



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Zechariah as depicted on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel

The Prophets – Zechariah

July 25, 2021

10:30 Service of the Word

Zechariah was a contemporary of Haggai, who we read from last week. Both of these prophets address the time after the Jews were allowed to return from Babylon and rebuild Jerusalem. While Haggai focuses on building the temple, Zechariah focuses on the human leadership. Zechariah's prophesy is highly symbolic. We'll read two portions of it in worship today – Chapters 3 and 9.

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 When Long Before Time
(The Singer and the Song)

(For music see Hymn 861 in the Red Hymnal)

- 1. When long before time and the worlds were begun,
when there was no earth and no sky and no sun,
and all was deep silence and night reigned supreme,
and even our Maker had only a dream-**

2. **The silence was broken when God sang the Song,
and light pierced the darkness and rhythm began,
and with its first birth-cries creation was born,
and creaturely voices sang praise to the morn.**
3. **The sounds of the creatures were one with their Lord's,
their harmonies sweet and befitting the Word;
the Singer was pleased as the earth sang the Song,
the choir of the creatures re-echoed it long.**
4. **Though down through the ages the Song disappeared,
its harmonies broken and almost unheard,
the Singer comes to us to sing it again,
our God-is-with-us in the world now as then.**
5. **The Light has returned as it came once before,
the Song of the Lord is our own song once more,
so let us all sing with one heart and one voice
the Song of the Singer in whom we rejoice.**
6. **To you God the singer, our voices we raise,
to you, Song Incarnate, we give all our praise,
to you, Holy Spirit, our life and our breath,
be glory forever, through life and through death.**

Text: Peter W. A. Davison, b. 1936. Music: Peter W. A. Davison; arr. George Black, 1931-2003. Text and tune copyright Peter W. A. Davison, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Arr. copyright George Black

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, you work in many ways that are mysterious to us. You choose those we consider to be unqualified. You work through those who appear weak. Help us to rely solely on you and trust that you are indeed guiding the creation, through Jesus Christ, the righteous Branch who makes all things new.

C: Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

Introduction to the Reading

First Reading Zechariah 3

B: Then he showed me the high priest Joshua standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. ²And the LORD said to Satan, “The LORD rebuke you, O Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is not this man a brand plucked from the fire?” ³Now Joshua was dressed with filthy clothes as he stood before the angel. ⁴The angel said to those who were standing before him, “Take off his filthy clothes.” And to him he said, “See, I have taken your guilt away from you, and I will clothe you with festal apparel.” ⁵And I said, “Let them put a clean turban on his head.” So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him with the apparel; and the angel of the LORD was standing by. ⁶Then the angel of the LORD assured Joshua, saying ⁷“Thus says the LORD of hosts: If you will walk in my ways and keep my requirements, then you shall rule my house and have charge of my courts, and I will give you the right of access among those who are standing here.

⁸Now listen, Joshua, high priest, you and your colleagues who sit before you! For they are an omen of things to come: I am going to bring my servant the Branch. ⁹For on the stone that I have set before Joshua, on a single stone with seven facets, I will engrave its inscription, says the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the guilt of this land in a single day. ¹⁰On that day, says the LORD of hosts, you shall invite each other to come under your vine and fig tree.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Zechariah 9:9-13 (*read responsively*)

D: Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

**C: Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.**

D: He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the warhorse from Jerusalem;
and the battle-bow shall be cut off,

and he shall command peace to the nations;

**C: his dominion shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.**

D: As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

**C: Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.**

D: For I have bent Judah as my bow;
I have made Ephraim its arrow.

**C: I will arouse your sons, O Zion,
against your sons, O Greece,
and wield you like a warrior's sword.**

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

E: [Paul writes:] Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (1 Corinthians 1:27)

**C: Alleluia. God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the
wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong.
Alleluia.**

Gospel Reading John 7:25-31

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 7th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

²⁵Now some of the people of Jerusalem were saying, "Is not this the man whom they are trying to kill? ²⁶And here he is, speaking openly, but they say nothing to him! Can it be that the authorities really know that this is the Messiah? ²⁷Yet we know where this man is from; but when the Messiah comes, no one will know where he is from." ²⁸Then Jesus cried

out as he was teaching in the temple, “You know me, and you know where I am from. I have not come on my own. But the one who sent me is true, and you do not know him. ²⁹I know him, because I am from him, and he sent me.” ³⁰Then they tried to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him, because his hour had not yet come. ³¹Yet many in the crowd believed in him and were saying, “When the Messiah comes, will he do more signs than this man has done?”

After the reading:

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day You Are the Seed

(For music turn to Hymn 753 in the Blue Hymnal)

**1. You are the seed that will grow a new sprout;
you're a star that will shine in the night;
you are the yeast and a small grain of salt,
a beacon to glow in the dark.
You are the dawn that will bring a new day;
you're the wheat that will bear golden grain;
you are a sting and a soft, gentle touch,
to witness wherever you go.**

Refrain

**Go, my friends, go to the world,
proclaim the great love of God;
messengers to tell the way of life,
peace and pardon for all.
Be, my friends, a loyal witness,
from the dead Christ arose;
“Lo, I'll be with your forevermore,
till the end of the world.”**

**2. You are the flame that will light-en the dark,
so resplendent with hope, faith and love;
you are the shepherds to lead the whole world
to waters and pastures of peace.
“You are the friends that I chose for myself,
you're the word that I want to proclaim.
You are the new reign of God built on rock,
where justice and truth are at home.”** *Refrain*

**3. You are the life that will nurture the plant;
you're the waves in a turbulent sea;
yesterday's yeast is beginning to rise,
a new loaf of bread it will yield.
There is no place for a city to hide,
there's no mountain can cover its might;
let your light shine so that your loving works
give honor and glory to God.**

Refrain

Text: Cesareo Gabarain, tr. Raquel Gutierrez-Achon and Skinner Chavez-Melo, text copyright 1979 Ediciones Paulines, admin. OCP Publications, tr. Copyright The United Methodist Publishing House; Music: Cesareo Gabarain, arr. Skinner Chavez-Melo, arrangement Copyright 1987 Estate of Skinner Chavez-Melo

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: O God of majesty, pour out your Spirit on your servants who, with the gifts of music, enliven our praises and proclaim your word with power. Through this ministry give us new awareness of your beauty and grace, and join our voices with all the choirs of heaven both now and forever. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

B: Mindful of the family of nations, we pray for all who govern; especially in places of turmoil and instability: Ethiopia, Afghanistan, South Africa, and Haiti. Bring those nations to a time of stability and peace. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

E: We remember before you today your servant and apostle James, the first among the disciples to be martyred. Pour out on the members of your church that spirit of self-denying service which is the true mark of your love. 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 †

Farewell and Godspeed

P: Nathan, as you leave our congregation, we wish to bid you farewell.

A reading from Isaiah: "Thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. (*Isaiah 43:1-3*)

When you came to this congregation we rejoiced to welcome you into the mission we share as the people of God. In this community you have come to know and to share in God's loving purpose for you and for all creation. God has blessed you in this community, and God has blessed us through you.

We encourage you to continue to receive and share God's gifts in your new home, united with us in the body of Christ and the mission we share.

Let us pray:

Eternal God, we thank you for Nathan and for the time we have shared

with him. As he has been a blessing to us, so now send him forth to be a blessing to others; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

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 How Great Thou Art
(For music turn to Hymn 856 in the Red Hymnal)

**1. O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works thy hands hath made;
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;**

Refrain **Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!**

**2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; *Refrain***

**3. But when I think that God, his Son not sparing
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin; *Refrain***

**4. When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!" *Refrain***

Text: Carl Boberg (Swedish); Stuart K. Hine (English); Music: Swedish folk tune, arr. Stuart K Hine;
Copyright 1955 Manna Music

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.



"Well, technically, he hasn't broken his vow of silence."

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
Dr. Nathan Cheung, Pianist