

DOVE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, August 23, 2020

Lectionary 21, Year A

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Lectionary 21 A

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Pastor Stephen Springer

PROLOGUE

Kevin Seal, pipe organ

Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Today we begin our multi-week series of themed Sundays departing from the official Lectionary. Our theme for today is "To Run and Not Be Weary" with a particular emphasis on waiting for and putting our trust in the Lord. Our most notable time of waiting in the church year is Advent, so a natural match for this Sunday is a prelude based on an Advent chorale. Nun Komm is viewed by some as the quintessential Lutheran Advent chorale, and it is certainly one of the most significant. The text and tune were adapted from a Latin Hymn by Martin Luther himself. This setting is one of J.S. Bach's most well known organ works, and for good reason. The piece sets a three-part accompaniment based on the tune against a beautiful melody line which is a highly ornamented version of the chorale tune. -- Kevin

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,
and of the † Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

Silence for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,

so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,

to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:21-31

The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.

A reading from Isaiah.

²¹Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to live in;
²³who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

²⁵To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?
He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength,
mighty in power,

not one is missing.

²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,

'My way is hidden from the Lord,
and my right is disregarded by my God'?

²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹ He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.

³⁰ Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;

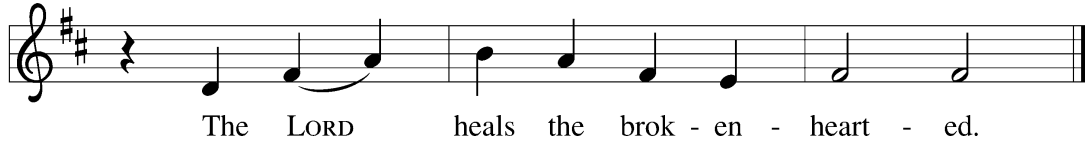
³¹ but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY (ELW): Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

The refrain is first introduced by the leader, then repeated by the assembly.



Psalm 147:3

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress
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¹Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises | to our God!

How pleasant it is to honor | God with praise!

²**The Lord re- | builds Jerusalem,
and gathers the ex- | iles of Israel.**

³The Lord heals the | brokenhearted
and binds | up their wounds.

⁴**The Lord counts the number | of the stars
and calls them all | by their names. REFRAIN**

⁵Great is our Lord and might- | y in power;
there is no limit | to God's wisdom.

⁶**The Lord lifts | up the lowly,
but casts the wicked | to the ground.**

⁷Sing to the Lord | with thanksgiving;
make music upon the harp | to our God,

⁸**who covers the heav- | ens with clouds
and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow up- | on the
mountains. REFRAIN**

⁹God provides food | for the cattle
and for the young ravens | when they cry.

¹⁰**God is not impressed by the might | of a horse,
and has no pleasure in the speed | of a runner,**

¹¹but finds pleasure in those who | fear the Lord,
in those who await God's steadfast love. ^{20c} Hallelujah! **REFRAIN**

SECOND READING: James 5:7-11

In a reading that is used during the season of Advent, James counsels patience, strong hearts, and “the endurance of Job.”

A reading from James.

⁷Be 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW #169



Cantor: *You are | the Messiah,**
 the Son of the | living God. (Matthew 16:16)

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20

At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Steve Springer

¹By the rivers of Babylon— there we sat down
and there we wept when we remembered Zion.
²On the willows there we hung up our harps. (Psalm 139:1-2)

***Renewal of Strength
With Eagles' Wings in Times of Crisis***

Part 1: "To Run and Not be Weary"



1 All my hope on God is found - ed who will all my
 2 Mor - tal pride and earth - ly glo - ry, sword and crown be -
 3 Great thy good-ness, e'er en - dur - ing; deep thy wis - dom,
 4 Still from earth to God e - ter - nal sac - ri - fice of



trust re - new, who through change and chance will guide me,
 tray our trust; what with care and toil we fash - ion,
 pass - ing thought; splen - dor, light, and life at - tend thee,
 praise be done, high a - bove all prais - es prais - ing



on - ly good and on - ly true. God un - known, God a -
 tow'r and tem - ple, fall to dust. But thy pow'r, hour by
 beau - ty spring - ing out of naught. Ev - er - more from thy
 for the gift of God's own Son. Christ doth call one and



lone, call my heart to be thine own.
 hour, is my tem - ple and my tow'r.
 store new - born worlds rise and a - dore.
 all: ye who fol - low shall not fall.

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680; para. Robert Bridges, 1844–1930, alt.
 Music: Herbert Howells, 1892–1983
 Music © 1968 Novello & Co, Ltd., London

MICHAEL
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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

After each petition: "Lord in your mercy," the assembly responds "Hear our prayer."

With the whole people of Gd, let us pray.

We pray for ourselves as a church.

O Gd,

we pray that we may be renewed as workers of your healing and wholeness, that we, as people of the church, may be strengthened to walk in the name of Xp in such ways that the news given out and proclaimed by this body may be for all an enduring good.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Gd,

we pray, by your grace, let us not be weary of well doing or wait idly by, but actively await your steadfast love, and remembering reverence and humility, consecrate as we are able the simple elements of our life to be a sacrament of your presence.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the world its lands and its people.

O Gd,

guide nations and peoples away from the aggressive pride, posturing and harmful consequences of loud voices, high towers, and force of arms. Bring to light for correction the folly of those who think ways of harm can be hidden, and bring to safety for rest and stability those whose world has been filled with change and chance. We pray, reign O Gd over this world as the Holy One. Let us see your wisdom.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray that those in need be helped.

O Gd,

heal the broken hearted, and bind up the wounds of those hurt in these days of distress and disease. Bring food to the hungry, lift the lowly and hold them in the palm of your hand.

Remembering those we know and aware of so many not known to us, we pray of Gd, strengthen our hearts that with patience and endurance we indeed do our part in showing how you are compassionate and merciful.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Finally, O Gd,
as we lift up our eyes on high and see and understand that you do send all that is needful,
accept our song of praise and may our lives take wing as we join, gladly and forever, all that has
life and breath to make music and sounds of thanksgiving for your reigning goodness and mercy.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

Duet: *On Eagle's Wings*

[Exodus 19:4; Psalm 91]

Michael Joncas, (b. 1951)

Composer and Catholic priest Michael Joncas wanted to write a piece to comfort his friend whose father had suddenly and unexpectedly died from a heart attack. Joncas doesn't consider On Eagle's Wings to be one of his better pieces, but the song for his friend has become a global favorite across cultures and denominations and a standard for funeral and memorial services. Its consoling words, also written by Joncas, speak to God's providence in times of turmoil and fear.

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
who abide in this shadow for life,
say to the Lord: "My refuge,
my rock in whom I trust!"

And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand.

The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
and famine will bring you no fear;
under God's wings your refuge,
with faithfulness your shield.

You need not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day;
though thousands fall about you,
near you it shall not come.

For to the angels God's given a command
to guard you in all of your ways;
upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

CHARGE AND BLESSING

Go forth into the world in peace. Be of good courage.
Hold fast that which is good. Render to no one evil for evil.
Strengthen the fainthearted. Support the weak.
Help the afflicted. Show love to everyone.
Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
and the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing
 3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;
 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!
 and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.
 sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.
 All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,
 Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been
 Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do
 Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
 if with his love he be - friend you.
 Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Ernewerten Gesangbuch*, Part II, Stralsund, 1665

Lobe den Herren
Paul Manz (1919-2009)

Lobe den Herren (Praise to the Lord) is our sending song this morning. The hymn was written by Joachim Neander, a notable German Calvinist theologian and hymn writer. Neander himself matched this tune, probably adapted from a folk song, with his text. Paul Manz was an American organist, church musician, and composer. His brief setting of this tune reflects its dance-like nature, with a dotted, bouncy accompaniment figure providing support to the tune, which is played in long notes on our new Tromba stop. -- Kevin

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Wait for the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Cantor: Eric Holtan
Intercessor: John Hoelter
Lector: Gail Eifrig