

Third Sunday in Lent, March 12, 2023

Zoar Church, Tofte, MN

Gathering Hymn: “The King of Glory Comes” *Worship & Praise # 136 v. 1-4*

Refrain

The King of glory comes,
The nation rejoices.
Open the gates before him,
Lift up your voices.

V1 Who is the King of glory;
How shall we call him?
He is Emmanuel,
The promised of ages.

V3 Sing then of David’s Son,
Our Savior and brother;
In all of Galilee
Was never another

V2 In all of Galilee,
In city or village,
He goes among his people,
Curing their illness.

V4 He gave his life for us,
The pledge of salvation;
He took upon himself
The sins of the nation

Welcome & Opening Prayer *(March Mission: Chosen People Ministries)*

Pastor: The Lord be with you

Congregation: And also with you

Opening Hymn: “Open Your Ears O Faithful People” *With One Voice # 715 v. 1-3*

V1 Open your ears, O faithful people,
Open your ears and hear God’s Word.
Open your hearts, O royal priesthood,
God has come to you.

V2 They who have ears to hear the message,
They who have ears, now let them hear;
They who would learn the way of wisdom,
Let them hear God’s Word.

Refrain God has spoken to the people, hallelujah!
God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!
God has spoken to the people, hallelujah!
God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!

V3 Israel comes to greet the Savior,
Judah is glad to see his day,
From east to west the peoples travel,
God will show the way.

Confession *(From Reclaim)*

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sin to God our Father, imploring him, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C: Who made heaven and earth.

P: I said I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.

C: And you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

(Time for silent reflection)

P: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to you that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring your grace for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Most merciful God, you have given your only Son to die for us. Have mercy on us, and for his sake grant us remission of all our sins. By your Holy Spirit, increase in us true knowledge of you and of your will and true obedience to your word, so that by your grace we may come to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us and has given his only Son to die for us and for his sake forgives us all our sins. To all who believe in his name, he gives power to become children of God and bestows on them his Holy Spirit. All who believe and are baptized shall be saved. Grant this, O Lord, unto us all.

C: Amen.

Old Testament Reading: *Deuteronomy 10:12-19 (NIV)*

And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to observe the Lord's commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good? To the Lord your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it. Yet the Lord set his affection on your ancestors and loved them, and he chose you, their descendants, above all the nations—as it is today. Circumcise your hearts, therefore, and do not be stiff-necked any longer.

For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt.

Epistle Lesson: *Romans 10:1-4, 11:1, 16-18, 24-29 (NIV)*

Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. Since they did not know the righteousness of God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.

I ask then: Did God reject his people? By no means! I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin.

If the part of the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy; if the root [of the olive tree] is holy, so are the branches. If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, do not consider yourself to be superior to those other branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you. After all, if you were cut out of an olive tree that is wild by nature, and contrary to nature were grafted into a cultivated olive tree, how much more readily will these, the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree!

I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in, and in this way all Israel will be saved. As it is written: "The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob. And this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins." As far as the gospel is concerned, they [stand in opposition] for your sake; but as far as election is concerned, they are loved on account of the patriarchs, for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable.

Gospel Readings: *Matthew 5:43-48, 27:24-26, Luke 23:33-34 (NIV)*

[Jesus said,] "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

When [Jesus stood before the crowd the morning of his crucifixion] Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!" All the people answered, "His blood is on us and on our children!" Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified. When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

P: The Word of God for the people of God

C: Thanks be to God

Message

"Getting it Wrong: Anti-Semitism in Christian History"

- Pastor Daren Blanck

Prayers & The Lord's Prayer (Spoken)

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

Apostle's Creed:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy
Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the
right hand of the Father. He will come again
to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit
the holy Christian church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

Announcements & Benediction

Closing Hymn: "Blest are They" - With One Voice # 764 v. 1,3-5

V1 Blest are they, the poor in spirit;
Theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blest are they full of sorrow;
They shall be consoled.

V5 Blest are you who suffer hate,
All because of me.
Rejoice, be glad, yours is the kingdom;
Shine for all to see.

V3 Blest are they who show mercy;
Mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are they, the pure of heart
They shall see God!

V4 Blest are they who seek peace;
They are the children of God.
Blest are they who suffer in faith;
The glory of God is theirs.

Refrain

Rejoice and be glad!
Blessed are you,
holy are you.
Rejoice and be glad!
Yours is the kingdom of God!

Sending

Pastor: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God. We Will! Alleluia. Amen

Sending Hymn: "Shalom" With One Voice # 724 (Repeat 2x)

Shalom, my friends, shalom, my friends, shalom, shalom.

Shalom, my friends, shalom, my friends, shalom, shalom.

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Daren Blanck, Pastor • Music provided this morning by Lavona Czaplicki