



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



The 10th Sunday After Pentecost

July 28, 2024

10:30 Service of the Word

Psalm 137 is called an “imprecatory psalm,” which is a fancy way of saying it is a psalm of hate. Psalm 137 is arguably the most hate filled text in the Bible. It cries out to God for the babies of enemies to be killed by being smashed against rocks. What are we to do with such a message? Why is it in the Bible? This psalm will deepen what we know about the Bible and about how it is interpreted.

Welcome to worship today!

If you are visiting with us we invite you to sign the Guest Book in the back of the sanctuary.

Large print bulletins are available on the usher's stand.

The Zoom feed for this service is shown in the nursery.

† 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 sins.
A moment of silence for reflection.

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 Blessing and Honor

(For music see Hymn 854 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Blessing and honor and glory and pow'r,
wisdom and riches and strength evermore,
be to the Lamb who our battle has won,
whose are the kingdom, the crown, and the throne;
whose are the kingdom, the crown, and the throne!**
2. **Let all the heavens sound forth Jesus' name;
let all the earth sing his glory and fame.
Ocean and mountain, stream, forest, and flow'r
echo his praises and tell of his pow'r;
echo his praises and tell of his pow'r.**
3. **Ever ascending the song and the joy,
ever descending the love from on high;
blessing and honor and glory and praise
this is the theme of the hymns that we raise;
this is the theme of the hymns that we raise.**
4. **Give we the glory and praise to the Lamb!
Take we the robe and the harp and the palm;
sing we the song of the Lamb who was slain,
dying in weakness and rising to reign;
dying in weakness and rising to reign.**

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-1899, alt. Music: Matthias Keller, 1813-1875

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, strength of those who believe in you, give comfort and clarity of vision to us. Open our ears to hear your voice and obey your will; open our hearts that true justice and wisdom may abound; and open our hands that violent resolution of conflict may cease, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading Obadiah

B: The vision of Obadiah.

Thus says the Lord GOD concerning Edom:

We have heard a report from the LORD,
and a messenger has been sent among the nations:
'Rise up! Let us rise against it for battle!'

² I will surely make you least among the nations;
you shall be utterly despised.

³ Your proud heart has deceived you,
you that live in the clefts of the rock,
whose dwelling is in the heights.

You say in your heart,
'Who will bring me down to the ground?'

⁴ Though you soar aloft like the eagle,
though your nest is set among the stars,
from there I will bring you down,

says the LORD.

⁵ If thieves came to you,
if plunderers by night
—how you have been destroyed!—
would they not steal only what they wanted?

If grape-gatherers came to you,
would they not leave gleanings?

⁶ How Esau has been pillaged,
his treasures searched out!

⁷ All your allies have deceived you,
they have driven you to the border;
your confederates have prevailed against you;
those who ate your bread have set a trap for you—
there is no understanding of it.

- ⁸ On that day, says the LORD,
I will destroy the wise out of Edom,
and understanding out of Mount Esau.
- ⁹ Your warriors shall be shattered, O Teman,
so that everyone from Mount Esau will be cut off.
- ¹⁰ For the slaughter and violence done to your brother
Jacob,
shame shall cover you,
and you shall be cut off for ever.
- ¹¹ On the day that you stood aside,
on the day that strangers carried off his wealth,
and foreigners entered his gates
and cast lots for Jerusalem,
you too were like one of them.
- ¹² But you should not have gloated over your brother
on the day of his misfortune;
you should not have rejoiced over the people of Judah
on the day of their ruin;
you should not have boasted
on the day of distress.
- ¹³ You should not have entered the gate of my people
on the day of their calamity;
you should not have joined in the gloating over
Judah's disaster
on the day of his calamity;
you should not have looted his goods
on the day of his calamity.
- ¹⁴ You should not have stood at the crossings
to cut off his fugitives;
you should not have handed over his survivors
on the day of distress.

D: For the day of the LORD is near against all the
nations.

As you have done, it shall be done to you;
your deeds shall return on your own head.

¹⁶ For as you have drunk on my holy mountain,
all the nations around you shall drink;
they shall drink and gulp down,
and shall be as though they had never been.

¹⁷ But on Mount Zion there shall be those that escape,
and it shall be holy;

and the house of Jacob shall take possession of those who dispossessed them.

¹⁸ The house of Jacob shall be a fire,
the house of Joseph a flame,
and the house of Esau stubble;
they shall burn them and consume them,
and there shall be no survivor of the house of Esau;
for the LORD has spoken.

¹⁹ Those of the Negeb shall possess Mount Esau,
and those of the Shephelah the land of the Philistines;
they shall possess the land of Ephraim and the land of Samaria,
and Benjamin shall possess Gilead.

²⁰ The exiles of the Israelites who are in Halah
shall possess Phoenicia as far as Zarephath;
and the exiles of Jerusalem who are in Sepharad
shall possess the towns of the Negeb.

²¹ Those who have been saved shall go up to Mount Zion
to rule Mount Esau;
and the kingdom shall be the LORD's.

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord
C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 137(*read responsively*)

E: By the rivers of Babylon
we sat weeping,
remembering Zion.

**C: There on the poplars
we hung our harps.**

E: Our captors shouted
for happy songs,
for songs of festival.
“Sing!” they cried,
“the songs of Zion.”

**C: How could we sing
the song of the Lord
in a foreign land?**

E: Jerusalem forgotten?
Wither my hand!

**C: Jerusalem forgotten?
Silence my voice!**

**if I do not seek you
as my greatest joy.**

E: Lord, never forget
that crime of Edom
against the city,
the day the cried,
“Strip! Smash her to the ground!”

**C: Doomed Babylon, be cursed!
Good for those who deal you
evil for evil!
Good for those who destroy you,
who smash your children against rocks!**

Second Reading James 5:7-11

F: Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Indeed we call blessed those who showed endurance. You have heard of the endurance of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Matthew 5:44)

C: Alleluia. I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading Matthew 5:43-48

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 5th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

[Jesus preached] ‘You have heard that it was said, “You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.” ⁴⁴But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. ⁴⁶For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax-

collectors do the same? ⁴⁷And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

After the reading:

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Once We Sang and Danced
(For music see Hymn 701 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Once we sang and danced with gladness,
once delight filled ev'ry breath;
now we sit among the ashes,
all our dreams destroyed by death.**
2. **All the willows bow in weeping,
all the rivers rage and moan,
as creation joins our pleading:
"God do not leave us alone."**
3. **God, who came to dwell among us,
God, who suffered our disgrace,
from your own heart, grieved and wounded,
come the riches of your grace.**
4. **Come, O Christ, among the ashes,
come to wipe our tears away,
death destroy and sorrow banish;
now and always, come and stay.**

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.

P: 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.**

A: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

C: pray in the Holy Spirit. (Jude 20)

A: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

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

A: 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)

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: Let us share that peace with one another.

The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

† THANKSGIVING †

Special Music

Hymn of Thanksgiving

Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil

For music turn to Hymn 713 in the Blue Hymnal

**Lord, let my heart be good soil,
open to the seed of your Word.**

**Lord, let my heart be good soil,
where love can grow and peace is understood.**

**When my heart is hard,
break the stone away.**

**When my heart is cold,
warm it with the day.**

**When my heart is lost,
lead me on your way.**

Lord, let my heart,

Lord, let my heart,

Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text and music: Handt Hanson, b. 1950, Copyright 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing/Changing Church, Inc.

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray: Blessed are you, O God,

C: ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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: The blessing of God,
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
be upon you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn Just a Closer Walk With Thee
(For music turn to Hymn 697 in the Red Hymnal)

Refrain

**Just a closer walk with thee,
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to thee,
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.**

- 1. I am weak, by thou art strong;
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
as I walk, let me walk close to thee. *Refrain***
- 2. Through this world of toils and snares,
if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. *Refrain***

3. **When my feeble life is o'er
time for me will be no more;
guide me gently, safely o'er
to thy kingdom shore, to thy shore.** *Refrain*

Text and music: North American traditional

Text: *Foundling Hospital Collection*, London 1796. Music: Frans Joseph Haydn, 1732-1809

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	Rob Stroup
Acolyte	Thomas Bullwinkle
Counters	John and Linda Thompson
Coffee Hour	

Worship assistants for next Sunday, August 4

Greeters and Ushers	Tom and Carol Urbanic
Acolyte	Alyssa Young
Altar Care	Gary Boisseau
Communion Assistant	Linda Flood
Counters	Bill and Katy Stimmel
Coffee Hour	

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