



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## *The Prophets - Jonah*

*August 15, 2021*

*10:30 Holy Communion*

The historical man Jonah was active in the 8<sup>th</sup> century B.C.E. during the time of King Jeroboam II, the king of Israel. The prophetic book that bears his name, however, is not an historical record. It is perhaps best understood as a satire. It uses many exaggerations, it's silly and is downright funny. Like all good satires though, Jonah reveals a truth about people and challenges them to live better.

### *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 Travelers on the Journey  
(For music turn to Hymn 37 in the Songbook binder)

*Refrain*

**We are**

**trav'lers on the journey**

**yearning to believe!**

**Hearts are burning**

**eyes are opened.**

**We are**

**trav'lers on the journey of love.**

**1. What is life really all about  
in the struggle of faith?**

**Hear the word reaching out to you,  
Jesus is alive today.**

*Refrain*

**2. Do we walk in our foolishness  
with our hearts ever slow  
to the touch of the Holy One  
who is with us on this road?**

*Refrain*

**3. We are blessed in the gathering  
at the table of grace.  
free to see in another's pain  
the face of Jesus here today.**

*Refrain*

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*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 life, the scriptures speak to us in many ways: through warnings, encouragement, teachings, and even satire. Open our hearts to find delight in the prophet Jonah and help us to take to heart the deeper messages woven throughout the story.

**C: Amen.**

† WORD †

*First Reading* Jonah 1

**B:** Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Go at once to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before me.” <sup>3</sup>But Jonah set out to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa and

found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid his fare and went on board, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD.  
<sup>4</sup>But the LORD hurled a great wind upon the sea, and such a mighty storm came upon the sea that the ship threatened to break up. <sup>5</sup>Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried to his god. They threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea, to lighten it for them. Jonah, meanwhile, had gone down into the hold of the ship and had lain down, and was fast asleep. <sup>6</sup>The captain came and said to him, "What are you doing sound asleep? Get up, call on your god! Perhaps the god will spare us a thought so that we do not perish." <sup>7</sup>The sailors said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, so that we may know on whose account this calamity has come upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. <sup>8</sup>Then they said to him, "Tell us why this calamity has come upon us. What is your occupation? Where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?" <sup>9</sup>"I am a Hebrew," he replied. "I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land." <sup>10</sup>Then the men were even more afraid, and said to him, "What is this that you have done!" For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them so.  
<sup>11</sup>Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?" For the sea was growing more and more tempestuous. <sup>12</sup>He said to them, "Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you; for I know it is because of me that this great storm has come upon you." <sup>13</sup>Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring the ship back to land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more stormy against them. <sup>14</sup>Then they cried out to the LORD, "Please, O LORD, we pray, do not let us perish on account of this man's life. Do not make us guilty of innocent blood; for you, O LORD, have done as it pleased you." <sup>15</sup>So they picked Jonah up and threw him into the sea; and the sea ceased from its raging. <sup>16</sup>Then the men feared the LORD even more, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows. <sup>17</sup>But the LORD provided a large fish to swallow up Jonah; and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Scripture Poetry Jonah 2

D: Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish, <sup>2</sup>saying,

"I called to the LORD out of my distress,  
and he answered me;

**C: out of the belly of Sheol I cried,**

**and you heard my voice.**

D: <sup>3</sup>You cast me into the deep,  
into the heart of the seas,  
and the flood surrounded me;

**C: all your waves and your billows  
passed over me.**

D: <sup>4</sup>Then I said, ‘I am driven away  
from your sight;

**C: how shall I look again  
upon your holy temple?’**

D: <sup>5</sup>The waters closed in over me;  
the deep surrounded me;

**C: weeds were wrapped around my head  
at the roots of the mountains.**

D: I went down to the land  
whose bars closed upon me forever;

**C: yet you brought up my life from the Pit,  
O LORD my God.**

D: <sup>7</sup>As my life was ebbing away,  
I remembered the LORD;

**C: and my prayer came to you,  
into your holy temple.**

D: <sup>8</sup>Those who worship vain idols  
forsake their true loyalty.

**C: <sup>9</sup>But I with the voice of thanksgiving  
will sacrifice to you;**

D: what I have vowed I will pay.  
Deliverance belongs to the LORD!”

**C: <sup>10</sup>Then the LORD spoke to the fish, and it spewed Jonah out upon  
the dry land.**

Second Reading Jonah 3-4

E: The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” <sup>3</sup>So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. <sup>4</sup>Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!”

<sup>5</sup>And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. <sup>6</sup>When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. <sup>7</sup>Then he had a proclamation

made in Nineveh: “By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human being or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything. They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water. <sup>8</sup>Human beings and animals shall be covered with sackcloth, and they shall cry mightily to God. All shall turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands. <sup>9</sup>Who knows? God may relent and change his mind; he may turn from his fierce anger, so that we do not perish.” <sup>10</sup>When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

F: But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup>He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. <sup>3</sup>And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” <sup>4</sup>And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?”

<sup>5</sup>Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. <sup>6</sup>The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. <sup>7</sup>But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. <sup>8</sup>When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.” <sup>9</sup>But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” <sup>10</sup>Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup>And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Acclamation (John 6:68)*

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

Gospel Reading Matthew 12:38-42

*The gospel is announced:*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>38</sup>Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to him, “Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you.” <sup>39</sup>But he answered them, “An evil and adulterous generation asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. <sup>40</sup>For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so for three days and three nights the Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth. <sup>41</sup>The people of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the proclamation of Jonah, and see, something greater than Jonah is here! <sup>42</sup>The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to listen to the wisdom of Solomon, and see, something greater than Solomon is here!

*After the reading:*

P: The Gospel of the Lord

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

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Messiah

*(for music, please turn to Hymn 61 in the Songbook)*

1. **Someone’s shouting from the desert.**  
**Someone’s shouting from the sea.**  
**Someone’s shouting from the mountain.**  
**Someone’s shouting from the valley.**

*Chorus*

**Messiah, come and be our King.**  
**Messiah, come and be our King..**

2. **Someone’s shouting from the city.**  
**I am young, I am cold.**  
**Someone’s shouting from the country.**  
**I am lonely, I am old.**

*Chorus*

3. **Someone's shouting I am broken.**  
**Someone's shouting make me whole.**  
**Someone's shouting come and change me.**  
**Someone's shouting save my soul.** *Chorus*

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*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: Bring warmth and delight to our hearts. Help us to see the world as a place where you have provided abundance. Make us good stewards of all that we have. Lord in your mercy...

**C: Hear our prayer.**

B: On this day that commemorates the end of World War II, we pray for world peace. Bless the people of Germany and Japan. Defend the children of Afghanistan, Ethiopia, and other places filled with violence.



Give to every nation the resolve to be done with the horrors of warfare. Lord in your mercy...

**C: Hear our prayer.**

E: We pray for the earth. Lessen the devastation of climate change. Extinguish wildfires throughout the world. Protect the bees and all endangered animals. By the strength of your arm, save your creation. 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* All My Relatives  
(for music please turn to Hymn 52 in the Songbook)

- 1. Listen my sister, listen my brother,  
so many features, so many colors;  
I have not loved you like I should love you  
if I believe that God is love.**

*Refrain*

**Ev'ry face, All My Relatives.  
Ev'ry race, All My Relatives.  
Ev'ry place, All My Relatives.  
Hear creation sing,  
one with ev'ry thing.**

- 2. Where there is hurting, we share the hurting.  
Where there is justice, we share the justice.  
Where there is praising, we share the praising.  
If we believe that God is love.**

*Refrain*

- 3. Where there is suff'ring, we share the suff'ring.  
Where there is praising, we share the praising.  
Where there is freedom, we share the freedom  
If we believe that God is love.**

*Refrain*

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*Dismissal*

**P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
C: God's Work. Our Hands.**

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