



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Amos, circa 1896–1902, by James Jacques Joseph Tissot (1836-1902)

The Prophets - Amos

June 13, 2021

10:30 Service of the Word

Amos was an 8th Century B.C.E. prophet. While he was native to the southern kingdom of Judah he traveled to the northern kingdom of Israel to proclaim God's message there. No one likes a foreigner coming in and giving advice. It's no surprise that Amos wasn't popular! Amos was not a prophet by trade but a herdsman and "dresser of sycamore trees". This also didn't help his credibility with the people God sent him to. But we see that God does not stay confined to traditional sources for prophets. Amos' overall message is startling and scathing. Even today his words carry a stern warning.

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 is kept 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 Lift Every Voice and Sing
(For music see Hymn 841 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Lift ev'ry voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise high as the listn'ng skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.**

2. **Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast'ning rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
come to the place for which our parents sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
we have come, treading our path through the blood of the
slaughtered,
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.**

3. **God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.**

Text: James W. Johnson, 1871-1938 Music: J. Rosamond Johnson, 1873-1954

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:

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may move every human heart; that all may work for fairness and integrity. Help us to see where our actions hurt others; and when we are being hurt, give us words of wisdom to confront those who hurt us, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading Amos 1:1, 5:10-17

B: The words of Amos, who was among the shepherds of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of King Uzziah of Judah and in the days of King Jeroboam son of Joash of Israel, two years before the earthquake:

¹⁰They hate the one who reproves in the gate,
and they abhor the one who speaks the truth.

¹¹Therefore because you trample on the poor
and take from them levies of grain,
you have built houses of hewn stone,
but you shall not live in them;

you have planted pleasant vineyards,
but you shall not drink their wine.

¹²For I know how many are your transgressions,
and how great are your sins—
you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe,
and push aside the needy in the gate.

¹³Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time;
for it is an evil time.

¹⁴Seek good and not evil,
that you may live;
and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you,
just as you have said.

¹⁵Hate evil and love good,
and establish justice in the gate;
it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts,
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

¹⁶Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of hosts, the Lord:
In all the squares there shall be wailing;

and in all the streets they shall say, "Alas! alas!"
They shall call the farmers to mourning,
and those skilled in lamentation, to wailing;
¹⁷in all the vineyards there shall be wailing,
for I will pass through the midst of you, says the LORD.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 11 (*read responsively*)

D: I have taken shelter in God,
so how can you say to me:
"Go fly like a bird to the hills,

**C: for the wicked bend their bows,
lock their arrows on the string
to shoot the just from the shadows.**

D: When the world falls apart,
what can the good hope to do?

**C: God dwells in his holy temple,
the heavens hold God's throne;**

D: the Lord watches the earth,
eyes fixed on all nations,

**C: weighing both righteousness and wicked,
rejecting the violent.**

D: God sends a rain of fire,
allots them a scorching wind.

**C: The Lord loves justice,
the just will see God's face.**

Second Reading James 2:1-7

E: My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you

into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (James 1:21)

C: Alleluia. Welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading Matthew 5:13-16

The gospel is announced:

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

C: Glory to you O Lord.

[Jesus preached:] ¹³“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. ¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

After the reading:

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Canticle of the Turning

(For music see Hymn 723 in the Red Hymnal)

**1. My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west, shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?**

Refrain: **My heart shall sing of the day you bring,
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.**

**2. Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight
for the world is about to turn. *Refrain***

**3. From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
ev'ry tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn. *Refrain***

**4. Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast;
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise which hold us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around. *Refrain***

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat, text copyright 1990 GIA Publications Inc. Music: Star of Country Down; Irish Traditional.

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.

P: We pray for health and wholeness: for countries where COVID-19 is accelerating and vaccines are not available; for relief agencies, that the hungry be fed; for those who are beaten down by poverty and homelessness; for those who are suffering from climate disasters; for any who are sick, especially those with no access to medical care; and for those we name here before you:

A brief silence.

Hear our prayers, O Giver of all goodness:

Grant us your life.

A: Holy God, Fount of blessings, we pray for the church: that the seeds of faith which you plant take root and grow; that those churches that are emerging from the pandemic re-gather their members in safety; and that you bless the church in Ethiopia and other places that are experiencing great distress.

A brief silence.

Hear our prayers, O Giver of all goodness:

Grant us your life.

B: We pray for the nations: that world leaders care for those in greatest need; that all prejudices cease; that the might of tyrants be halted; that journalists be kept safe from harassment; that the displaced find a welcome homeland; and that peace reign between nations.

A brief silence.

Hear our prayers, O Giver of all goodness:

Grant us your life.

E: For all who have died in the faith, and for those whom we remember here before you, we offer our thanks, gracious Redeemer. For all who will die today, we ask your mercy. And at the end that we join with all your people in the perfection of your presence, we pray.

A brief silence.

Hear our prayers, O Giver of all goodness:

Grant us your life.

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 Goodness is Stronger than Evil
(For harmonization see Hymn 721 in the Red Hymnal)

**Goodness is stronger than evil;
love is stronger than hate;
light is stronger than darkness;
life is stronger than death;
vict'ry is ours,
vict'ry is ours,
through God who loves us.
Vict'ry is ours,
vict'ry is ours,
through God who loves us.**

Text: From *An African Prayer Book*, Desmond Tutu, b. 1931, copyright 1995 Desmond Tutu, admin. Random House, Inc. and Lynn C. Franklin Associates, Ltd. Music: John L. Bell, b. 1949, copyright 1996 Iona Community, Admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.



"Mom, the Sunday school teacher said our brains are like computers. When is God going to upgrade mine?"

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