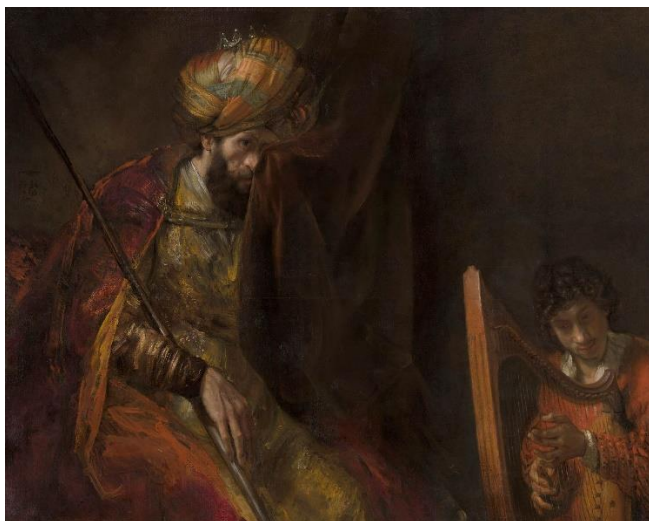




# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



David Plays the Harp for Saul, by [Rembrandt van Rijn](#), c. 1650 and 1670

## *Summer Series – King Saul*

*June 14, 2020*

*10:30 Worship*

The first of Israel's kings is Saul from the tribe of Benjamin. We'll read the story of how he is chosen to be king and his early leadership. We'll also discover some of Saul's flaws and unfaithfulness to God.

Ultimately God rejects Saul as king and chooses David instead. But, were Saul's flaws all that bad? According to the stories he tries, but God does not always respond. Ultimately this part of the Bible makes us wonder. What sort of God is this? What does it mean for us?

### *Welcome to worship today!*

This order of worship is designed to accompany what is happening live on Zoom. In order to make things work smoothly please keep your computer's microphone off unless you have a speaking part. It may be helpful to use a headset or earbuds to minimize feedback. You are welcome to use the chat feature to ask questions or provide feedback. Following worship we will have a time for those who would like to chat. That would also be a time to use the chat feature for side conversations.

# † OPENING †

## Welcome and Announcements

### Candle Lighting

*The candles are lit and the following prayer is said:*

**A:** God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory and worship you in spirit and truth, through Jesus the Christ our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen**

### Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

**C: Amen**

P: Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

*Silence for reflection.*

P: Reconciling God,

**C: we confess that we do not trust your abundance,  
and we deny your presence in our lives.**

**We place our hope in ourselves  
and rely on our own efforts.**

**We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.**

**We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.**

**We fear difference and do not welcome others  
as you have welcomed us.**

**We sin in thought, word, and deed.**

**By your grace, forgive us;  
through your love, renew us;  
and in your Spirit, lead us;**

**so that we may live and serve you in newness of life.**

**Amen**

P: Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

## Opening Music

### Prayer of the Day

**B:** God of compassion, you have opened the way for us and brought us to yourself. Pour your love into our hearts, that, overflowing with joy, we may freely share the blessings of your realm and faithfully proclaim the good news of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## † WORD †

### First Reading 1 Samuel 9 – 10:8

**D:** There was a man of Benjamin whose name was Kish son of Abiel son of Zeror son of Becorath son of Aphiah, a Benjaminite, a man of wealth. <sup>2</sup>He had a son whose name was Saul, a handsome young man. There was not a man among the people of Israel more handsome than he; he stood head and shoulders above everyone else.

<sup>3</sup>Now the donkeys of Kish, Saul's father, had strayed. So Kish said to his son Saul, "Take one of the boys with you; go and look for the donkeys." <sup>4</sup>He passed through the hill country of Ephraim and passed through the land of Shalishah, but they did not find them. And they passed through the land of Shaalim, but they were not there. Then he passed through the land of Benjamin, but they did not find them. <sup>5</sup>When they came to the land of Zuph, Saul said to the boy who was with him, "Let us turn back, or my father will stop worrying about the donkeys and worry about us." <sup>6</sup>But he said to him, "There is a man of God in this town; he is a man held in honor. Whatever he says always comes true. Let us go there now; perhaps he will tell us about the journey on which we have set out." <sup>7</sup>Then Saul replied to the boy, "But if we go, what can we bring the man? For the bread in our sacks is gone, and there is no present to bring to the man of God. What have we?" <sup>8</sup>The boy answered Saul again, "Here, I have with me a quarter shekel of silver; I will give it to the man of God, to tell us our way."

**E:** <sup>11</sup>As they went up the hill to the town, they met some girls coming out to draw water, and said to them, "Is the seer here?" <sup>12</sup>They answered, "Yes, there he is just ahead of you. Hurry; he has come just now to the town, because the people have a sacrifice today at the shrine. <sup>13</sup>As soon as you enter the town, you will find him, before he goes up to the shrine to eat. As they were entering the town, they saw Samuel coming out toward them on his way up to the shrine.

**D:** Now the day before Saul came, the LORD had revealed to Samuel: <sup>16</sup>“Tomorrow about this time I will send to you a man from the land of Benjamin, and you shall anoint him to be ruler over my people Israel. He shall save my people from the hand of the Philistines; for I have seen the suffering of my people, because their outcry has come to me.” <sup>17</sup>When Samuel saw Saul, the LORD told him, “Here is the man of whom I spoke to you. He it is who shall rule over my people.”

<sup>18</sup>Then Saul approached Samuel inside the gate, and said, “Tell me, please, where is the house of the seer?” <sup>19</sup>Samuel answered Saul, “I am the seer; go up before me to the shrine, for today you shall eat with me, and in the morning I will let you go and will tell you all that is on your mind. <sup>20</sup>As for your donkeys that were lost three days ago, give no further thought to them, for they have been found. And on whom is all Israel’s desire fixed, if not on you and on all your ancestral house?” <sup>21</sup>Saul answered, “I am only a Benjaminite, from the least of the tribes of Israel, and my family is the humblest of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin. Why then have you spoken to me in this way?” <sup>22</sup>Then Samuel took Saul and his servant-boy and brought them into the hall, and gave them a place at the head of those who had been invited, of whom there were about thirty. So Saul ate with Samuel that day.

<sup>25</sup>When they came down from the shrine into the town, a bed was spread for Saul on the roof, and he lay down to sleep. <sup>26</sup>Then at the break of dawn Samuel called to Saul upon the roof, “Get up, so that I may send you on your way.” Saul got up, and both he and Samuel went out into the street. <sup>27</sup>As they were going down to the outskirts of the town, Samuel said to Saul, “Tell the boy to go on before us, and when he has passed on, stop here yourself for a while, that I may make known to you the word of God.”

**E:** Samuel took a vial of oil and poured it on his head, and kissed him; he said, “The LORD has anointed you ruler over his people Israel. You shall reign over the people of the LORD and you will save them from the hand of their enemies all around. Now this shall be the sign to you that the LORD has anointed you ruler over his heritage: <sup>2</sup>When you depart from me today you will meet two men by Rachel’s tomb in the territory of Benjamin at Zelzah; they will say to you, ‘The donkeys that you went to seek are found, and now your father has stopped worrying about them and is worrying about you, saying: What shall I do about my son?’ <sup>3</sup>Then you shall go on from there further and come to the oak of Tabor; three men going up to God at Bethel will meet you there, one carrying three kids, another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a skin of wine. <sup>4</sup>They will greet you and give you two loaves of bread, which you shall accept from them. <sup>5</sup>After that you shall come to Gibeath-

elohim, at the place where the Philistine garrison is; there, as you come to the town, you will meet a band of prophets coming down from the shrine with harp, tambourine, flute, and lyre playing in front of them; they will be in a prophetic frenzy. <sup>6</sup>Then the spirit of the LORD will possess you, and you will be in a prophetic frenzy along with them and be turned into a different person. <sup>7</sup>Now when these signs meet you, do whatever you see fit to do, for God is with you. <sup>8</sup>And you shall go down to Gilgal ahead of me; then I will come down to you to present burnt offerings and offer sacrifices of well-being. Seven days you shall wait, until I come to you and show you what you shall do.”

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

**C: Thanks be to God!**

Second Reading 1 Samuel 14:47, 48, 52

**F:** <sup>47</sup>When Saul had taken the kingship over Israel, he fought against all his enemies on every side—against Moab, against the Ammonites, against Edom, against the kings of Zobah, and against the Philistines; wherever he turned he routed them. <sup>48</sup>He did valiantly, and struck down the Amalekites, and rescued Israel out of the hands of those who plundered them. <sup>52</sup>There was hard fighting against the Philistines all the days of Saul; and when Saul saw any strong or valiant warrior, he took him into his service.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation (Psalm 24:10)

**C: Alleluia. Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory. Alleluia.**

Gospel Reading John 15:12-17

*The gospel is announced:*

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

[Jesus said] “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you

whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

*After the reading:*

P: The Gospel of the Lord

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

Sermon

Response to the Word

P: 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.**

G: 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.**

G: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

**C: pray in the Holy Spirit.**

*(Jude 20)*

G: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

**C: look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.** *(Jude 21)*

G: 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:** Help families, businesses, and religious organizations struggling because of the coronavirus. Give all a sense of good judgment as they live into each new day. Lord in your mercy...

**C: Hear our prayer.**

**B:** Be with the missionaries we support, the Rev. Deborah Troester as she helps the churches in Zambia, and the Rev. Matthew Nickoloff at the South Wedge Mission in Rochester. Lord in your mercy...

**C: Hear our prayer.**

**G:** Holy One, we have created divisions you will not own. In places of conflict raise up leaders who will work to develop constructive solutions and reconciliation. Encourage organizations and individuals who care for the displaced, the homeless, and refugees. Lord in your mercy...

**C: Hear our prayer.**

*You are invited to add you own petition. Please conclude 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

**B:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

**B:** 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

✠ ENDING ✠

*Blessing*

P: Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

God, the creator,  
Jesus, the Christ,  
and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,  
bless you and keep you in eternal love.

**C: Amen.**

*Closing Music*

*Dismissal*

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

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

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