



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## *The Prophets - Joel*

*June 6, 2021*

*10:30 Holy Communion*

Today we move to Joel, the second of the Minor Prophets. This book threatens horrors for those who forsake God, but abundant blessings for those who turn to God. We'll explore some of the background of Joel and see what he has to say for our lives today.

### *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. You are welcome to kneel.*

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 Take My Life, That I May Be

*For music turn to Hymn 583 in the Red Hymnal*

*Refrain* **Take my life, that I may be  
consecrated, Lord to thee;  
take my moments and my days;  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

1. **Take my hands and let them move  
at the impulse of thy love;  
take my feet and let them be  
swift and beautiful for thee.** *Refrain*

2. **Take my silver and my gold  
not a mite would I withhold;  
take my intellect and use  
ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.** *Refrain*

3. **Take my voice and let me sing  
always, only for my King;  
take my lips and let them be  
filled with messages from thee.** *Refrain*

4. **Take my will and make it thine;  
it shall be no longer mine;  
take my heart, it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne.** *Refrain*

Text: Francis R. Havergal, 1836-1879, adapt. Music: William Dexheimer Pharris, b. 1956; arr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954, Music copyright 1999 Augsburg Fortress

*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, throughout the ages you judge your people with mercy, and you inspire us to speak your truth. By your Spirit, anoint us for lives of faith and service, and bring all people into your forgiveness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

‡ WORD ‡

*First Reading* Joel 1:1-4, 2:12-17

**B:** The word of the LORD that came to Joel son of Pethuel:

<sup>2</sup>Hear this, O elders,  
give ear, all inhabitants of the land!

Has such a thing happened in your days,  
or in the days of your ancestors?

<sup>3</sup>Tell your children of it,  
and let your children tell their children,  
and their children another generation.

<sup>4</sup>What the cutting locust left,  
the swarming locust has eaten.

What the swarming locust left,  
the hopping locust has eaten,  
and what the hopping locust left,  
the destroying locust has eaten.

<sup>12</sup>Yet even now, says the LORD,  
return to me with all your heart, with fasting,  
with weeping, and with mourning;

<sup>13</sup>rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the LORD, your God,  
for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,  
and relents from punishing.

<sup>14</sup>Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,  
and leave a blessing behind him,  
a grain offering and a drink offering  
for the LORD, your God?

<sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
sanctify a fast;  
call a solemn assembly;

<sup>16</sup>gather the people.

Sanctify the congregation;  
assemble the aged;  
gather the children,  
even infants at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room,  
and the bride her canopy.

<sup>17</sup>Between the vestibule and the altar  
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep.

Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD,  
and do not make your heritage a mockery,  
a byword among the nations.

Why should it be said among the peoples,  
'Where is their God?'"

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Scripture Poetry Psalm 126(*read responsively*)

**D:** The Lord brings us back to Zion,  
we are like dreamers,  
laughing, dancing,  
with songs on our lips.

**C: Other nations say,  
“A new world of wonders!  
The Lord is with them.”**

**D:** Yes, God works wonders.  
Rejoice! Be glad!

**C: Lord, bring us back  
as water to thirsty land.**

**D:** Those sowing in tears  
reap, singing and laughing.

**C: They left weeping, weeping,  
casting the seed.  
They come back singing, singing,  
holding high the harvest.**

Second Reading Hebrews 4:12-16

**E:** Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. <sup>13</sup>And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account. <sup>14</sup>Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. <sup>15</sup>For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup>Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation (Matthew 7:7)

**C: Alleluia. Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. Alleluia.**

Gospel Reading Matthew 7:1-12

*The gospel is announced:*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

[Jesus preached] “Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. <sup>2</sup>For with the judgment you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get. <sup>3</sup>Why do you see the speck in your neighbor’s eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? <sup>4</sup>Or how can you say to your neighbor, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ while the log is in your own eye? <sup>5</sup>You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor’s eye. <sup>6</sup>“Do not give what is holy to dogs; and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under foot and turn and maul you.

<sup>7</sup>“Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. <sup>8</sup>For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. <sup>9</sup>Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? <sup>10</sup>Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? <sup>11</sup>If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

<sup>12</sup>“In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.

*After the reading:*

P: The Gospel of the Lord

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

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day O Jesus, I Have Promised

*(For music see Hymn 810 in the Red Hymnal)*

**1. O Jesus, I have promised  
to serve you to the end;  
remain forever near me,  
my master and my friend.  
I shall not fear the battle  
if you are by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway**

**if you will be my guide.**

2. **Oh, let me feel you near me;  
the world is ever near.  
I see the sights that dazzle,  
the tempting sounds I hear.  
My foes are ever near me,  
around me and within;  
but, Jesus, then draw nearer  
to shield my soul from sin.**
  
3. **Oh, let me hear you speaking  
in accents clear and still  
above the storms of passion,  
the murmurs of self-will.  
Now speak to reassure me,  
to hasten or control  
now speak and make me listen,  
O Guardian of my soul.**
  
4. **O Jesus, you have promised  
to all who follow you  
that where you are in glory  
your servant shall be too.  
And Jesus, I have promised  
to serve you to the end;  
oh, give me grace to follow,  
my master and my friend.**

Text: John E. Bode, 1816-1974, alt. Music: *Neuvermehrtes*, Meiningen, 1693

### *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:** On this anniversary of D-Day, we ask you to bring an end to warfare throughout the world. Halt the violence between nations, on our streets, and inside our homes. Lord in your mercy...

**C: Hear our prayer.**

**B:** Inspire all Christian communities to welcome and incorporate people, whether those people be attractive or unattractive, rich or poor, of their race or of a different race. Be with our missionaries, the Rev. Matthew Nickoloff and the Rev. Karen Anderson. Lord in your mercy...

**C: Hear our prayer.**

**E:** On this National Cancer Survivors Day, we ask you to strengthen both those who are recovering from disease and those who now face death. Bring healing to humanity as it struggles against the coronavirus. 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.**



† 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

**E:** 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 Little Light of Mine  
(For music see Hymn 677 in the Red Hymnal)

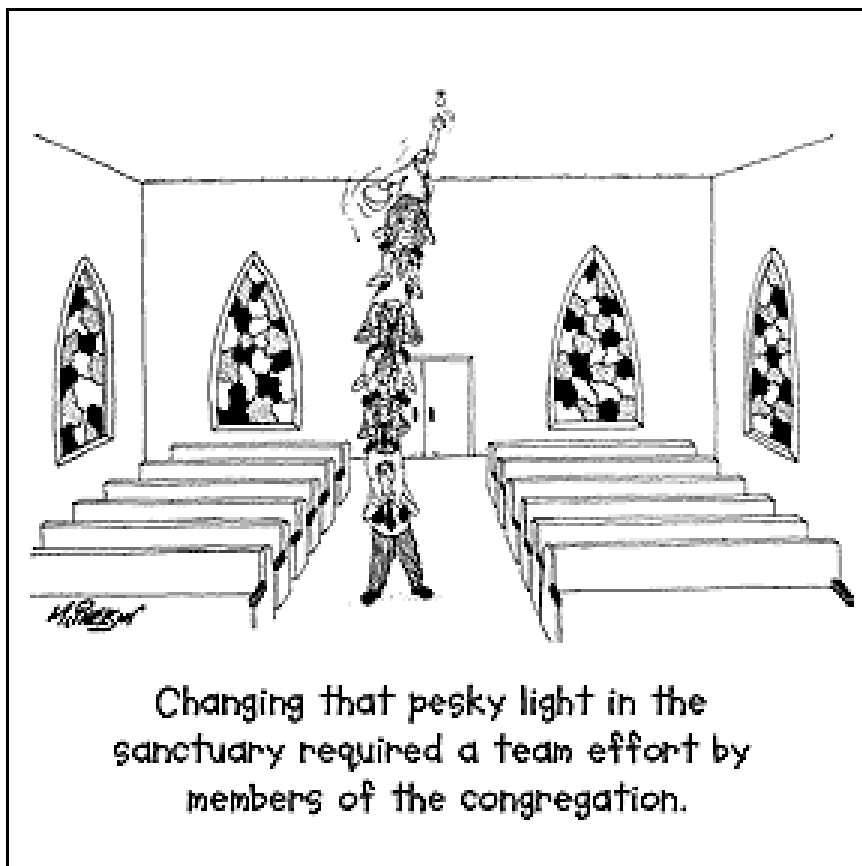
1. **This little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine;  
this little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine;  
this little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine;  
let is shine, let it shine, let is shine.**
  
2. **Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine;  
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine;  
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine;  
let is shine, let it shine, let is shine.**
  
3. **Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'a let it shine;  
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'a let it shine;  
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'a let it shine;  
let is shine, let it shine, let is shine.**

Text and music: African American Spiritual

*Dismissal*

P: Go in peace. Serve the risen Lord.

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



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