



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## *Daniel – Lions' Den*

*November 21, 2021*

*10:30 Holy Communion*

This Sunday concludes our worship series on the Old Testament prophets. We look at the story of Daniel in the lions' den. While this is a famous Bible story, and one often taught to children, we'll look at it from an adult point of view. It has many similarities to the story of Shadrach, Meshack, Abednego and the fiery furnace, but also some differences. This story is about civil disobedience in the face of oppression.

### *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

Gathering Hymn Golden Breaks the Dawn  
(For music see Hymn 852 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Golden breaks the dawn,  
comes the eastern sun;  
like a rider strong,  
set the course to run.  
Birds above me fly,  
flowers bloom below;  
through the earth and sky  
God's great mercies flow.**
2. **Holy, living God,  
keep me safe today;  
though I weary plod,  
make me kind, I pray.  
Let me guide our youth,  
honor weak and old;  
let me serve with truth,  
and God's love unfold.**
3. **Give me daily bread,  
while I do my part;  
bright skies overhead,  
gladness in my heart.  
Simple wants provide,  
evil let me shun;  
Jesus at my side,  
till the day is done.**

Text: Tzu-chen Chao; para. Frank W. Price, 1885-1974. Music: Te-ngai Hu, Text and music copyright 1977 Chinese Christian Literature Council Ltd. Hong Kong.

## Apostles' Greeting

**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.

Confession and Forgiveness

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.**

Hymn of Praise Kyrie Eleison

*"Kyrie Eleison" is Greek for "Lord have mercy."*

*(For music turn to Hymn 19 in the Songbook binder)*

*Refrain*

**Kyrie Eleison on our world and on our way.  
Kyrie Eleison ev'ry day**

- 1. For peace in the world, for the health of the church,  
for the unity of all.  
For this holy house, for all who worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord! *Refrain***
- 2. That we may live out your impassioned response to the  
hungry and the poor.  
That we may live out truth and justice and grace,  
let us pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord! *Refrain***
- 3. For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes,  
for friends and family.  
For life and for love, for our work and our play,  
let us pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord! *Refrain***

**4. For your spirit to guide, that you center our lives  
in the water and the Word  
That you nourish our souls with your body and blood  
let us pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord! Refrain**

Text and music: Larry Olson, copyright 1989, Dakota Road Music, CCLI #1765776

*Prayer of the Day*

A: Let us pray...

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may move every human heart; that the barriers dividing us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; and that, with our divisions healed, we might live in justice and peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

† WORD †

*First Reading* Daniel 6

B: It pleased [Persian emperor] Darius to set over the kingdom one hundred twenty satraps, stationed throughout the whole kingdom, <sup>2</sup>and over them three presidents, including Daniel; to these the satraps gave account, so that the king might suffer no loss. <sup>3</sup>Soon Daniel distinguished himself above all the other presidents and satraps because an excellent spirit was in him, and the king planned to appoint him over the whole kingdom. <sup>4</sup>So the presidents and the satraps tried to find grounds for complaint against Daniel in connection with the kingdom. But they could find no grounds for complaint or any corruption, because he was faithful, and no negligence or corruption could be found in him. <sup>5</sup>The men said, "We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God."

<sup>6</sup>So the presidents and satraps conspired and came to the king and said to him, "O King Darius, live forever! <sup>7</sup>All the presidents of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an interdict, that whoever prays to anyone, divine or human, for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be thrown into a den of lions. <sup>8</sup>Now, O king, establish the interdict and sign the document, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be revoked." <sup>9</sup>Therefore King Darius signed the document and interdict.

D: <sup>10</sup>Although Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he continued to go to his house, which had windows in its upper room open toward Jerusalem, and to get down on his knees three times a day to pray to his God and praise him, just as he had done previously.

<sup>11</sup>The conspirators came and found Daniel praying and seeking mercy before his God. <sup>12</sup>Then they approached the king and said concerning the interdict, “O king! Did you not sign an interdict, that anyone who prays to anyone, divine or human, within thirty days except to you, O king, shall be thrown into a den of lions?” The king answered, “The thing stands fast, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be revoked.” <sup>13</sup>Then they responded to the king, “Daniel, one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the interdict you have signed, but he is saying his prayers three times a day.” <sup>14</sup>When the king heard the charge, he was very much distressed. He was determined to save Daniel, and until the sun went down he made every effort to rescue him. <sup>15</sup>Then the conspirators came to the king and said to him, “Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no interdict or ordinance that the king establishes can be changed.” <sup>16</sup>Then the king gave the command, and Daniel was brought and thrown into the den of lions. The king said to Daniel, “May your God, whom you faithfully serve, deliver you!” <sup>17</sup>A stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, so that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel.

E: Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; no food was brought to him, and sleep fled from him. <sup>19</sup>Then, at break of day, the king got up and hurried to the den of lions. <sup>20</sup>When he came near the den where Daniel was, he cried out anxiously to Daniel, “O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God whom you faithfully serve been able to deliver you from the lions?” <sup>21</sup>Daniel then said to the king, “O king, live forever! <sup>22</sup>My God sent his angel and shut the lions’ mouths so that they would not hurt me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no wrong.” <sup>23</sup>Then the king was exceedingly glad and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God. <sup>24</sup>The king gave a command, and those who had accused Daniel were brought and thrown into the den of lions—they, their children, and their wives. Before they reached the bottom of the den the lions overpowered them and broke all their bones in pieces.

<sup>25</sup>Then King Darius wrote to all peoples and nations of every language throughout the whole world: “May you have abundant prosperity! <sup>26</sup>I

make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people should tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: For he is the living God, enduring forever. His kingdom shall never be destroyed, and his dominion has no end. <sup>27</sup>He delivers and rescues, he works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth; for he has saved Daniel from the power of the lions.” <sup>28</sup>So this Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Scripture Poetry* Psalm 7:1-10 (*read responsively*)

F: You are my haven, Lord my God,  
save me from my attackers.

**C: Rescue me, their helpless prey;  
these lions will tear me to pieces.**

F: Lord, if I have done anything wrong,  
if there is guilt on my hands,

**C: if I have mistreated friend or foe  
for no good reason,**

F: then let the enemy hound me,  
overtake and kill me,  
trample me into the ground.

**C: Wake up, Lord!  
Arise and rage  
against my angry foes.  
Provide the justice you demand.**

F: Make the world a courtroom  
and take your seat as judge.

**C: Then, judge of all nations,  
give me justice.**

F: I have done what is right,  
I am innocent.

**C: Put an end to evil,  
uphold the good;  
you test our hearts,  
God of right and truth.**

*Gospel Acclamation* (Daniel 6:27)

**C: Alleluia. God delivers and rescues, he works signs and wonders  
in heaven and on earth. Alleluia.**

Gospel Reading Luke 21:12-19

*The gospel is announced:*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter.

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

[Jesus said to the disciples] “But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. <sup>13</sup>This will give you an opportunity to testify. <sup>14</sup>So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; <sup>15</sup>for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. <sup>16</sup>You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. <sup>17</sup>You will be hated by all because of my name. <sup>18</sup>But not a hair of your head will perish. <sup>19</sup>By your endurance you will gain your souls.

*After the reading:*

P: The Gospel of the Lord

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

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Let Justice Flow Like Streams

*(For music see Hymn 717 in the Red Hymnal)*

1. **Let justice flow like streams  
of sparkling water, pure,  
enabling growth, refreshing life,  
abundant, cleansing sure.**
2. **Let righteousness roll on  
as others' cares we heed,  
an ever-flowing stream of faith  
translated into deed.**
3. **So may God's plumb line, straight,  
define our measure true,  
and justice, right, and peace pervade  
this world our whole life through.**

Apostles' Creed

P: We confirm 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 the Church

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 a sign of Christ's peace.*



† MEAL †

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*Offering Prayer*

P: Let us pray: Holy God,

**C: the earth is yours and everything in it,  
yet you have chosen us to dwell among your creatures.  
Come among us now in these gifts of bread and wine,  
and strengthen us to be your body for the world  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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. Please come forward to the altar rail. The pastor will give you a wafer. The communion assistant will hold a tray of wine or grape juice (white.. If you need a gluten free option please tell the pastor. As we commune together everyone is invited to sing the following hymns:*

*Lamb of God (Page 39 of the Blue Hymnal)*

**502** *The King of Love My Shepherd Is (Red Hymnal)*

**468** *Around You, O Lord Jesus (Red Hymnal)*

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

A: Let us pray: Blessed Jesus, at this table, you have been for us both host and meal. Now send us forth to extend our tables and to share your gifts until that day when all feast together at your heavenly banquet.

**C: 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.**

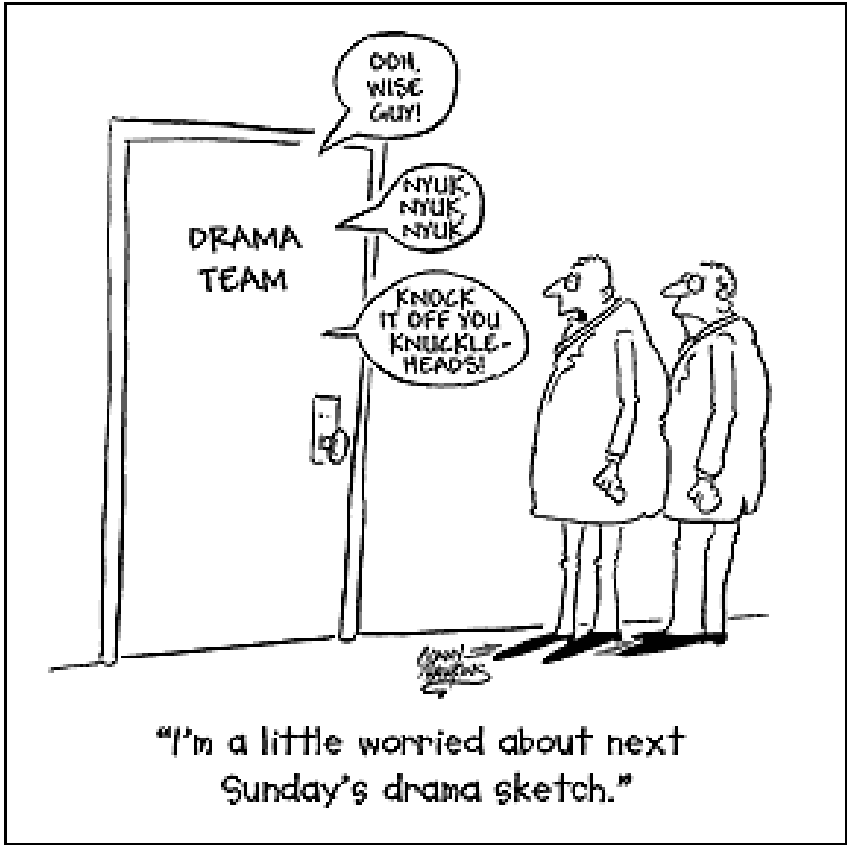
*Sending Hymn* Touch the Earth Lightly  
(For music see Hymn 739 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Touch the earth lightly,  
use the earth gently,  
nourish the life of the world in our care:  
gift of great wonder,  
ours to surrender,  
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.**
  
2. **We who endanger,  
who create hunger,  
agents of death for all creatures that live,  
we who would foster  
clouds of disaster-  
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!**
  
3. **Let there be greening,  
birth from the burning,  
water that blesses, and air that is sweet,  
health in God's garden,  
hope in God's children,  
regeneration that peace will complete.**
  
4. **God of all living,  
God of all loving,  
God of the seedling, the snow, and the sun,  
teach us, deflect us,  
Christ reconnect us,  
using us gently, and making us one.**

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.



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