

**Sermon for the 4th Sunday after Pentecost [3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Trinity] (A), & vi.08  
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Saint James the Apostle / Brogue, Pennsylvania  
Hosea 5:15—6:6; Psalm 50:7-15; Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26  
Holy Eucharist: ELW Spoken Order, 8:30 a.m.; Summer Worship Order + Sacrament of  
Holy Baptism for Talan Charles Miller, 10:00 a.m.**

## **J. J.!**

Grace to you and peace from Him Who is and Who was and  
Who is to come! ✠ Amen.

**As Jesus was walking along . . . .**

**--Matthew 9:9**

The great rivers of this world are a marvel to think upon. Some stand out because of their beauty, like our own Susquehanna, perhaps the most painted river in the United States of America. Some provide a constant link with the ages, the great Nile of Egypt, the Tigris and Euphrates of Iraq, or the Ganges of India, sacred to millions upon millions for at least 7,000 years. Some rivers are known for their power and utility, the Yang-tze of China, the Vistula of Poland, the Rhine of Germany or Volga

and Neva of Russia and or our own wide Mississippi. Others astonish us with their sheer immensity, the Anaconda and Amazon, to name but few. But, as different as these rivers may be, one from another, they share have two things in common: All rivers *move*, and all rivers *touch all life* along their banks and far inland.

If you had asked anyone, including Matthew the tax-farmer himself, whom Jesus would call to be His Disciple on that day, the answer would not have been ‘Matthew.’ If you had asked any parent bereft of a child on that day which child Jesus would choose in whom to show the Father’s glory, it would not have been the Synagogue president, who had been taught by the Pharisees that Jesus was a hypocrite. If you had asked any of the thousands of women in that land who had been rendered not only ill but also ritually unclean by changes in their bodies over which they had no control whether help would

come to her on that very day, I doubt that that woman who touched His garment in desperate hope would have been the one to predict it. But on *that* day, the Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God walked by them all!

On that day, the cleansing of the whole nation and the cleansing of the whole world begun by John in the River Jordan, exceeded the banks of any river as the love of God passed by them and touched the rejected and despised, the grief-stricken and the hopeless. The Jordan River we see on a map, as a river, has few uses. It only grudgingly shares its water for irrigation. It is not navigable for cargo or transportation. It may denote a border, but the banks of that river have not let the people of the region live in peace.

But the Jordan is a special river, for as the river in which Jesus was Baptized, it is a font of grace that flows around the world and through every believing heart. This river flows

where Jesus walks by, and He walks by here, at this font, today. The river of God's grace touches us, lifts us up off the banks of despair and forward in love. The world has reason to fear for this tiny child, but the Church proclaims a glorious future for Tallan Charles today, as he is washed and lifted and carried forward by Christ his Lord and ours, as the Jesus passes by this way today. Ten generations have received the waters of grace from the bowl we use today, and many more from this font, but *thousands upon thousands* are the number of the generations into which Tallan Charles enters as a child of God and a soldier of the Church militant.

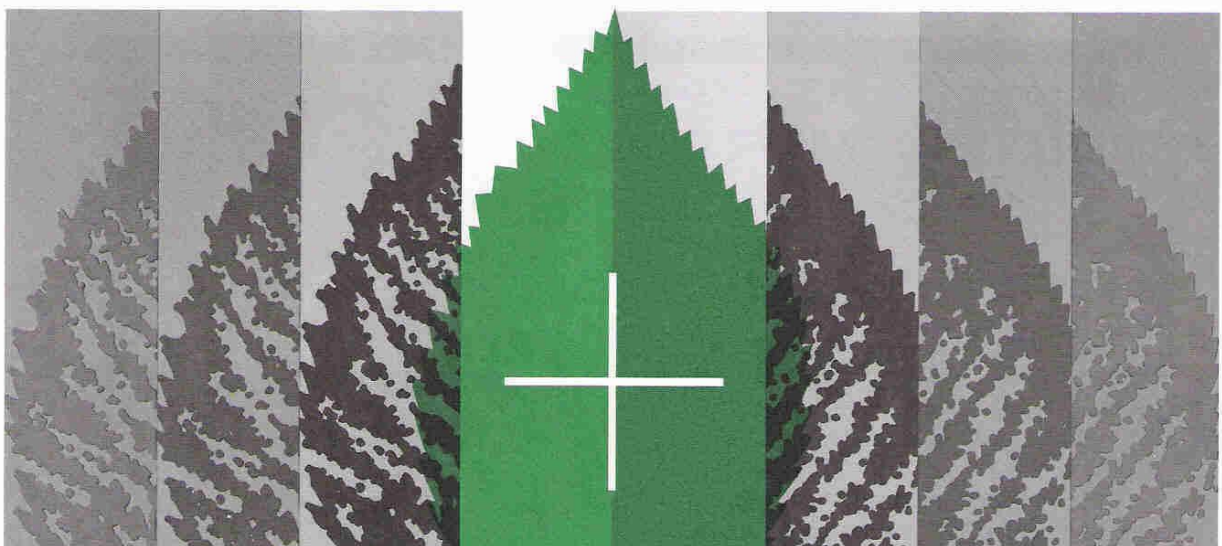
God the Father grant us the grace to care for this life so that the river of God's grace continues to rise up and move within this child unto full spiritual manhood. God the Son make us mindful that we swim with him in the same stream as both our brother and child in this one, holy, catholic and

apostolic Church. God the Holy Spirit cause the river of God's love to flow through his life also, a joy and a caution to all who love him all his days and praise before God's face. ✠ Amen.



Now to Him Who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood, and has made of us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion with the Father and the Holy Spirit, both now and forever.

✠ Amen.



**S. D. G.!**