



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

THOSE WHO HOPE
IN THE LORD WILL
RENEW THEIR
STRENGTH. THEY
WILL SOAR ON
WINGS LIKE EAGLES;
THEY WILL RUN
AND NOT GROW
WEARY, THEY WILL
WALK AND WILL
NOT BE FAINT.

- ISAIAH 40:31 -



heartlight.org

The Prophets – “2nd Isaiah”

August 29, 2021 *10:30 Service of the Word*

Today we read from Isaiah 40, which is considered to be from “2nd Isaiah”. 2nd Isaiah covers chapters 40-55. It was most likely written in the city of Babylon sometime between 545 and 539 B.C.E. Decades have passed since the destruction of Jerusalem. All has been lost, but in the loss the people have discovered new and deeper truths about God. The tone of chapter 40 is a marked contrast to what we’ve experienced from the prophets thus far. Other messages have been doom and gloom, and threats of destruction. But Isaiah 40 is a message of comfort, promises, and hope for the near future.

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 Come Let Us Worship and Bow Down
(For music turn to Hymn 7 in the Songbook binder)

Verse

**Come let us worship and bow down
Let us kneel before the Lord
Our God our maker
Come let us worship and bow down
Let us kneel before the Lord
Our God our Maker
For He is our God
And we are the people of His pasture
And the sheep of His hand
Just the sheep of His hand**

Repeat

Text and music: Dave Doherty; Copyright 1980 Maranatha Praise, Inc.; CCLI #27329

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, full of compassion, we commit and commend ourselves to you, in whom we live and move and have our being. Be the goal of our pilgrimage, and our rest by the way. Give us refuge from the turmoil of worldly distractions beneath the shadow of your wings. Let our hearts, so often a sea of restless waves, find peace in you, O God, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

‡ WORD ‡

First Reading Isaiah 40:1-6

B: Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,

that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Isaiah 40:6-11 (read responsively)

D: A voice says, “Cry out!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

**C: All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.**

⁷**The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.**

D: The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

**C: Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;**

D: say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”

¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;

**C: his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.**

D: He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,

**C: and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.**

Second Reading Isaiah 40:1-6

E:¹²Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand
and marked off the heavens with a span,
enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure,
and weighed the mountains in scales
and the hills in a balance?

¹³Who has directed the spirit of the LORD,
or as his counselor has instructed him?

¹⁴Whom did he consult for his enlightenment,
and who taught him the path of justice?

Who taught him knowledge,
and showed him the way of understanding?

¹⁵Even the nations are like a drop from a bucket,
and are accounted as dust on the scales;
see, he takes up the isles like fine dust.

¹⁶Lebanon would not provide fuel enough,
nor are its animals enough for a burnt offering.

¹⁷All the nations are as nothing before him;
they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness.

¹⁸To whom then will you liken God,
or what likeness compare with him?

¹⁹An idol? —A workman casts it,
and a goldsmith overlays it with gold,
and casts for it silver chains.

²⁰As a gift one chooses mulberry wood
—wood that will not rot—

then seeks out a skilled artisan
to set up an image that will not topple.

²¹Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to live in;

²³who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

F: ²⁵To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength,
mighty in power,
not one is missing.

²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
“My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God”?

²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.

³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;

³¹but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Isaiah 40:1)

C: Alleluia. Comfort, O comfort my people says your God. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading Matthew 11:25-30

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 11th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent
and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your
gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father;
and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the
Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal

him. ²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

After the reading:

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens
(For music see Hymn 771 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **God who stretched the spangled heavens
infinite in time and place,
flung the suns in burning radiance
through the silent fields of space:
we, your children in your likeness,
share inventive pow’rs with you;
great Creator, still creating,
show us what we yet may do.**
2. **We have ventured worlds undreamed of
since the childhood of our race;
known the ecstasy of winging
through untraveled realms of space;
probed the secrets of the atom,
yielding unimagined pow’r,
facing us with life’s destruction
or our most triumphant hour.**
3. **As each far horizon beckons,
may it challenge us anew:
children of creative purpose,
serving others, hon’ring you.
May our dreams prove rich with promise;
each endeavor well begun;
great Creator, give us guidance
till our goals and yours are one.**

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: We thank you, O God, for your life-giving Word,
for calling creation into being,
declaring forgiveness from the cross,
and delivering the spirit of rebirth.

We praise you, O God, for your Word:

C: we praise you, O God, for your Word.

B: Your word is a lamp lighting our path,
a mirror reflecting our selves,
a shield providing us refuge,
a fire burning for justice and truth.

Your word is sweeter than honey:

it nourishes our bodies like milk,
it sustains your people like bread.

We receive your promises, more treasured than gold.

We bless you, O God, for your Word:

C: we bless you, O God, for your Word.

D: Open our ears to your prophets, apostles, and saints,
and to all the cries of the needy.

Breathe into your church the mighty Spirit of Christ,
that heeding your voice of beauty and power

we are strengthened to serve wherever we are called.

To you, Father, Son, and Spirit—the Source, Word, and Breath—
we offer our thanks for your life-giving Word.

We offer our thanks for your life-giving Word.

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 Send Us Out
(For music turn to Hymn 29 in the Songbook binder)

**1. We have been called by the Lord.
We have been saved by the Word.
Now let the Word be restored.
Now let the Gospel be heard**

Refrain

**Send us out to teach what God has done.
Send us out to reach ev'ry single one.
Send us out. Send us out.**

2. **We who were bound by our shame,
ruled by our fears within.
Stand and declare by the name,
freedom from all of our sin. *Refrain***

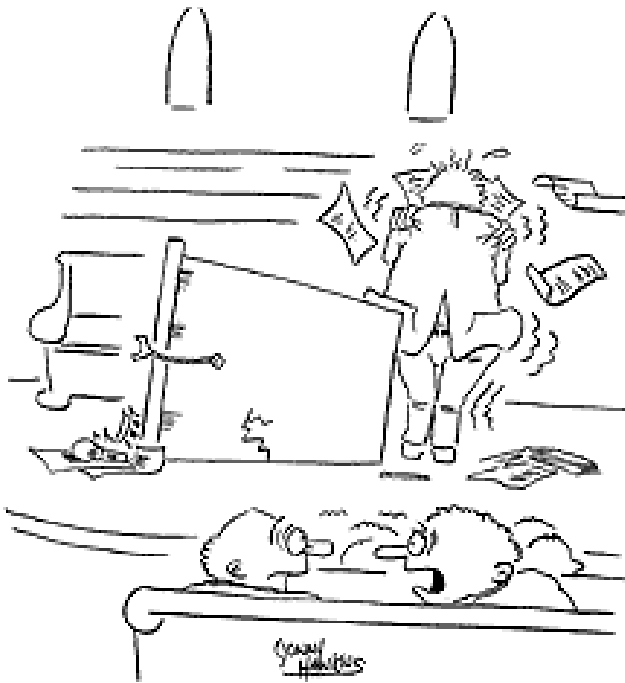
3. **Teach what God has done.
Reach ev'ry single one.
Teach what God has done.
Reach ev'ry single one. *Refrain***

4. **We have been called by the Lord.
We have been saved by the Word.
Now let the Word be restored.
Now let the Gospel be heard *Refrain***

Text and Music by James Hersch; Copyright 1994 Dakota Road Music; CCLI# 1790882

Dismissal

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



"I appreciate the way he
wrestles with the text."

Scripture readings from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible* copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States. Psalm from *The Psalter* copyright 1994, Liturgical Training Publications. Variable worship texts from *Sundays and Seasons 2021* copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress.

St. John's Lutheran Church
888 County Road 9, Victor, NY 14564
stjohnsvictor.com (585) 924-5192
The Rev. Jonathan Deibler, Pastor
William Shi, Pianist