



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



The Prophet Malachi. Hoey, Nicolas d' 16th century & 17th century

## *The Prophets - Malachi*

*August 1, 2021*

*10:30 Holy Communion*

In Christian Bibles Malachi is the last book of the Old Testament. In Christian thought it is somewhat of a bridge to the New Testament. Malachi's writings shaped the way the earliest Christians understood the ministry of Jesus. Today we'll explore that and also let Malachi speak on his own terms. He was addressing persistent problems of his own times; and many of those problems continue today.

### *Welcome to worship today!*

Please observe social distancing and remain conscious of the need to prevent the spread of infectious disease. In this bulletin is an insert that will be used to determine today's attendance. It will also help to identify who was here if contact tracing is necessary. Please fill it out and place it in the offering plate.

# † GATHERING †

## Prelude and Announcements

### Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,  
the God of manna,  
the God of miracles,  
the God of mercy.

**C: Amen.**

P: Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

*Silence for reflection.*

P: God, our provider,

**C: help us.**

**It is hard to believe there is enough to share.**

**We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world  
in which we live.**

**We turn to our own understanding  
rather than trusting in you.**

**We take offense at your teachings and your ways.**

**Turn us again to you.**

**Where else can we turn?**

**Share with us the words of eternal life  
and feed us for life in the world.**

**Amen.**

P: Beloved people of God:

in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished.

By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough.

Through Jesus, the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are  
forgiven and loved into abundant life.

**C: Amen.**

Gathering Hymn Holy God, We Praise Your Name  
(For music see Hymn 414 in the Red Hymnal)

**1. Holy God, we praise your name;  
Lord of all, we bow before you.  
All on earth your scepter claim,  
all in heav'n above adore you.  
Infinite your vast domain,**

everlasting is your reign.

2. **Hark! The glad celestial hymn  
angel choirs above are raising;  
cherubim and seraphim,  
in unceasing chorus praising,  
fill the heav'ns with sweet accord:  
“Holy, holy, holy Lord!”**
  
3. **Lo, the apostolic train  
join your sacred name to hallow;  
prophets swell the glad refrain,  
and the white-robed martyrs follow;  
and from morn to set of sun  
through the church the song goes on.**
  
4. **Holy Father, holy Son,  
Holy Spirit, three we name you,  
though in essence only one;  
undivided God we claim you  
and, adoring, bend the knee  
while we own the mystery.**

Text: source unknown; tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1820-1900. Music: *Katholisches Gesangbuch*, Vienna, 1774

*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.**

*Prayer of the Day*

A: Let us pray...

God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory and worship you in spirit and truth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## † WORD †

### First Reading Malachi 2:17-4:6

B: <sup>17</sup>You have wearied the LORD with your words. Yet you say, “How have we wearied him?” By saying, “All who do evil are good in the sight of the LORD, and he delights in them.” Or by asking, “Where is the God of justice?”

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; <sup>3</sup>he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. <sup>5</sup>Then I will draw near to you for judgment; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

D: For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, have not perished. <sup>7</sup>Ever since the days of your ancestors you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. But you say, “How shall we return?” <sup>8</sup>Will anyone rob God? Yet you are robbing me! But you say, “How are we robbing you?” In your tithes and offerings! <sup>9</sup>You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me—the whole nation of you! <sup>10</sup>Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing. <sup>11</sup>I will rebuke the locust for you, so that it will not destroy the produce of your soil; and your vine in the field shall not be barren, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>12</sup>Then all nations will count you happy, for you will be a land of delight, says the LORD of hosts.

E: You have spoken harsh words against me, says the LORD. Yet you say, “How have we spoken against you?” <sup>14</sup>You have said, “It is vain to serve God. What do we profit by keeping his command or by going about as mourners before the LORD of hosts? <sup>15</sup>Now we count the arrogant happy; evildoers not only prosper, but when they put God to the

test they escape.” <sup>16</sup>Then those who revered the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD took note and listened, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who revered the LORD and thought on his name. <sup>17</sup>They shall be mine, says the LORD of hosts, my special possession on the day when I act, and I will spare them as parents spare their children who serve them. <sup>18</sup>Then once more you shall see the difference between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.

<sup>4</sup>See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. <sup>2</sup>But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. <sup>3</sup>And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.

F: Remember the teaching of my servant Moses, the statutes and ordinances that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel. <sup>5</sup>Lo, I will send you the prophet Elijah before the great and terrible day of the LORD comes. <sup>6</sup>He will turn the hearts of parents to their children and the hearts of children to their parents, so that I will not come and strike the land with a curse.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Scripture Poetry Psalm 25:1-7 (*read responsively*)

A: Lord, I give myself to you.

I trust you, God;  
do not fail me,  
nor let my enemies gloat.

**C: No one loyal is shamed,  
but traitors know disgrace.**

A: Teach me how to live,  
Lord, show me the way.

**C: Steer me toward your truth,  
you, my saving God,  
you, my constant hope.**

A: Recall your tenderness,  
your lasting love.

**C: Remember not my faults,  
the sins of my youth.  
To show your own goodness,  
God, remember me.**

Gospel Acclamation (Luke 7:16)

**C: Alleluia. A great prophet has risen among us! God has looked favorably on us! Alleluia.**

Gospel Reading Matthew 11:7-19

*The gospel is announced:*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.’

<sup>11</sup>Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. <sup>12</sup>From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. <sup>13</sup>For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John came; <sup>14</sup>and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. <sup>15</sup>Let anyone with ears listen!

<sup>16</sup>“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, <sup>17</sup>‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’ <sup>18</sup>For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; <sup>19</sup>the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

*After the reading:*

P: The Gospel of the Lord

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

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day      We Praise You, O God  
(For music see Hymn 870 in the Red Hymnal)

1. We praise you, O God, our redeemer, creator;  
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.  
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;  
we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.
2. We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers;  
through trial and tempest our guide you have been.  
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,  
and with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.
3. With voices united our praises we offer  
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.  
With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us.  
To you, our great redeemer, forever be praise!

Text: Julia C. Cory, 1882-1963. Music: A Valerius, *Nederlandisch Gedenckclanck*, 1626

Apostles' Creed

P: We join in confessing 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.**

### 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.

*The pastor will begin the prayer with a petition and then invites the congregation to add additional petitions and thanksgivings. These three petitions will be read by people in the congregation:*

A: We lament all who this past week have died through sickness, disaster, or violence. We praise you for all who have ministered in your church throughout the world. And we pray that at the end of all things, we will join with all the saints at your banquet of joy. Lord in your mercy...

**C: Hear our prayer.**

B: We lament that countless people suffer daily from hunger and thirst. And we pray: lead us to provide food and clean water to all peoples; strengthen ELCA World Hunger programs and sustain the efforts of local food banks. Lord in your mercy...

**C: Hear our prayer.**

E: We lament that the coronavirus continues to kill thousands each week. And we pray: send healing to all the sick and suffering, especially to those who receive no medical care; look with compassion on health care workers; and visit all whose pain is known only to you. Lord in your mercy...

**C: Hear our prayer.**

*The pastor concludes the prayer:*

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

### Peace

A: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

A: We share that peace with one another.

*The congregation may greet one another with messages of Christ's peace.*



## † MEAL †

### Special Music

#### Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray:

**C: Jesus, Bread of life,  
you have set this table with your very self,  
and called us to this feast of plenty.**

**Gather what has been sown among us,  
and strengthen us in this meal.**

**Make us to be what we receive here,  
your body for the life of the world.**

**Amen**

#### 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.**

Communion Distribution

*Welcome to the Lord's Supper! All who are baptized are invited to receive communion. The pastor will bring a wafer to you and place it in your hands. The communion assistant will follow with a tray of grape juice or wine. If you need a gluten free option please tell the pastor.*

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

F: Let us pray: Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.

**C: Amen.**

† SENDING †

*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 Hymn*    Rise Up, O Saints of God!  
(For music see Hymn 669 in the Red Hymnal)

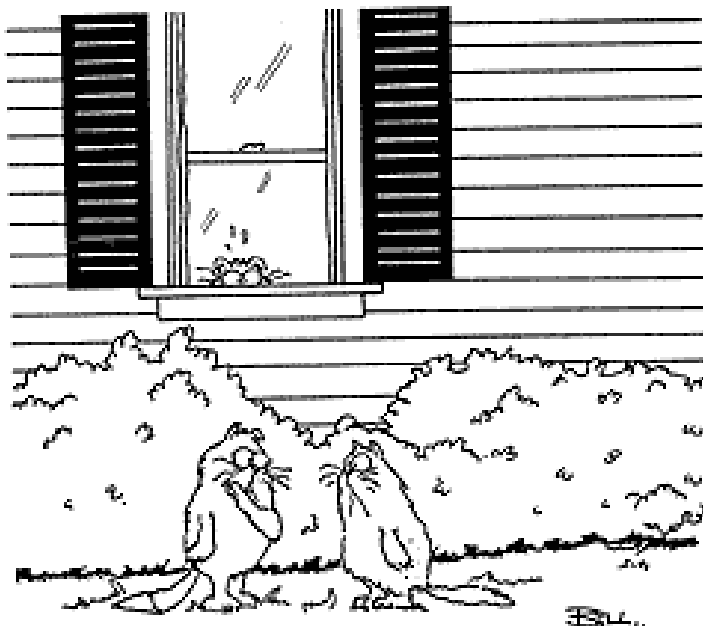
1. **Rise up, O saints of God!**  
From vain ambitions turn;  
Christ rose triumphant that your hearts  
with nobler zeal might burn.
2. **Speak out, O saints of God!**  
Despair engulfs earth's frame;  
as heirs of God's baptismal grace,  
the word of hope proclaim.
3. **Rise up, O saints of God!**  
The kingdom's task embrace;  
redress sin's cruel consequence;  
give justice larger place.
4. **Give heed, O saints of God!**  
Creation cries in pain;  
stretch forth your hand of healing now,  
with love the weak sustain.
5. **Commit your hearts to seek**  
**the paths which Christ has trod;**  
**and, quickened by the Spirit's pow'r,**  
**rise up, O saints of God!**

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936, copyright Norman O Forness, admin. Augsburg Fortress.. Music: William H. Walter, 1825-1893

*Dismissal*

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

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



"I heard the pastor who lives here was preaching about the Old Testament practice of 'animal sacrifice' this morning... I sure hope Whiskers isn't in any danger."

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