

**St. John’s Lutheran Church**



Zephaniah Detail of Interior Mosaics in the St Marks Basilica 12th century, Venice

*The Prophets – Zephaniah*

*July 11, 2021 10:30 Service of the Word*

Zephaniah served as a prophet during the reign of King Josiah. Josiah was one of the most faithful kings Judah ever had. Taking power at age 8, he eventually began a massive reform movement to clean up government corruption and religious heresy. Zephaniah’s prophesy covers Josiah from a young age into his maturity. Zephaniah was probably a major influence on the king’s reforms.

*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*

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,

the God of manna,

the God of miracles,

the God of mercy.

**C: Amen.**

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

*Silence for reflection.*

L: 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.**

L: 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* Lord of All Hopefulness

*(For music turn to Hymn 765 in the Red Hymnal)*

*1.* **Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,**

 **Whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy:**

 **Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,**

 **Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.**

*2.* **Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,**

 **Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:**

 **Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,**

 **Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.**

*3.* **Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace,**

 **Your hand swift to welcome, your arms to embrace:**

 **Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,**

 **Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.**

*4.* **Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,**

 **Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:**

 **Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,**

 **Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.**

Text: Ian Struther, 1901-1953; Music: Irish Traditional

*Greeting (2 Corinthians 13:13)*

L: 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:

Give us grace to set a good example to all among whom we live, to be just and true in all our dealings, to be strict and conscientious in the discharge of every duty; pure and temperate in all enjoyment, gracious and generous and courteous toward all; so that the mind of Jesus Christ may be formed in us and all may know that we are his disciples; in whose name we pray.

**C: Amen.**

WORD 

*First Reading* Zephaniah 1:1-13

B: The word of the Lord that came to Zephaniah son of Cushi son of Gedaliah son of Amariah son of Hezekiah, in the days of King Josiah son of Amon of Judah.

2I will utterly sweep away everything

 from the face of the earth, says the Lord.

3I will sweep away humans and animals;

 I will sweep away the birds of the air

 and the fish of the sea.

I will make the wicked stumble.

 I will cut off humanity

 from the face of the earth, says the Lord.

4I will stretch out my hand against Judah,

 and against all the inhabitants of Jerusalem;

and I will cut off from this place every remnant of Baal

 and the name of the idolatrous priests;

5those who bow down on the roofs

 to the host of the heavens;

those who bow down and swear to the Lord,

 but also swear by Milcom;

6those who have turned back from following the Lord,

 who have not sought the Lord or inquired of him.

7Be silent before the Lord God!

 For the day of the Lord is at hand;

the Lord has prepared a sacrifice,

 he has consecrated his guests.

8And on the day of the Lord’s sacrifice

I will punish the officials

 and the king’s sons and all who dress themselves in foreign attire.

9On that day I will punish

 all who leap over the threshold,

who fill their master’s house

 with violence and fraud.

10On that day, says the Lord,

 a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate,

a wail from the Second Quarter,

 a loud crash from the hills.

11The inhabitants of the Mortar wail,

 for all the traders have perished;

 all who weigh out silver are cut off.

12At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,

 and I will punish the people

who rest complacently on their dregs,

 those who say in their hearts,

“The Lord will not do good,

 nor will he do harm.”

13Their wealth shall be plundered,

 and their houses laid waste.

Though they build houses,

 they shall not inhabit them;

though they plant vineyards,

 they shall not drink wine from them.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Scripture Poetry*  Zephaniah 3:14-20 *(read responsively)*

D: Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;

 shout, O Israel!

**C: Rejoice and exult with all your heart,**

 **O daughter Jerusalem!**

D: The Lord has taken away the judgments against you,

 he has turned away your enemies.

**C: The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;**

 **you shall fear disaster no more.**

D: On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;

 do not let your hands grow weak.

**C: The Lord, your God, is in your midst,**

 **a warrior who gives victory;**

D: he will rejoice over you with gladness,

 he will renew you in his love;

**C: he will exult over you with loud singing**

 **18as on a day of festival.**

D: I will remove disaster from you,

 so that you will not bear reproach for it.

**C: I will deal with all your oppressors**

 **at that time.**

D: And I will save the lame

 and gather the outcast,

**C: and I will change their shame into praise**

 **and renown in all the earth.**

D: At that time I will bring you home,

 at the time when I gather you;

**C: for I will make you renowned and praised**

 **among all the peoples of the earth,**

**when I restore your fortunes**

**before your eyes, says the Lord**.

*Second Reading*  Hebrews 8:1-7

E: Now the main point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, 2a minister in the sanctuary and the true tent that the Lord, and not any mortal, has set up. 3For every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices; hence it is necessary for this priest also to have something to offer. 4Now if he were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, since there are priests who offer gifts according to the law. 5They offer worship in a sanctuary that is a sketch and shadow of the heavenly one; for Moses, when he was about to erect the tent, was warned, “See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain.”

6But Jesus has now obtained a more excellent ministry, and to that degree he is the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted through better promises. 7For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no need to look for a second one.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Acclamation (Hebrews 8:6)*

**C: Alleluia. Jesus has now obtained a more excellent ministry, and to that degree he is the mediator of a better covenant. Alleluia.**

*Gospel Reading* Matthew 21:28-32

*The gospel is announced:*

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 21st chapter.

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

[Jesus said] 28“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ 29He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. 30The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. 31Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. 32For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

*After the reading:*

L: The Gospel of the Lord

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

*Sermon*

*Hymn of the Day*  Jesus Still Lead On

*(For music see Hymn 624 in the Red Hymnal)*

*1.* **Jesus, still lead on,**

 **till our rest be won;**

 **and, although the way be cheerless,**

 **we will follow, calm and fearless;**

 **guide us by your hand**

 **to the promised land.**

*2.* **If the way be drear,**

 **if the foe be near,**

 **let no faithless fear o’er take us,**

 **let not faith and hope forsake us;**

 **safely past the foe**

 **to our home we go.**

*3.* **When we seek relief**

 **from a long felt grief,**

 **when temptations come alluring**

 **make us patient and enduring;**

 **show us that bright shore**

 **when we weep no more.**

*4.* **Jesus, still lead on,**

 **till our rest be won;**

 **heav’nly leader, still direct us,**

 **still support, console, protect us,**

 **till we safely stand**

 **in the promised land.**

Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700-1760; tr. Jane L.Borthwick, 1813-1897, alt. Music: Adam Drese, 1620-1701

*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*

L: 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 thank you for those who live around us: family, friends, and neighbors. Build us as a strong community. Hear the cries of their hearts and respond to their needs. Lord in your mercy…
**C: Hear our prayer.**

B: Your word is truth and wholeness. Guide ourselves and others to proclaim that word to all in the world. Be with our missionaries: the Rev. Matthew Nickoloff in Rochester and the Rev. Karen Anderson in Chile. Lord in your mercy…
**C: Hear our prayer.**

E: Fill our lives with meaningful work. Help us to see how what we do accomplishes your goals. Be with all those who feel worthless or helpless. 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*

L: 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*L: The blessing of God,

who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,

be upon you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*Sending Hymn* 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*

Text and Music: Robert Lowry

*Dismissal*

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: God’s Work. Our Hands.**

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