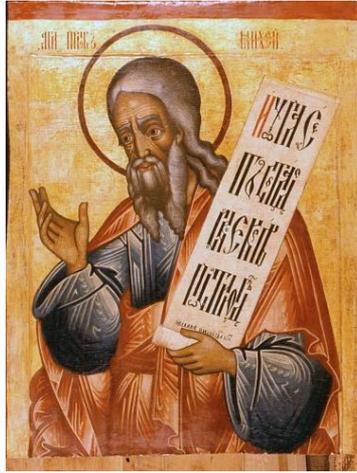




St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Russian Orthodox icon of the Prophet Micah, 18th century
(Iconostasis of Transfiguration Church, Kizhi Monastery, Karelia, Russia)

The Prophets – Micah

June 27, 2021

10:30 Service of the Word

Micah is one of the four 8th Century B.C.E. prophets whose writings are in the Bible. (The others are Amos, Hosea, and Isaiah.) He witnessed the fall of the northern kingdom of Israel to the Assyrian Empire. He proclaimed a stern warning to the remaining southern kingdom of Judah. The leaders needed to truly return to God in their hearts. They could not keep the haughty claim that because they were God's people they were assured protection. He calls for real ethical reforms. In Micah we see one of two competing strains of prophetic thought that developed in the time period. The other strain we'll see in Isaiah.

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 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy
(For music see Hymn 588 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice
which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgment giv'n.**
2. **There's a welcome for the sinner,
and a promised grace made good;
there is mercy with the Savior;
there is healing in his blood.
There is grace enough for thousands
of new worlds as great as this;
there is room for fresh creations
in that upper home of bliss.**
3. **For the love of God is broader
that the measures of our mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is more wonderfully kind.
But we make this love too narrow
by false limits of our own;
and we magnify its strictness
with a zeal God will not own.**
4. **'Tis not all we owe to Jesus;
it is something more than all:
greater good because of evil,
larger mercy through the fall.
Make our love, O God, more faithful;
let us take you at your word,
and our lives will be thanksgiving
for the goodness of the Lord.**

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:

Almighty and merciful God, we implore you to hear the prayers of your people. Be our strong defense against all harm and danger; that we may live and grow in faith and hope, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading Micah 3

B: And I said:

Listen, you heads of Jacob

and rulers of the house of Israel!

Should you not know justice?—

²you who hate the good and love the evil,
who tear the skin off my people,
and the flesh off their bones;

³who eat the flesh of my people,
flay their skin off them,
break their bones in pieces,

and chop them up like meat in a kettle,
like flesh in a caldron.

⁴Then they will cry to the LORD,
but he will not answer them;

he will hide his face from them at that time,
because they have acted wickedly.

⁵Thus says the LORD concerning the prophets
who lead my people astray,
who cry “Peace”

when they have something to eat,
but declare war against those
who put nothing into their mouths.

⁶Therefore it shall be night to you, without vision,
and darkness to you, without revelation.

The sun shall go down upon the prophets,

and the day shall be black over them;
⁷the seers shall be disgraced,
and the diviners put to shame;
they shall all cover their lips,
for there is no answer from God.

⁸But as for me, I am filled with power,
with the spirit of the LORD,
and with justice and might,
to declare to Jacob his transgression
and to Israel his sin.

⁹Hear this, you rulers of the house of Jacob
and chiefs of the house of Israel,
who abhor justice
and pervert all equity,

¹⁰who build Zion with blood
and Jerusalem with wrong!

¹¹Its rulers give judgment for a bribe,
its priests teach for a price,
its prophets give oracles for money;
yet they lean upon the LORD and say,
“Surely the LORD is with us!
No harm shall come upon us.”

¹²Therefore because of you
Zion shall be plowed as a field;
Jerusalem shall become a heap of ruins,
and the mountain of the house a wooded height.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Micah 7:18-20 (read responsively)

C: ¹⁸Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity
and passing over the transgression
of the remnant of your possession?

He does not retain his anger forever,
because he delights in showing clemency.

¹⁹He will again have compassion upon us;
he will tread our iniquities under foot.

You will cast all our sins
into the depths of the sea.

²⁰You will show faithfulness to Jacob
and unswerving loyalty to Abraham,
as you have sworn to our ancestors
from the days of old.

Second Reading Romans 12:1-5

D: [Paul writes] I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Romans 12:2b)

C: Alleluia. Be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading Matthew 23:1-12

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 23rd chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, ²“The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat; ³therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. ⁴They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. ⁵They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. ⁶They love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, ⁷and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have people call them rabbi. ⁸But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. ⁹And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father—the one in heaven. ¹⁰Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. ¹¹The greatest among you will be your servant. ¹²All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.

After the reading:

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life

(For music turn to Hymn 816 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Come, my way, my truth, my life:**
Such a way as gives us breath;
Such a truth as ends all strife;
Such a life as killeth death.
2. **Come, my light, my feast, my strength:**
Such a light as shows a feast;
Such a feast as mends in length;
Such a strength as makes his guest.
3. **Come, my joy, my love, my heart:**
Such a joy as none can move;

**Such a love as none can part;
such a heart as joys in love.**

Text: George Herbert, 1593-1632; Music: R. Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958

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: Direct the lives of those who are graduating in this season. Give them a sense of your purpose and direct their lives. Give guidance to all who feel lost. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

B: Be with the church in this nation and throughout the world. Help us to be able to effectively proclaim your grace. 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: Bring healing to those who suffer from anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, or any mental illness. Shower all people with soundness of mind. 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 ✠

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 On Eagle's Wings

(For music turn to Hymn 787 in the Red Hymnal)

- 1. You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
who abide in this shadow for life,
say to the Lord: "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"**

Refrain

**"And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand."**

- 2. Snares of the fowler will never capture you,
and famine will bring you no fear;
under God's wings your refuge
with faithfulness your shield. *Refrain***
- 3. You need not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by the day;
though thousands fall about you,
near you it shall not come. *Refrain***
- 4. For to the angels God's given a command**

**to guard you in all of your ways;
upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you dash your foot against a stone. Refrain**

Text and Music by Michael Jonas, b. 1951; copyright 1979 OCP Publication

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

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



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