



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



An 18th-century Russian icon of the prophet Habakkuk  
(Iconostasis of Transfiguration Church, Kizhi monastery, Karelia, Russia).

## *The Prophets - Habakkuk*

*July 4, 2021*

*10:30 Holy Communion*

Habakkuk takes us into a very anxious time in the history of the ancient Jews. The nation was under serious threat from the rising Babylonian (a.k.a. Chaldean) Empire. National destruction was assured. Habakkuk cries to God for answers. God's response to the prophet has become the core theological belief for our own Christian faith.

### *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 The Star Spangled Banner

1. O say can you see, by the dawn's early light,  
What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming,  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight  
O'er the ramparts we watch'd were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there,  
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?
  
2. On the shore dimly seen through the mists of the deep  
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,  
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,  
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?  
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,  
In full glory reflected now shines in the stream,  
'Tis the star-spangled banner - O long may it wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!
  
3. And where is that band who so vauntingly swore,  
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion  
A home and a Country should leave us no more?  
Their blood has wash'd out their foul footsteps' pollution.  
No refuge could save the hireling and slave  
From the terror of flight or the gloom of the grave,  
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.
  
4. O thus be it ever when freemen shall stand  
Between their lov'd home and the war's desolation!  
Blest with vict'ry and peace may the heav'n rescued land  
Praise the power that hath made and preserv'd us a nation!  
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,  
And this be our motto - "In God is our trust,"  
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Text: Francis Scott Key, 1779-1843. Music: John Stafford Smith, 1750-1836

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...

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

† WORD †

First Reading Habakkuk 2:1-5

**B:** [Habakkuk said] I will stand at my watchpost,  
and station myself on the rampart;  
I will keep watch to see what [God] will say to me,  
and what he will answer concerning my complaint.

<sup>2</sup>Then the LORD answered me and said:

Write the vision;  
make it plain on tablets,  
so that a runner may read it.

<sup>3</sup>For there is still a vision for the appointed time;  
it speaks of the end, and does not lie.

If it seems to tarry, wait for it;  
it will surely come, it will not delay.

<sup>4</sup>Look at the proud!  
Their spirit is not right in them,  
but the righteous live by their faith.

<sup>5</sup>Moreover, wealth is treacherous;  
the arrogant do not endure.

They open their throats wide as Sheol;  
like Death they never have enough.

They gather all nations for themselves,  
and collect all peoples as their own.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Scripture Poetry Habakkuk 3:2,17-19 (*read responsively*)

**D:** O LORD, I have heard of your renown,  
and I stand in awe, O LORD, of your work.

**C: In our own time revive it;  
in our own time make it known;  
in wrath may you remember mercy.**

**D:** Though the fig tree does not blossom,  
and no fruit is on the vines;

**C: though the produce of the olive fails  
and the fields yield no food;**

**D:** though the flock is cut off from the fold  
and there is no herd in the stalls,

**C: yet I will rejoice in the LORD;  
I will exult in the God of my salvation.**

**D:** GOD, the Lord, is my strength;

**C: he makes my feet like the feet of a deer,  
and makes me tread upon the heights.**

Second Reading Galatians 3:6-14

**E:** [Paul writes] <sup>6</sup>Just as Abraham “believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness,” <sup>7</sup>so, you see, those who believe are the descendants of Abraham. <sup>8</sup>And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, declared the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “All the Gentiles shall be blessed in you.” <sup>9</sup>For this reason, those who believe are blessed with Abraham who believed. <sup>10</sup>For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all the things written in the book of the law.” <sup>11</sup>Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law; for “The one who is righteous will live by faith.” <sup>12</sup>But the law does not rest on faith; on the contrary, “Whoever does the works of the law will live by them.” <sup>13</sup>Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”— <sup>14</sup>in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation (Habakkuk 2:4)

**C: Alleluia. The righteous shall live by faith. Alleluia.**

Gospel Reading Matthew 24:36-44

*The gospel is announced:*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 24<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

[Jesus said to the disciples] <sup>36</sup>“But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup>For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup>and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup>Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>42</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup>Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

*After the reading:*

P: The Gospel of the Lord

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

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Abide With Me

*(For music turn to Hymn 629 in the Red Hymnal)*

- 1. Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.  
The darkness deepens, Lord, with me abide.  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.**
- 2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;  
change and decay in all around I see;  
O thou who changest not, abide with me.**
- 3. I need thy presence ev'ry passing hour;  
what but thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?  
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?**

Through cloud and sunshine, oh, abide with me.

4. I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;  
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if thou abide with me!
5. Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes,  
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;  
heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;  
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847.. Music: William H. Monk, 1823-1889

### Apostles' Creed

P: We join in confessing our faith with the Apostles' Creed.

**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.**

### 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 righteousness, we pray for the nations: bestow your peace throughout the world; raise up prophets to speak truth to power; uphold those who work for human rights; and protect the poor and the refugee. On this Fourth of July, we ask that you bless the United States: free us from prejudices, and grant to our elected leaders a passion for justice and a will to serve all the people. Protect from danger those who celebrate this day. Lord in your mercy...

**C: Hear our prayer.**

**B:** God of salvation, we pray for churches around the world: sustain those churches that experience persecution or harassment; and give wisdom to churches in free societies, that we might live according to your word. Lord in your mercy...

**C: Hear our prayer.**

**E:** God of creation, we pray for your earth. Guide us to be good stewards of all its resources. Be with those who are suffering from natural disasters: heat, storms, and earthquakes. 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.*



† MEAL †

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Special Music

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray:

**C: Jesus, Bread of life,  
you have set this table with your very self,  
and called us to this feast of plenty.**

**Gather what has been sown among us,  
and strengthen us in this meal.**

**Make us to be what we receive here,  
your body for the life of the world.**

**Amen**

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus of Nazareth; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with church of yesterday, today and tomorrow; and the church here in this place and all churches throughout the world, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*(Isaiah 6:3, spoken)*

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

P: In the night in which he was handed over our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take and eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you

and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

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.**

Communion Distribution

*Welcome to the Lord's Supper! All who are baptized are invited to receive communion. The pastor will bring a wafer to you and place it in your hands. The communion assistant will follow with a tray of grape juice or wine. If you need a gluten free option please tell the pastor.*

Communion Blessing After all have communed the pastor will say:

P: The body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer

**F:** Let us pray: Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.

**C: 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* Before You, Lord, We Bow  
(For music see Hymn 893 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Before you, Lord, we bow,  
our God who reigns above  
and rules the world below  
with boundless pow'r and love.  
Our thanks we bring in joy and praise,  
our hearts we raise, to you we sing!**
2. **May ev'ry mountain height,  
each vale and forest green,  
shine forth in wisdom's light  
and its rich fruits be seen!  
May ev'ry tongue be tuned to praise  
and joy to raise a grateful song.**
3. **Earth, hear your maker's voice;  
your great redeemer own;  
believe, obey, rejoice,  
and worship God alone.  
Cast down your pride, your sin deplore,  
and bow before the Crucified.**
4. **And when in pow'r he comes,  
oh, may then ev'ry land  
from all its rending tombs  
send forth a glorious band,  
a countless throng, with joy to sing  
to heav'n's high king salvation's song!**

Text: Francis Scott Key, 1779-1843, alt. Music: John Darwall, 1731-1789

*Dismissal*

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: God's Work. Our Hands.**

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