



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Jeremiah's Temple Sermon

September 19, 2021

10:30 Holy Communion

God called Jeremiah to go to the temple complex in Jerusalem and preach a message that would be very unpopular: God would be allowing political and religious collapse to come upon the people because of their persistent unfaithfulness. Indeed Jeremiah's words caused a mixed response. Some wanted to silence him and punish him. Others said he should be allowed to continue. Jeremiah deserves a great deal of credit for being willing to put his life on the line in order to deliver God's message.

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,
whose teaching is life,
whose presence is sure,
and whose love is endless.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God our comforter:

**C: like lost sheep, we have gone astray.
We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity.
We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression.
We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed.
Free us from our sin, gracious God.
Listen when we call out to you for help.
Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves.
Amen.**

P: All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn All Are Welcome

(For music turn to Hymn 1 in the Songbook binder)

Chorus

**All are welcome, friend and stranger,
At the banquet of the Savior.
All are welcome. All are welcome here.**

- 1. From the woman who comes crying
Leaving tears at Jesus' feet,
To the man who knows the right way
But cannot see.**

Chorus

2. **From the ones who feel forgotten,
Those who sense their place is gone,
To the ones who live in hunger,
Here you belong.** *Chorus*
3. **Go into the streets and cities,
To the farms and families,
Tell about the splendid table,
God’s mercy** *Chorus*

Text and music: Hans Peterson, Larry Olson; copyright 1999 Dakota Road Music; CCLI #2944348

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, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading Jeremiah 26

B: At the beginning of the reign of King Jehoiakim son of Josiah of Judah, this word came from the LORD: ²Thus says the LORD: Stand in the court of the Lord’s house, and speak to all the cities of Judah that come to worship in the house of the LORD; speak to them all the words that I command you; do not hold back a word. ³It may be that they will listen, all of them, and will turn from their evil way, that I may change my mind about the disaster that I intend to bring on them because of their evil doings. ⁴You shall say to them: Thus says the LORD: If you will not listen to me, to walk in my law that I have set before you, ⁵and to heed the words of my servants the prophets whom I send to you urgently— though you have not heeded— ⁶then I will make this house like Shiloh, and I will make this city a curse for all the nations of the earth.

⁷The priests and the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the house of the LORD. ⁸And when Jeremiah had finished speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak to all the people, then the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold of him, saying, “You shall die! ⁹Why have you prophesied in the name of the LORD, saying, ‘This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant?’” And all the people gathered around Jeremiah in the house of the LORD. ¹⁰When the officials of Judah heard these things, they came up from the king’s house to the house of the LORD and took their seat in the entry of the New Gate of the house of the LORD. ¹¹Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and to all the people, “This man deserves the sentence of death because he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your own ears.” ¹²Then Jeremiah spoke to all the officials and all the people, saying, “It is the LORD who sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the words you have heard. ¹³Now therefore amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the LORD your God, and the LORD will change his mind about the disaster that he has pronounced against you. ¹⁴But as for me, here I am in your hands. Do with me as seems good and right to you. ¹⁵Only know for certain that if you put me to death, you will be bringing innocent blood upon yourselves and upon this city and its inhabitants, for in truth the LORD sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears.”

D: ¹⁶Then the officials and all the people said to the priests and the prophets, “This man does not deserve the sentence of death, for he has spoken to us in the name of the LORD our God.” ¹⁷And some of the elders of the land arose and said to all the assembled people, ¹⁸“Micah of Moresheth, who prophesied during the days of King Hezekiah of Judah, said to all the people of Judah: ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, Zion shall be plowed as a field; Jerusalem shall become a heap of ruins, and the mountain of the house a wooded height.’ ¹⁹Did King Hezekiah of Judah and all Judah actually put him to death? Did he not fear the LORD and entreat the favor of the LORD, and did not the LORD change his mind about the disaster that he had pronounced against them? But we are about to bring great disaster on ourselves!” ²⁰There was another man prophesying in the name of the LORD, Uriah son of Shemaiah from Kiriath-jearim. He prophesied against this city and against this land in words exactly like those of Jeremiah. ²¹And when King Jehoiakim, with all his warriors and all the officials, heard his words, the king sought to put him to death; but when Uriah heard of it, he was afraid and fled and escaped to Egypt. ²²Then King Jehoiakim sent Elnathan son of Achbor

and men with him to Egypt, ²³and they took Uriah from Egypt and brought him to King Jehoiakim, who struck him down with the sword and threw his dead body into the burial place of the common people. ²⁴But the hand of Ahikam son of Shaphan was with Jeremiah so that he was not given over into the hands of the people to be put to death.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 43 (*read responsively*)

E: Decide in my favor, God,
plead my case against the hateful,

C: defend me from liars and thugs.

For you are God my fortress.

E: Why have you forgotten me?
Why am I bent double
under the weight of enemies?

C: Send your light and truth.

**They will escort me
to the holy mountain
where you make your home.**

E: I will approach the altar of God,
God, my highest joy,
and praise you with the harp,
God, my God.

C: Why are you sad, my heart?

Why do you grieve?

Wait for the Lord.

I will yet praise God my savior.

Gospel Acclamation (*Isaiah 57:14*)

**C: Alleluia. Build up, prepare the way. Remove the obstructions
from my people's way. Alleluia.**

Gospel Reading John 7:40-52

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 7th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

⁴⁰When they heard these words, some in the crowd said, "This is really the prophet." ⁴¹Others said, "This is the Messiah." But some asked, "Surely the Messiah does not come from Galilee, does he? ⁴²Has not the scripture said that the Messiah is descended from David and comes from

Bethlehem, the village where David lived?”⁴³ So there was a division in the crowd because of him.⁴⁴ Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him.

⁴⁵Then the temple police went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who asked them, “Why did you not arrest him?”⁴⁶ The police answered, “Never has anyone spoken like this!”⁴⁷ Then the Pharisees replied, “Surely you have not been deceived too, have you?”⁴⁸ Has any one of the authorities or of the Pharisees believed in him?⁴⁹ But this crowd, which does not know the law—they are accursed.”⁵⁰ Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus before, and who was one of them, asked,⁵¹ “Our law does not judge people without first giving them a hearing to find out what they are doing, does it?”⁵² They replied, “Surely you are not also from Galilee, are you? Search and you will see that no prophet is to arise from Galilee.”

After the reading:

P: The Gospel of the Lord

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

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Amazing Grace
(For music turn to Hymn 779 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.**
2. **'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!**
3. **Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.**
4. **The Lord has promised good to me;
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be**

As long as life endures.

- 5. When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.**

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807; music W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835; arr. Edwin O Excell.

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.

A: We pray for the people in Ontario County who are exploited by the human trafficking that goes on. Help them to find freedom and bring accountability to those who traffic them. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

B: Make us bold like Jeremiah to speak truth where truth needs to be spoken. Spread the truth of the gospel throughout the world. Be with our missionaries, the Rev. Matthew Nickoloff and the Rev. Karen Anderson. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

D: Help those who rely on the Victor-Farmington Food Cupboard for food to be able to build lives of security and stability. We ask that you bless all those who receive food from the church's garden. 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

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.

† MEAL †

Special Music

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray: God of abundance,

**C: you cause streams to break forth in the desert
and manna to rain from the heavens.**

Accept the gifts you have first given us.

Unite them with the offering of our lives

to nourish the world you love so dearly;

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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. 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: Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

† SENDING †

Blessing

P: People of God,
you are Christ's body,
bringing new life to a suffering world.
The holy Trinity, one God,
bless you now and forever.
C: Amen.

Sending Hymn The Power of Your Love
(for music, turn to Hymn 71 in the Songbook binder)

1. **Lord, I come to You, let my heart be changed, renewed,
Flowing from the grace that I've found in You.
And, Lord, I've come to know the weaknesses I see in me
will be stripped away by the pow'r of Your love.**

Refrain

**Hold me close, let Your love surround me;
Bring me near, draw me to Your side
And as I wait, I'll rise up like an eagle, and I will soar with You.
Your Spirit leads me on in the pow'r of Your love.**

2. **Lord, unveil my eyes, let me see You face to face,
the knowledge of Your love as You live in me.
Lord, renew my mind, as Your will unfolds in my life,
in living ev 'ry day in the pow'r of Your love. Refrain**

Text and music by Geoff Bullock; copyright 1992 Word Music, Inc.; CCLI #917491

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C: **God's Work. Our Hands.**



Today's unfortunate incident would mark the last time Pastor Strickland would use Brother Ed Messman's name in a sermon illustration.

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