



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



The Prophets – Nahum

August 8, 2021

10:30 Service of the Word

Nahum is an 7th century B.C.E. prophet who spoke against Nineveh, the capitol of the Assyrian Empire. Assyria had been growing for centuries and conquered many lands. Among their conquests was the northern Jewish kingdom of Israel. At the time of Nahum Assyria had become weak. It's doom seeming immanent. Nahum's words from God are words of harsh condemnation- among the harshest words in the Bible. We'll explore their harshness and what they mean for us in worship 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 Be Thou My Vision
(For music turn to Hymn 793 in the Red Hymnal)

**1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
thou my best thought both by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

2. **Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tow'r,
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.**
3. **Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou, and thou only, first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.**
4. **Light of my soul, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

Text and Music: Irish Folk Tune 8th-10th century; tr. Mary Burne; vers. Eleanor Hull

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:

Gracious God, your Son called on you to forgive his enemies while he was suffering shame and death. Lead our enemies and us from prejudice to truth; deliver them and us from hatred, cruelty, and revenge; and in your good time enable us all to stand reconciled before you; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

Introduction to the Reading

First Reading Nahum 3

B: Ah! City of bloodshed,
utterly deceitful, full of booty— ‘
no end to the plunder!

²The crack of whip and rumble of wheel,

galloping horse and bounding chariot!

³Horsemen charging,
flashing sword and glittering spear,
piles of dead,
heaps of corpses,
dead bodies without end—
they stumble over the bodies!

⁴Because of the countless debaucheries of the prostitute,
gracefully alluring, mistress of sorcery,
who enslaves nations through her debaucheries,
and peoples through her sorcery,

⁵I am against you,
says the LORD of hosts,
and will lift up your skirts over your face;
and I will let nations look on your nakedness
and kingdoms on your shame.

⁶I will throw filth at you
and treat you with contempt,
and make you a spectacle.

⁷Then all who see you will shrink from you and say,
“Nineveh is devastated; who will bemoan her?”
Where shall I seek comforters for you?

D:⁸Are you better than Thebes that sat by the Nile,
with water around her,
her rampart a sea,
water her wall?

⁹Ethiopia was her strength,
Egypt too, and that without limit;
Put and the Libyans were her helpers.

¹⁰Yet she became an exile,
she went into captivity;
even her infants were dashed in pieces
at the head of every street;
lots were cast for her nobles,
all her dignitaries were bound in fetters.

¹¹You also will be drunken,
you will go into hiding;
you will seek
a refuge from the enemy.

¹²All your fortresses are like fig trees
with first-ripe figs—

if shaken they fall
into the mouth of the eater.

¹³Look at your troops:
they are women in your midst.

The gates of your land
are wide open to your foes;
fire has devoured the bars of your gates.

E:¹⁴Draw water for the siege,
strengthen your forts;

trample the clay,
tread the mortar,
take hold of the brick mold!

¹⁵There the fire will devour you,
the sword will cut you off.
It will devour you like the locust.

Multiply yourselves like the locust,
multiply like the grasshopper!

¹⁶You increased your merchants
more than the stars of the heavens.
The locust sheds its skin and flies away.

¹⁷Your guards are like grasshoppers,
your scribes like swarms of locusts
settling on the fences
on a cold day—
when the sun rises, they fly away;
no one knows where they have gone.

¹⁸Your shepherds are asleep,
O king of Assyria;
your nobles slumber.

Your people are scattered on the mountains
with no one to gather them.

¹⁹There is no assuaging your hurt,
your wound is mortal.

All who hear the news about you
clap their hands over you.

For who has ever escaped
your endless cruelty?

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 71:1-8 (*read together*)

**C: Lord, you are my shelter,
do not fail me.
You always do right;
deliver me, rescue me,
hear me and save me.
Be my rock and haven,
to whom I can always turn;
be my tower of strength,
keep me safe.
The ruthless and wicked trap me;
reach out to free me.
You are my hope, O Lord,
from the days of my youth.
I have relied on you since birth,
my strength from my mother's womb;
I will praise you always.
I am shunned like the plague,
but you keep me in your care.
I am filled with your praises,
all day I sing your glory.**

Gospel Acclamation (*Matthew 5:44*)

C: Alleluia. Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading Matthew 5:38-47

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 5th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

[Jesus preached]³⁸“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’³⁹But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also;⁴⁰and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well;⁴¹and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile.⁴²Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

⁴³“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’⁴⁴But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,⁴⁵so that you may be children of your Father in

heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. ⁴⁶For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

After the reading:

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day My Life Flows On in Endless Song
(for music please turn to Hymn 763 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **My life flows on in endless song;
above earth's lamentation,
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn
That hails a new creation.**

Refrain

**No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?**

2. **Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing? *Refrain***

3. **What though my joys and comforts die?
The Lord my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round?
Songs in the night he giveth. *Refrain***

4. **The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his!
How can I keep from singing? *Refrain***

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.

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: God of hope, be with the families in our county's Family Promise program. Help them to find good housing and be restored to living self-sustaining lives. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

B: God of hope, lead our country and all the nations of the world out of divisive controversies and into pathways toward peace. Nurture in our elected leaders the desire for truth. Strengthen our efforts to combat the coronavirus. Guide school administrators as they plan the fall semester. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

E: God of hope, be with all those who are depressed, despairing, and who feel tomorrow has nothing to offer them. Help them to find love and value in 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.

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 Bind Us Together
(For music turn to Hymn 748 in the Blue Hymnal)

Refrain: **Bind us together, Lord,
bind us together
with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord,
bind us together
bind us together in love.**

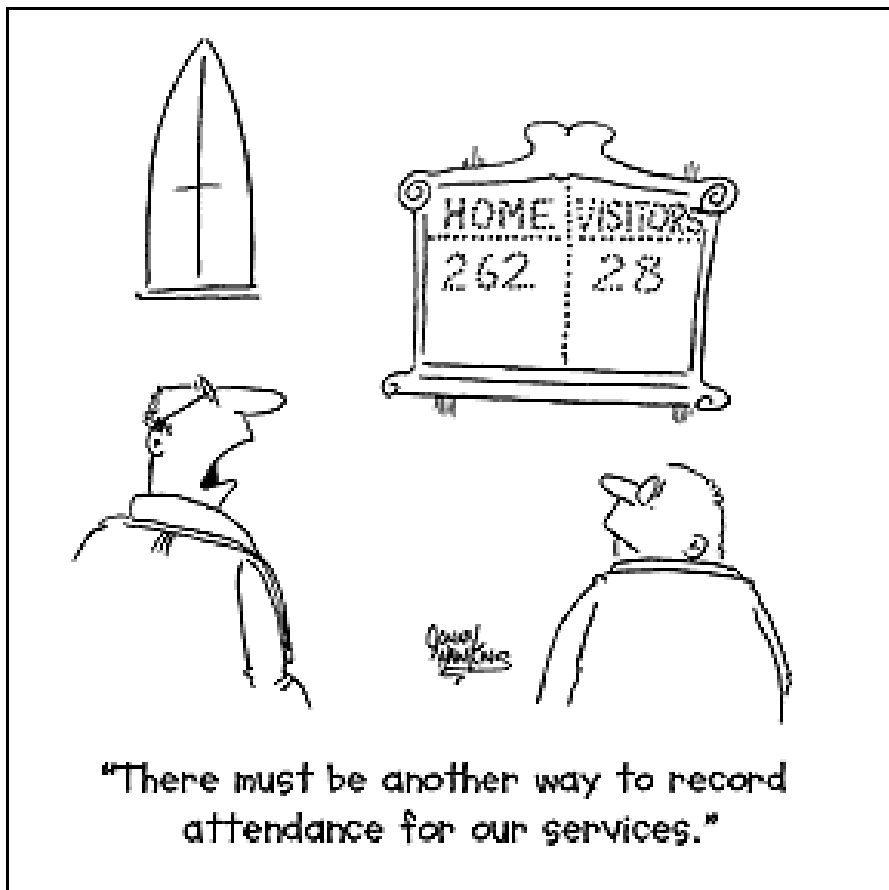
**1. There is only one God.
There is only one King.
There is only one Body;
that is why we can sing: *Refrain***

**2. You are the fam'ly of God.
You are the promise divine.
You are God's chosen desire,
you are the glorious new wine. *Refrain***

Text and Music: Bob Gillman, b. 1948, copyright 1972 Thankyou Music, amin. (in Western Hemisphere) Integrity's Hosanna! Music.

Dismissal

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



"There must be another way to record attendance for our services."

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