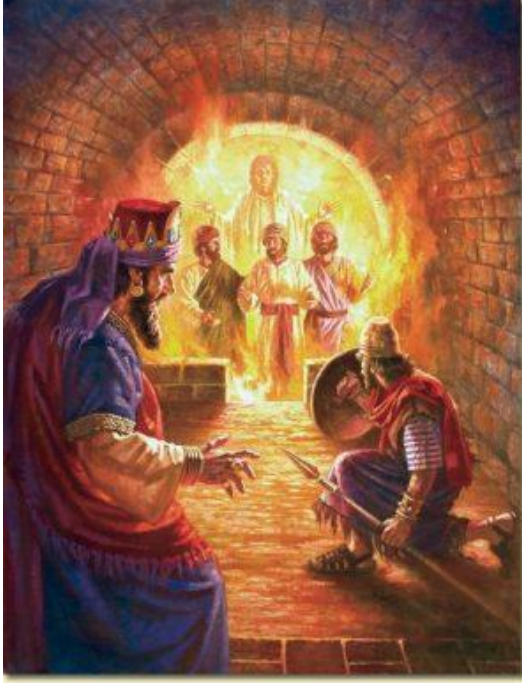




# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## *Daniel – Fiery Furnace*

*November 14, 2021*

*10:30 Service of the Word*

What would you do if following your faith was against the law? Would you renounce it? Would you become quiet and secretive? Maybe you'd become bold and face the consequences. Today we read from Daniel 3, which is the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; three faithful Jews who do not compromise their faith when they are faced with death.

### *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: In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Have mercy on us, O God.

**C: We confess that we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbor.**

**We have built walls instead of tables  
and have turned away the stranger.**

**We have sought glory for ourselves  
and have treasured that which does not satisfy.**

**Help us to love as you love,  
to welcome those you send,**

**and to treasure mercy and justice.**

**Turn us from our ways to your ways,**

**and free us to serve those in need. Amen.**

P: God, who makes all things new, forgives your sins for Jesus' sake and remembers them no more. Lift up your heads and your hearts. Yours is the kingdom of God.

**C: Amen.**

### Gathering Hymn Lead Me to the Rock

*(For music turn to Hymn 20 in the Songbook binder)*

**1. When my heart is overwhelmed,**

**Hear my cry,**

**Give heed to my prayer,**

**And my eyes are dim with tears,**

**O Father, make them clear;**

**From the ends of all the earth,**

**When my heart is fainting,**

**Let me know that You have heard,**

**Lead me into safety.**

*Chorus (Repeat Chorus at end)*

**And lead me to the Rock,  
The Rock that is higher,  
Lead me to the Rock that is higher than I.  
Lead me to the Rock,  
The Rock that is higher,  
Higher than I.**

**2. You, O Lord have been for me  
A refuge from my enemies.  
Let me live within your strength,  
In the shelter of Your wings;  
From the ends of all the earth,  
When my heart is fainting,  
Let me know that You have heard,  
Lead me into safety. *Chorus***

Text and music by Lynn DeSchazo. CCLI # 80971. Copyright 1989 Integrity's Hosanna! Music, Admin: Integrity Music, Inc.

*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.**

*Gathering Dialog (Deuteronomy 26, 11, 8)*

A: You are the treasured people of the Lord,

**C: a people holy to the Lord our God.**

A: Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children.

**C: Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away,  
when you lie down and when you rise.**

A: One does not live by bread alone,

**C: but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.**

*Prayer of the Day*

A: Let us pray:

O God, you show forth your almighty power chiefly by reaching out to us in mercy. Grant us the fullness of your grace, strengthen our trust in your promises, and bring all the world to share in the treasures that come through your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## † WORD †

### First Reading Daniel 3

B: King Nebuchadnezzar made a golden statue whose height was sixty cubits and whose width was six cubits; he set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. <sup>2</sup>Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent for the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces to assemble and come to the dedication of the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. <sup>3</sup>So the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, assembled for the dedication of the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. When they were standing before the statue that Nebuchadnezzar had set up, <sup>4</sup>the herald proclaimed aloud, “You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, <sup>5</sup>that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, you are to fall down and worship the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire.” <sup>7</sup>Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

<sup>8</sup>Accordingly, at this time certain Chaldeans came forward and denounced the Jews. <sup>9</sup>They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, “O king, live forever! <sup>10</sup>You, O king, have made a decree, that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, shall fall down and worship the golden statue, <sup>11</sup>and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire. <sup>12</sup>There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These pay no heed to you, O King. They do not serve your gods and they do not worship the golden statue that you have set up.”

D: <sup>13</sup>Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought in; so they brought those men before the king. <sup>14</sup>Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods and you do not worship the golden statue that I have set up? <sup>15</sup>Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble to fall down and worship the statue that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately

be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire, and who is the god that will deliver you out of my hands?" <sup>16</sup>Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to present a defense to you in this matter. <sup>17</sup>If our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire and out of your hand, O king, let him deliver us. <sup>18</sup>But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up."

E: <sup>19</sup>Then Nebuchadnezzar was so filled with rage against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face was distorted. He ordered the furnace heated up seven times more than was customary, <sup>20</sup>and ordered some of the strongest guards in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and to throw them into the furnace of blazing fire. <sup>21</sup>So the men were bound, still wearing their tunics, their trousers, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the furnace of blazing fire. <sup>22</sup>Because the king's command was urgent and the furnace was so overheated, the raging flames killed the men who lifted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. <sup>23</sup>But the three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down, bound, into the furnace of blazing fire. <sup>24</sup>Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up quickly. He said to his counselors, "Was it not three men that we threw bound into the fire?" They answered the king, "True, O king." <sup>25</sup>He replied, "But I see four men unbound, walking in the middle of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the fourth has the appearance of a god." <sup>26</sup>Nebuchadnezzar then approached the door of the furnace of blazing fire and said, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!" So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. <sup>27</sup>And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men; the hair of their heads was not singed, their tunics were not harmed, and not even the smell of fire came from them. <sup>28</sup>Nebuchadnezzar said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants who trusted in him. They disobeyed the king's command and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. <sup>29</sup>Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that utters blasphemy against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb

from limb, and their houses laid in ruins; for there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way.”<sup>30</sup> Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Scripture Poetry Psalm 2 (*Read responsively*)

D: Why is this strife among nations?

Why this pointless scheming?

**C: Kings stand against God,  
nobles plot together  
against the Lord’s anointed:**

D: “Let us break these fetters,  
let us cast off these chains!”

**C: High above the earth  
God laughs in mockery,**

D: speaking in anger  
striking them with terror:

**C: “On Zion, my holy mountain,  
I anoint my king.”**

D: I will repeat the Lord’s decree:  
“You are my son,  
today I give you birth.

**C: Ask and the nations are yours,  
even the far-off lands.**

D: You will strike them with an iron rod,  
shatter them like clay pots.”

**C: Kings, come to your senses;  
rulers, take heed.**

D: Serve the Lord with joy,  
tremble in awe,  
bow at God’s feet,

**C: for if you provoke God’s anger,  
you will perish in a flash.  
How much better  
to find shelter in God!**

Gospel Acclamation (Daniel 3:17-18)

**C: Alleluia. They said, “If our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire and out of your hand, O king, let him deliver us. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up.” Alleluia.**

Gospel Reading Matthew 8:31-38

*The gospel is announced:*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>31</sup>Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

<sup>34</sup>He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

*After the reading:*

P: The Gospel of the Lord

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

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Faith of Our Fathers

*(For music see Hymn 812 in the Red Hymnal)*

**1. Faith of our fathers, living still  
in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword.  
Oh how our hearts beat high with joy  
when-e’er we hear that glorious word.**

*Refrain* Faith of our fathers, holy faith,  
we will be true to thee till death.

2. The martyrs, chained in prisons dark,  
were still in heart and conscience free;  
and blest would be their children's fate  
if they, like them, should die for thee.

*Refrain*

3. Faith of our fathers! We will love  
both friend and foe in all our strife;  
proclaim thee too, as love knows how,  
by saving word and faithful life.

*Refrain*

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, alt. Music: Henri F. Hemy, 1818-1888; James G. Walton, 1821-1905, refrain

*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. Please conclude your petition with: Lord in your mercy,*

*The congregation will respond: **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

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

P: 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:** God, the beginning and the end,  
who has written your name in the book of life,  
bless and keep you in grace and peace  
from this time forth and forevermore.

**C: Amen.**

Sending Hymn Travelers on the Journey  
(For music turn to Hymn 37 in the Songbook binder)

*Refrain*

**We are  
trav'lers on the journey  
yearning to believe!  
Hearts are burning  
eyes are opened.  
We are  
trav'lers on the journey of love.**

**1. What is life really all about  
in the struggle of faith?  
Hear the word reaching out to you,  
Jesus is alive today.** *Refrain*

**2. Do we walk in our foolishness  
with our hearts ever slow  
to the touch of the Holy One  
who is with us on this road?** *Refrain*

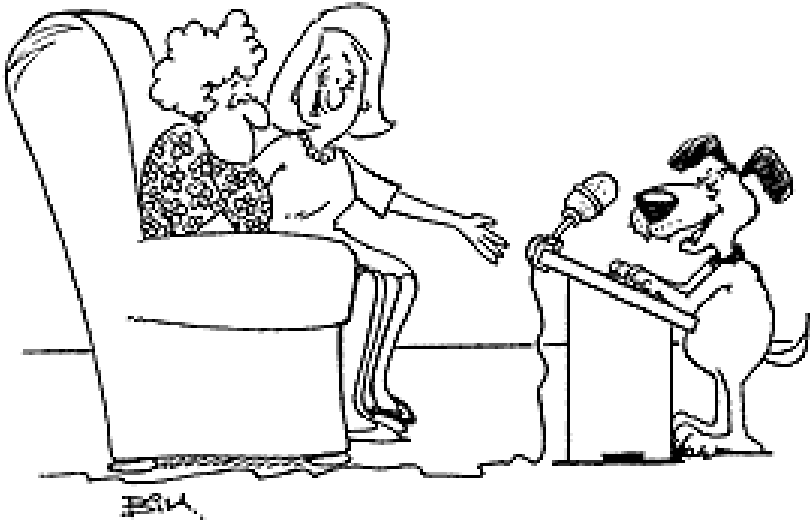
**3. We are blessed in the gathering  
at the table of grace.  
free to see in another's pain  
the face of Jesus here today.** *Refrain*

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Dismissal

**P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.**

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



"It does seem strange, but Tom said this is how all pastors train their dogs to speak."

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