



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



The Prophets - Obadiah

June 6, 2021

10:30 Holy Communion

Obadiah is the shortest book in the Old Testament. It is in two parts. The first is a proclamation to Edom, a small nation adjacent to Jewish territory. The Jews and the Edomites appear to have hated each other for centuries. The second part of Obadiah is a promise of ultimate triumph for the Jews. Their triumph would not come from their own power though. It would be the work of God.

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 What Is This Place
(For music see Hymn 524 in the Red Hymnal)

1. What is this place where we are meeting?

Only a house, the earth its floor.

**Walls and a roof sheltering people,
windows for light, an open door.**

Yet it becomes a body that lives

**when we are gathered here,
and know our God is near.**

- 2. Words from afar, stars that are falling,
sparks that are sown in us like seed:
names for our God, dreams, signs and wonders
sent from the past are all we need.
We in this place remember and speak
again what we have heard:
God's free redeeming word.**
- 3. And we accept bread at this table,
broken and shared, a living sign.
Here in this world, dying and living,
we are each other's bread and wine.
This is the place where we can receive
what we need to increase:
our justice and God's peace.**

Text: Huub Oosterhuis, b. 1933; tr. David Smith, b. 1933. Music: A Vaerius, *Nederlandsch Gedenckclanck*, 1626; arr. Adraïns Engels, b. 1906. Text and arrangement copyright 1984 TEAM Publications, admin. OCP Publications

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...

O God, strength of those who believe in you, give comfort and clarity of vision to us. Open our ears to hear your voice and obey your will; open our hearts that true justice and wisdom may about; and open our hands that violent resolution of conflict may cease, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

***First Reading* Obadiah**

B: The vision of Obadiah.

Thus says the Lord GOD concerning Edom:
We have heard a report from the LORD,

and a messenger has been sent among the nations:

‘Rise up! Let us rise against it for battle!’

² I will surely make you least among the nations;
you shall be utterly despised.

³ Your proud heart has deceived you,
you that live in the clefts of the rock,
whose dwelling is in the heights.

You say in your heart,

‘Who will bring me down to the ground?’

⁴ Though you soar aloft like the eagle,
though your nest is set among the stars,
from there I will bring you down,

says the LORD.

⁵ If thieves came to you,
if plunderers by night
—how you have been destroyed!—
would they not steal only what they wanted?

If grape-gatherers came to you,
would they not leave gleanings?

⁶ How Esau has been pillaged,
his treasures searched out!

⁷ All your allies have deceived you,
they have driven you to the border;

your confederates have prevailed against you;
those who ate your bread have set a trap for you—
there is no understanding of it.

⁸ On that day, says the LORD,
I will destroy the wise out of Edom,
and understanding out of Mount Esau.

⁹ Your warriors shall be shattered, O Teman,
so that everyone from Mount Esau will be cut off.

¹⁰ For the slaughter and violence done to your brother Jacob,
shame shall cover you,
and you shall be cut off for ever.

¹¹ On the day that you stood aside,
on the day that strangers carried off his wealth,
and foreigners entered his gates
and cast lots for Jerusalem,
you too were like one of them.

¹² But you should not have gloated over your brother

on the day of his misfortune;
you should not have rejoiced over the people of Judah
on the day of their ruin;
you should not have boasted
on the day of distress.

¹³ You should not have entered the gate of my people
on the day of their calamity;
you should not have joined in the gloating over Judah's disaster
on the day of his calamity;
you should not have looted his goods
on the day of his calamity.

¹⁴ You should not have stood at the crossings
to cut off his fugitives;
you should not have handed over his survivors
on the day of distress.

D: For the day of the LORD is near against all the nations.
As you have done, it shall be done to you;
your deeds shall return on your own head.

¹⁶ For as you have drunk on my holy mountain,
all the nations around you shall drink;
they shall drink and gulp down,
and shall be as though they had never been.

¹⁷ But on Mount Zion there shall be those that escape,
and it shall be holy;
and the house of Jacob shall take possession of those who dispossessed
them.

¹⁸ The house of Jacob shall be a fire,
the house of Joseph a flame,
and the house of Esau stubble;
they shall burn them and consume them,
and there shall be no survivor of the house of Esau;
for the LORD has spoken.

¹⁹ Those of the Negeb shall possess Mount Esau,
and those of the Shephelah the land of the Philistines;
they shall possess the land of Ephraim and the land
of Samaria,
and Benjamin shall possess Gilead.

²⁰ The exiles of the Israelites who are in Halah
shall possess Phoenicia as far as Zarephath;
and the exiles of Jerusalem who are in Sepharad

shall possess the towns of the Negeb.

²¹ Those who have been saved shall go up to Mount Zion

to rule Mount Esau;

and the kingdom shall be the LORD's.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 137(*read responsively*)

E: By the rivers of Babylon
we sat weeping,
remembering Zion.

**C: There on the poplars
we hung our harps.**

E: Our captors shouted
for happy songs,
for songs of festival.
“Sing!” they cried,
“the songs of Zion.”

**C: How could we sing
the song of the Lord
in a foreign land?**

E: Jerusalem forgotten?
Wither my hand!

**C: Jerusalem forgotten?
Silence my voice!
if I do not seek you
as my greatest joy.**

E: Lord, never forget
that crime of Edom
against the city,
the day she cried,
“Strip! Smash her to the ground!”

**C: Doomed Babylon, be cursed!
Good for those who deal you
evil for evil!
Good for those who destroy you,
who smash your children against rocks!**

Second Reading James 5:7-11

F: Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Indeed we call blessed those who showed endurance. You have heard of the endurance of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Matthew 5:44)

C: Alleluia. I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading Matthew 5:43-48

The gospel is announced:

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

C: Glory to you O Lord.

[Jesus preached] ‘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? ⁴⁸Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

After the reading:

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Once We Sang and Danced
(For music see Hymn 701 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Once we sang and danced with gladness,
once delight filled ev'ry breath;
now we sit among the ashes,
all our dreams destroyed by death.**
2. **All the willows bow in weeping,
all the rivers rage and moan,
as creation joins our pleading:
“God do not leave us alone.”**
3. **God, who came to dwell among us,
God, who suffered our disgrace,
from your own heart, grieved and wounded,
come the riches of your grace.**
4. **Come, O Christ, among the ashes,
come to wipe our tears away,
death destroy and sorrow banish;
now and always, come and stay.**

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952, based on Psalm 137, Copyright 2003 GIA Publications, Inc. Music: Latvian folk tune

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: O God of our salvation, we praise you for your continual mercy to the church. Hold the ark of the church in your loving hand, give our leaders endurance through all manner of hardship, and guide us in the way that we should go. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

B: At this time of the summer solstice, we praise you for the magnificence of nature. Hold the cosmos in your loving hand. Inspire us to care for your wonderful works seen in ocean deeps, in lakes, in rivers, and in wells. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

F: We praise you for the loving support of fathers to their children. Bless fathers, stepfathers, foster fathers, godfathers, and all who give fatherly care. 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 ✠

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 This Is My Father's World
(For music see Hymn 824 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **This is my Father's world,
and to my list'ning ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world;
I rest me in my thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
his hand the wonders wrought.**

2. **This is my Father's world;
the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their maker's praise.
This is my Father's world;
he shines in all that's fair.
In the rustling grass I hear him pass;
he speaks to me ev'rywhere.**

3. **This is my Father's world;
oh, let me not forget
that, though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world;
why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is king, let the heavens ring;
God reigns, let the earth be glad!**

Text: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858-1901. Music: Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852-1930, adapt.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the risen Lord.

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

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