

Zion Lutheran Church

IMPRECATORY PSALMS



Service of Prayer and
Preaching
November 2th 2016



ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRUSTEE CLEAN-UP DAY will be on Sunday Nov. 13th following the late service. Pizza and drinks will be provided before we head outside to do some fall clean-up around the church! Please mark your calendars and come out and help for as little or as much time as you can!

PRAYER OUTSIDE PLANNED PARENTHOOD: On November 12th, we will be gathering to pray and offer assistance outside the abortion clinic in Pittsburgh. The event will begin at church with breakfast at 9 and end with lunch at 1. If this is your first time, there will be an opportunity to leave earlier. Contact Vicar Joshua at vicar@zlcb.org for more information. It's safe, legal, and important.

MEN'S HANGOUT DAY: Well, we were unable to get enough people together to go to Camp Pioneer. We'll try again in the spring. But since at least 8 of us have Saturday the 5th open, we will be having a hangout day at the parsonage. We'll start with Men's Breakfast in the morning and we'll spend the day eating, drinking, shooting potato canons, watching football, and talking about Jesus. Contact Vicar Joshua for more information at vicar@zlcb.org

Welcome to worship!

Tonight's group of Psalms is the "imprecatory" Psalms. In my opinion these are the most difficult grouping of Psalms that we will wrestle with together. The praise Psalms show up frequently in our liturgy and worship services. The penitential Psalms show up in Confession and Absolution and during Lent. Even the lament Psalms we can understand. But we don't use the imprecatory Psalms frequently, if ever, in our worship services.

These Psalms make petition to God for harsh judgement on the author's enemies. They ask that their earthly life be miserable- "O God, break the teeth in their mouths." (Psalm 58:6). They ask that their lives end quickly- "Let death take my enemies by surprise; let them go down alive to the grave." (Psalm 55:15). They even ask that they remain outside of God's righteousness.- "May they be blotted out of the book of life and not be listed with the righteous." (Psalm 69:28). What do we do with these brutal words in light of the ministry of Jesus? Should a Christian ever pray these Psalms? We'll discuss this difficult question in our sermon and study tonight.

May God bless your worship and study of His Word

-Vicar Joshua

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ZION EQUIPS, EDUCATES, AND ENCOURAGES BELIEVERS IN CHRIST, SENDING THEM INTO THE WORLD TO SHARE THE GOSPEL.

Zion Lutheran Church 3197 Washington Pike Bridgeville, PA 15017

The Service of Prayer and Preaching

Vicar: The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last

People: Amen.

Vicar: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praise to Your name, O Most High.

People: To herald Your love in the morning, Your truth at the close of the day.

Psalm 92:1

All: *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.*

First Reading: Matthew 5:43-48

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Second Reading: Psalm 10

Why, O Lord, do you stand far away?

Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?

In arrogance the wicked hotly pursue the poor;

let them be caught in the schemes that they have devised.

For the wicked boasts of the desires of his soul,

and the one greedy for gain curses and renounces the Lord.

In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek him;

all his thoughts are, "There is no God."
His ways prosper at all times;
your judgments are on high, out of his sight;
as for all his foes, he puffs at them.
He says in his heart, "I shall not be moved;
throughout all generations I shall not meet adversity."
His mouth is filled with cursing and deceit and oppression;
under his tongue are mischief and iniquity.
He sits in ambush in the villages;
in hiding places he murders the innocent.
His eyes stealthily watch for the helpless;
he lurks in ambush like a lion in his thicket;
he lurks that he may seize the poor;
he seizes the poor when he draws him into his net.
The helpless are crushed, sink down,
and fall by his might.
He says in his heart, "God has forgotten,
he has hidden his face, he will never see it."
Arise, O Lord; O God, lift up your hand;
forget not the afflicted.
Why does the wicked renounce God
and say in his heart, "You will not call to account"?
But you do see, for you note mischief and vexation,
that you may take it into your hands;
to you the helpless commits himself;
you have been the helper of the fatherless.
Break the arm of the wicked and evildoer;
call his wickedness to account till you find none.

The Lord is king forever and ever;
the nations perish from his land.

O Lord, you hear the desire of the afflicted;
you will strengthen their heart; you will incline your ear
to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed,
so that man who is of the earth may strike terror no more.

Message

(Please stand)

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence 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.

The Prayers

Vicar: Sing praises to the Lord, O you his saints,
and give thanks to his holy name

Psalm 30:4

People: Gracious God, we give you thanks for your great glory.

Vicar: Oh, how abundant is your goodness,
which you have stored up for those who fear you
and worked for those who take refuge in you,
in the sight of the children of mankind!

Psalm 31:9

People: We thank you for your work on behalf of your people

Vicar: I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have being. *Psalm 104:33*

People: Accept our praise and thanksgiving, O God of our salvation

Vicar: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered. *Psalm 32:1*

People: Thank you for covering our sins with the blood of Jesus

Vicar: Teach me your way, O Lord,
that I may walk in your truth;
unite my heart to fear your name. *Psalm 86:11*

People: Instruct us with your Word, o God.

Vicar: Rise up; come to our help!
Redeem us for the sake of your steadfast love! *Psalm 44:26*

People: When trouble comes, be our helper in time of need

Vicar: [The Lord] heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds. *Psalm 147:3*

People: Grant healing of body and soul to those we love

Vicar: Arise, O Lord; O God, lift up your hand;
forget not the afflicted. *Psalm 10:12*

People: Come to the aid of the needy and the oppressed, o God.

Vicar: God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble *Psalm 46:1*

**People: Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea.** *Psalm 46:2*

Vicar: "Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!" *Psalm 46:10*

**People: The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.** *Psalm 46:11*

Vicar: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
**All: 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***

Matthew 6:9-13

The Benediction

Vicar: The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make His face
shine upon us and be gracious to us. The Lord lift up His
countenance upon us and give us peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

People: Amen.