

17 October 2021

Litruy: The First Song of Isaiah

Pianist: Kristin Sternhagen

TODAY'S WORSHIP THEME: If you share it, they will come!

For us Christians, our relationship with Christ sort of defines who we are. I can't imagine life without Christ in the middle of it. The peace...the confidence...the lack of fear...the hope of a better tomorrow and an awesome eternity!! I want that for my friends, for my family, for my children. But how? Big programs with slick advertising campaigns? A flashier pastor? Wise and clever words to overcome doubts? Fun because church is kind of boring? Ultimately, there is only one thing that works. It is simple but powerful. It is straightforward with no deception. The gospel. Today Jesus tells us a parable about the working of the Word...the working of the gospel in the hearts of people.

 **HYMN**

*How great is our God;
Sing with me, how great is our God;
And all will see how great, how great
Is our God (sing all 2x)*

*Our God is greater, our God is stronger;
God you are higher than any other;
Our God is Healer, awesome in power;
Our God, Our God (sing all 2x)
...Our God*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!
...Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost!*

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS

INVOCATION

Pastor: Almighty God, before whose presence the angels veil their faces, with reverence and love we acknowledge Your glory and worship You – the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, eternal Trinity.

Congregation: May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in Your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

 *Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity.*

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: O holy and most merciful Father, we confess that from birth our sinful nature has made us unfit to stand before You. What is more, we have broken Your law repeatedly in our thoughts, words, and actions. So often we do the evil You forbid and fail to do the good You command. You know our hearts and our lives, Lord. We are guilty and deserve only to be condemned. But at Your gracious Word we come to You, and plead, "God have mercy on me, a sinner!"

C: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your unfailing love; according to Your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight. Hide Your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

P: The Lord, our gracious Father, has forgiven all your sins through the life and death of His one and only Son, Jesus the Christ. With His resurrection from death He has given you the sure hope of everlasting life. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved.

So go now and leave the life of sin and produce fruit in keeping with repentance. Let your light shine before men that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven!

 *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!*

*The Lord has promised good to me; His Word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be, As long as life endures.*

GOD SPEAKS

NOTE: After each reading...

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 96

P: Sing to the Lord a new song;

C: **Sing to the Lord, all the earth.**

P: Sing to the Lord, praise his name;

C: **Proclaim his salvation day after day.**

P: Declare his glory among the nations,

C: **His marvelous deeds among all peoples.**

P: For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;

C: **He is to be feared above all gods.**

P: For all the gods of the nations are idols,

C: **But the Lord made the heavens. Splendor and majesty are before him;**

P: Strength and glory are in his sanctuary.

C: **Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns."**

P: The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved;

C: **He will judge the peoples with equity.**

P: Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;

C: **Let the sea resound, and all that is in it.**

P: Let all creation rejoice before the Lord,

C: **For he comes, he comes to judge the earth.**

P: He will judge the world in righteousness

C: **And the peoples in his faithfulness.**

ALL: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, forever and ever. Amen.

JOHN 3:1-10

³ Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ² He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him."

³ Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

⁴ "How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!"

⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' ⁸ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

⁹ "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.

¹⁰ "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things?"

ACTS 17: 16-32

¹⁶ While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷ So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸ A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, "What is this babbler trying to say?" Others remarked, "He seems to be advocating foreign gods." They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹ Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? ²⁰ You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean." ²¹ (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.)

²² Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. ²³ For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

²⁴ "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. ²⁵ And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. ²⁶ From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their

appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. ²⁷ God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. ²⁸ 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

²⁹ "Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. ³⁰ In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. ³¹ For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

³² When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, "We want to hear you again on this subject."

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will come 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.



HYMN **I Love to Tell the Story**

*I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love,
I love to tell the story because I know 'tis true;
It satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.*

**Chorus: I love to tell the story, 'Twill be my theme in glory;
To tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love!**

*I love to tell the story; 'Tis pleasant to repeat
What seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.
I love to tell the story; for some have never heard
The message of salvation from God's own holy Word. **Chorus.***

*I love to tell the story; For those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
"Twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long. **Chorus***

SERMON If you share it, they will come

(a sermon based on Mark 4:2-9)

(feel free to use this space to take notes)

² He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said: ³ "Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times."
⁹ Then Jesus said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

 **HYMN The First Song of Isaiah**

Chorus: *Surely it is God who saves me.
I will trust in Him and not be afraid,
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense
And He will be my Saviour.*

*Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing
From the springs of salvation,
And on that day you shall say give thanks to the Lord
And call upon His name. **Chorus.***

*Make His deeds known among the nations.
See that they remember that His name is exalted.
Sing the praises of the Lord for He has done great things
And this is known in all the world. **Chorus.***

*Cry aloud inhabitants of Zion! Ring out your joy!
For the great One in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel. **Chorus.***

WE RESPOND

THANK OFFERING

“So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but what is unseen.
For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”
(2 Corinthians 4:18)

TIME OF PRAYER

 *I must tell Jesus all of my trials. I cannot bear these burdens alone.
In my distress He kindly will help me. He ever loves and cares for His own.
I must tell Jesus, I must tell Jesus. I cannot bear my burdens alone.
I must tell Jesus. I must tell Jesus. Jesus can help me, Jesus alone.*

PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours now and ever. Amen.

*(Our prayer team is always ready to go to the throne of the Father for you.
For prayer chain requests, email prayer@livinghopereunion.church.
For confidential prayers, call or text Maria Hasten 720-243-0228.)*

 *I must tell Jesus all of my troubles. He is a kind, compassionate friend.
If I but ask Him, He will deliver; Make of my troubles quickly an end.
I must tell Jesus, I must tell Jesus. I cannot bear my burdens alone.
I must tell Jesus. I must tell Jesus. Jesus can help me, Jesus alone.*

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

 *Amen. Amen. Amen.*

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COAT DRIVE. Thank you to all who donated. We collected 90 coats, 10 scarves, 1 sleeping bag, and 62 blankets. God moved His people. Praise His name!!

THANKSGIVING BASKET COLLECTION. Starting on 31st October, Sharing Hope will begin collecting for thanksgiving baskets for the less fortunate. They are looking for names who might need a little extra this Thanksgiving. Share with Deb R.

YOUTH CORNER. Still studying Mary. Join us. On 29th October, we are planning an outing to a Corn Maze. Talk with Hannah S. or Steve C. for more information.

FUNDRAISING TEAM. The Fundraising Team is organizing. The plan is to start our campaign on November 7th. Speak with Jeff H. or Pastor Josh for more information, or to help out.

WELS SINGLES. If you're single (unmarried, divorced, widowed) and looking to enjoy fellowship with other singles who share your faith, we encourage you to join our Facebook group! Over 500 members from around the world with ages ranging from 18-65+. An active group sharing Biblical encouragement, prayers, Lutheran memes, personal victories, and food. Full of discussion posts with a weekly video hangout on Sunday evenings. We'd love to have you join us. Facebook Groups.

SAINTS TRIUMPHANT. On 14 November, we remember our loved ones who have run the race and rest in heaven with Jesus...Saints Triumphant Sunday. One way that we remember them traditionally is by a white carnation. If you would like to one for that Sunday, please speak with Judi S. Cost is \$1.

CALL. Pastor S. is holding a call to serve as Native Christians Mission Counselor...basically to run the Seminary that serves that Apache Churches in East Fork, AZ. That means he has two calls...one to the Apache Field and one to Living Hope. Share your thoughts and encouragements with him. Honest, loving thoughts are not selfish...so please share.

PASTOR S. is on vacation. He will return on Wednesday. He is spending time in the mountains with his son. There is STILL BIBLE CLASS & CONFIRMATION CLASS TODAY.

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

Sunday October 17

9:00 am Worship
10:30 am Youth & Adult Bible Class
 Sunday School
11:30 am Confirmation Class

Wednesday October 20

5:45 pm Pans of Hope
7:30 pm Choir

Thursday October 21

9:00 am Small Group 2 @ McDonalds

Sunday October 24

9:00 am Worship
10:30 am Bible Class
 Sunday School
11:30 am Confirmation Class

5:00 pm Foundations of Faith

SAVE THE DATE.

- Pans of Hope Play. 24 Oct.
- Sharing Hope Sunday. 24 Oct.
- Corn Maze. Youth Outing. 29 Oct.
- Food Distribution. 30 Oct.
- Thanksgiving Basket Collection Begins. 31 Oct.
- Reformation. Oct 31st.
- CAP. Life of Luther. 2 Nov.
- Building a Place for Reunion begins. 7 Nov.
- Choir Sings. 7 Nov.
- Saints Triumphant. 14 Nov.
- Pans of Hope Play. 14 Nov.
- Popcorn Invite. 16 Nov.
- Food Distribution. 20 Nov.
- Angel Tree Collection Begins. 21 Nov.

 **CLOSING SONG Pass It On**

*It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
And soon all those around, can warm up in its glowing.
That's how it is with God's love, Once you've experienced it:
You spread His love to ev'ryone; You want to pass it on.*

*The news that Jesus died to pay the debt of all sin
Cannot be kept inside, it must be told to all men.
I'll go to every person within this land of ours
To tell the news that Christ has come. I want to pass it on.*

*I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that I've found.
You can depend on Him; it matters not where you're bound.
I'll shout it from the mountaintop! I want the world to know:
The Lord of love has come to me; I want to pass it on.*