Jesus demonstrates the meaning of Sabbath. Our worship and our life of prayer are meant to lead to restoration: the hungry being fed, the sick being healed, people being called to follow Jesus, and our important decisions grounded in prayer.

Welcome and Announcement

(please stand)

Call to Worship

- P *Gather us in, the brokenhearted and the joyful.*
- C **Gather us in, the weak and the strong.**
- P *Gather us in, the fearful and the brave.*
- C **Gather us in, the young and the old.**
- P *Gather us in, to sing of God's works.*
- C **Gather us in, to praise Jesus Christ.**
- P *Gather us in, to worship and wonder.*
- C **Gather us in, to know of God's love.**

Opening Hymn: (purple)

#68 I was glad

~Refrain~

***I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."
I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."***

1. *Called from ev'ry nation, called from ev'ry race, gathered here for worship in this holy place;
God is here among us, lift your hearts and sing, make the walls and rafters ring.*

~Refrain~

2. *Words that must be spoken, grace that must be heard, mercy and forgiveness from God's holy word,
here will be repeated; peace to all proclaimed, shouted out in Jesus' name.*

~Refrain~

~Refrain~

***I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord.”
I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord.”***

3. Here the poor are welcomed, here the lost are claimed. Broken lives are mended, deepest fears are named. Here the wise are children and the weak are strong. Here, in Christ, we all belong.

Prayer of the Day

P Almighty and ever-living God, throughout time you free the oppressed, heal the sick, and make whole all that you have made. Look with compassion on the world wounded by sin, and by your power restore us to wholeness of life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Hymn of Praise (purple) #53 Great is the Lord (2 times)

*Great is the Lord, he is holy and just, by his power we trust in his love.
Great is the Lord, he is faithful and true, by his mercy he proves he is love.
Great is the Lord, and worthy of glory. Great is the Lord, and worthy praise.
Great is the Lord, now lift up your voice, now lift up your voice:
Great is the Lord! Great is the Lord!*

(please be seated)

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

First Reading: Deuteronomy 5:12-15

This portion of the Ten Commandments instructs the Israelites to keep the sabbath. The Israelites are to rest, and they are to allow their slaves, their livestock, and the foreigners living among them to do the same.

¹²Observe the sabbath day and keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you. ¹³Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁴But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, or your son or your daughter, or your male or female slave, or your ox or your donkey, or any of your livestock, or the resident alien in your towns, so that your male and female slave may rest as well as you. ¹⁵Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore, the Lord your God commanded you to keep the sabbath day.

R The Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

(please stand)

Gospel Acclamation #7 Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?

Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.

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P *The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixth chapter,*

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

Gospel: Luke 6:1-16

Jesus challenges the prevailing interpretation of what is lawful on the sabbath and tells his critics that the sabbath was made for humankind, not the other way around. The Sabbath is meant for restoring people to life in God.

¹One sabbath while Jesus was going through the grain fields, his disciples plucked some heads of grain, rubbed them in their hands, and ate them. ²But some of the Pharisees said, "Why are you doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?" ³Jesus answered, "Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? ⁴He entered the house of God and took and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and gave some to his companions?" ⁵Then he said to them, "The Son of Man is lord of the sabbath."

⁶On another sabbath he entered the synagogue and taught, and there was a man there whose right hand was withered. ⁷The scribes and the Pharisees watched him to see whether he would cure on the sabbath, so that they might find an accusation against him. ⁸Even though he knew what they were thinking, he said to the man who had the withered hand, "Come and stand here." He got up and stood there. ⁹Then Jesus said to them, "I ask you, is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to destroy it?" ¹⁰After looking around at all of them, he said to him, "Stretch out your hand." He did so, and his hand was restored. ¹¹But they were filled with fury and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus.

¹²Now during those days he went out to the mountain to pray; and he spent the night in prayer to God. ¹³And when day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles: ¹⁴Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew, and James, and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, ¹⁵and Matthew, and Thomas, and James son of Alphaeus, and Simon, who was called the Zealot, ¹⁶and Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

P *The Gospel of the Lord.*

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

Hymn: (purple)

#146 We are an offering

1. *We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering.*
Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering.
All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you we give to you.
We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:
we are an offering, we are an offering.

Message

Questions about Sabbath

Pastor John Omans

Message Song (purple)

#126 Sing Out, Earth and Skies

1. *Come, O God of all the earth: come to us, O Righteous One; come, and bring our love to birth: in the glory of your Son.*

~Refrain~

**Sing out, earth and skies! Sing of the God who loves you!
Raise your joyful cries! Dance to the life around you!**

2. *Come, O God of wind and flame: fill the earth with righteousness; teach us all to sing your name: may our lives your love confess.*

~Refrain~

3. *Come, O God of flashing light: twinkling star and burning sun; God of day and God of night: in your light we all are one.*

~Refrain~

4. *Come, O God of snow and rain: shower down up on the earth; come, O God of joy and pain: God of sorrow, God of mirth.*

~Refrain~

5. *Come, O Justice, come, O Peace: come and shape our hearts anew; come and make oppression cease: bring us all to life in you.*

~Refrain~

(Please Stand)

Apostles' Creed

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 into hell. 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.

Confession and Forgiveness

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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.

Amen

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 and self-examination.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage 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

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The Prayers of the Church

Hymn (cranberry)

#178 Hear Our Prayer

**Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, Lord, make us whole:
peace to all people, hope for each soul.
God of grace, in this place, hear now our prayer.**

The Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

P Share a greeting of Christ's peace with one another.

(We share Christ's Peace)

(please be seated)

Stewardship Minute

I give thanks for our Church Council Leaders today! They have given of their time and talents in leading and serving the Mission and Ministry that we share together in and through St. John Lutheran Church. We have been blessed by our Council Leaders! Thanks be to God!

Offering Invitation (*offering may be placed in offering plates located at corner of side aisle*)

Offering Prayer

P Merciful God,

C **we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen

Lord's Prayer

P *Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.*

C **Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and forever.**

Amen.

Blessing

P The blessing of God,
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
+ be upon you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

SENDING

(please stand)

Sending Song (purple) **#135 The church song**

~Refrain~

**We are the church, the body of our Lord: we are all God's children.
We have been restored.**

1. *The church is not a building where people go to pray;
it's not made out of sticks and stones, it's not made out of clay.*

~Refrain~

2. *You can go to worship but you cannot go to church;
you can't find a building that's alive no matter how you search.*

~Refrain~

3. *The church is not a business, a committee or a board;
it's not a corporation for the business of the Lord.*

~Refrain~

4. *The church, it is the people living out their lives,
called, enlightened, sanctified for the work of Jesus Christ.*

~Refrain~

P *Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.*

C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

PLEASE WAIT FOR USHERS TO EXIT YOU OUT OF PEWS.

Leaders in the Service

Pastor: John Omans

Organist: Al Tonn

Acolyte: Siri Kuhns

Reader: Brenda Langerud

Ushers: Steve & Jody Schroeder

Council Person: Mike Schlueter

Videographer: Gyles Randall

Thank you to all these members of St. John for offering their time and talents.