



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



The Prophets – “1st Isaiah”

August 22, 2021

10:30 Service of the Word

Isaiah is the second largest book of the Bible. Its 66 chapters appear to a compilation of work from multiple authors living over a few centuries. Isaiah is generally broken into three sections: 1st Isaiah includes the words of the original prophet Isaiah and comprises chapters 1-39. 2nd Isaiah was written during the exile and goes from chapter 40 to 55. Third Isaiah comes from after the exile and covers chapters 56-66. Today we will look at the words of the original prophet Isaiah. His words were stinging to the people of his time, and they are still stinging words 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 Let the Whole Creation Cry
(For music see Hymn 876 in the Red Hymnal)

- 1. Let the whole creation cry,
"Glory to the Lord on high!"
Heav'n and earth, awake and sing,
"Praise to our almighty king!"
Praise God, angel hosts above,**

**ever bright and fair in love;
sun and moon, lift up your voice;
night and stars, in God rejoice.**

- 2. Servants striving for the Lord,
prophets burning with the word,
those to whom the arts belong
add their voices to the song.
Pow'rs of knowledge and of law,
to the glorious circle draw;
all who work and all who wait,
sing, "The Lord is good and great!"**
- 3. Men and women, young and old,
raise the anthem loud and bold,
and let children's happy hearts
in this worship take their parts;
from the north to southern pole
let the mighty chorus roll:
"Holy, Holy, Holy One;
Glory be to God alone!"**

Text: Stopford A. Brooke, 1832-1916, alt. Music: Jakob Hintze, 1622-1702; arr. J.S. Bach, 1685-1750, adapt.

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:

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son. Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred that infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; and, through our struggle and confusion, work to accomplish your purposes on earth; so that, in your good time, every people and nation may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading Isaiah 6

B: In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke.

⁵And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” ⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

⁹And he said, “Go and say to this people:
‘Keep listening, but do not comprehend;
keep looking, but do not understand.’

¹⁰Make the mind of this people dull,
and stop their ears,
and shut their eyes,

so that they may not look with their eyes,
and listen with their ears,
and comprehend with their minds,
and turn and be healed.”

¹¹Then I said, “How long, O Lord?” And he said:

“Until cities lie waste
without inhabitant,
and houses without people,
and the land is utterly desolate;

¹²until the LORD sends everyone far away,
and vast is the emptiness in the midst of the land.

¹³Even if a tenth part remain in it,
it will be burned again,
like a terebinth or an oak
whose stump remains standing

when it is felled.”

The holy seed is its stump.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Isaiah 1:12-20 (*read responsively*)

D: When you come to appear before me,
who asked this from your hand?

Trample my courts no more;

**C: bringing offerings is futile;
incense is an abomination to me.**

D: New moon and sabbath and calling of convocation—
I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity.

**C: Your new moons and your appointed festivals
my soul hates;**

**they have become a burden to me,
I am weary of bearing them.**

D: When you stretch out your hands,
I will hide my eyes from you;

**C: even though you make many prayers,
I will not listen;
your hands are full of blood.**

D: Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean;
remove the evil of your doings
from before my eyes;

**C: cease to do evil,
¹⁷learn to do good;**

**seek justice,
rescue the oppressed,
defend the orphan,
plead for the widow.**

D: Come now, let us argue it out,
says the LORD:

**C: though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be like snow;
though they are red like crimson,
they shall become like wool.**

D: If you are willing and obedient,
you shall eat the good of the land;

**C: but if you refuse and rebel,
you shall be devoured by the sword;
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.**

Gospel Acclamation (Isaiah 6:3)

C: Alleluia. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading Matthew 15:1-9

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 15th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, ²“Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands before they eat.” ³He answered them, “And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? ⁴For God said, ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘Whoever speaks evil of father or mother must surely die.’ ⁵But you say that whoever tells father or mother, ‘Whatever support you might have had from me is given to God,’ then that person need not honor the father. ⁶So, for the sake of your tradition, you make void the word of God. ⁷You hypocrites! Isaiah prophesied rightly about you when he said:

⁸“This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
⁹in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.”

After the reading:

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

(for music, see Hymn 574 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **“I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin
my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?”**

Refrain **Here I am, Lord.**

Is it I, Lord?

**I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord,
If you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.**

2. **“I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people’s pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?”**

Refrain

3. **“I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?”**

Refrain

Text: Daniel Schutte. Music: Daniel Schutte; arr. Michael Pope, SJ, Daniel Schutte, and John Weissrock.
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Response to the Word

E: 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.

E: 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.**

E: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

C: pray in the Holy Spirit. *(Jude 20)*

E: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

C: look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. *(Jude 21)*

E: 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)*

‡ PRAYER ‡

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.

A: O majestic Maker, receive our prayer:

C: we put our trust in you.

For the nations of the world,

For the people of Afghanistan,

For wisdom in the deployment of our military,

For our legislators as they consider the way forward from January 6,

For an end to historic and continuing prejudices,

And for a passion for justice and equality in our land,

C: hear our prayer.

B: O peaceful Protector, receive our prayer:

C: we put our trust in you.

For travelers and vacationers,

For youth leaving home for college,

For the aged living apart from family members,

And for constancy in our care for one another,

C: hear our prayer.

E: O gracious Guardian, receive our prayer:

C: we put our trust in you.

For those who are in need,

For the people of Haiti,

For all who are imprisoned,

For those contracting the coronavirus, especially the children,

For those who this week will receive a disturbing diagnosis,

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.

Special Music

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

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn We are a Chosen People of God
For music please turn to Hymn 79 in the Songbook binder

Refrain

**We are a chosen people of God;
called into light and gathered in love;
redeemed and held by the holy one.
We are a chosen people of God.**

**1. Look around you and see
people in your neighborhood;
endless variety
God has created good.
We're a part of it all, chosen and called. *Refrain***

**2. Look around you and see
the blessing given us;
earth, sky, and sea;
they're all placed in our trust.
We're a part of it all, chosen and called. *Refrain***

**3. Look around you and see
not all is going right.
In this mystery;
We're called to be a light.
We're a part of it all, chosen and called. *Refrain***

Text and music: David Lee Brown, Larry Olson, Karol Baer; copyright 1990 Dakota Road Music, used by permission

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.



"I just set up a worship site on the Internet. Now I'm an E-vangelist."

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