

# An Order of Worship for the Home

September 20, 2020

Guest Pastor – Rev. Michael Lange, President of CA-NV-HI District LCMS

---

*This service is written for two speakers. Ideally, family members can speak and declare God's grace to one another following this format. For those who live alone, this worship outline can be followed with a brother or sister in Christ over the phone. You may call on a friend to fill this role, or your elder or pastor can worship with you by phone.*

*There is an "offering prayer" included in this outline. As we shelter in place, please continue to worship through giving. You can mail offering envelopes and checks to Calvary or visit [www.calvaryslz.org](http://www.calvaryslz.org) to give online.*

## Invocation

Reader 1: We gather to worship. We gather to pray.  
Reader 2: We gather to our God and to his word.  
Reader 1: We gather in the name of our God who is...  
Reader 2: Father, Son and Holy Spirit...  
Together: Amen.

## Psalm 110:1-7

<sup>1</sup> The Lord says to my Lord:  
"Sit at my right hand,  
until I make your enemies your footstool."  
  
<sup>2</sup> The Lord sends forth from Zion  
your mighty scepter.  
Rule in the midst of your enemies!  
<sup>3</sup> Your people will offer themselves freely  
on the day of your power,  
in holy garments;  
from the womb of the morning,  
the dew of your youth will be yours.  
<sup>4</sup> The Lord has sworn  
and will not change his mind,  
"You are a priest forever  
after the order of Melchizedek."

<sup>5</sup> The Lord is at your right hand;  
he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath.  
<sup>6</sup> He will execute judgment among the nations,  
filling them with corpses;  
he will shatter chiefs  
over the wide earth.  
<sup>7</sup> He will drink from the brook by the way;  
therefore he will lift up his head.

### Confession & Absolution

*Make sure each person present has opportunity to confess to a brother or sister in faith. Go through both parts as many times as needed to accommodate all who are gathered. (From the order of Compline, Lutheran Service Book p.254)*

Christian Confessing: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

Christian Responding: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.

Together: Amen

### Matthew 22:41-46

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question,<sup>42</sup> saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David."<sup>43</sup> He said to them, "How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying,

<sup>44</sup> "The Lord said to my Lord,  
"Sit at my right hand,  
until I put your enemies under your feet"?"

<sup>45</sup> If then David calls him Lord, how is he his son?" <sup>46</sup> And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

## 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.

## Jeremiah 52:31-34

And in the thirty-seventh year of the exile of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the twelfth month, on the twenty-fifth day of the month, Evil-merodach king of Babylon, in the year that he began to reign, graciously freed<sup>[c]</sup> Jehoiachin king of Judah and brought him out of prison. <sup>32</sup> And he spoke kindly to him and gave him a seat above the seats of the kings who were with him in Babylon. <sup>33</sup> So Jehoiachin put off his prison garments. And every day of his life he dined regularly at the king's table,<sup>34</sup> and for his allowance, a regular allowance was given him by the king, according to his daily needs, until the day of his death, as long as he lived.

## Message – President Michael Lange of the CA-NV-HI District, LCMS **Preparing for the NEXT**

Dear Christian friends, these past few months have certainly been a season where we are constantly preparing for “the NEXT.” Waiting upon God’s timing has not always been pleasing, but we know that we have a God of anchored hope. You are watching and praying, wanting to heal from some of the challenges of the past months, but I hope you are asking for and expecting that he has a “NEXT” in mind for you and your church. Waiting and watching for what comes next can be anxious and fearful, even overwhelming.

For those who are called to be the people of God, and who dwell with his identity and covenant blood sprinkled upon them, the NEXT is always approached with hope.

Your congregation and the community that it affects is centered around the very holy, powerful and cleansing word of God. The Word of God spoken and taught is ...

- Calling people to repentance, (destroying and overthrowing strongholds), and to heal;
- Breaking down unrepentant barriers and building up with Gospel power;
- Plucking up that which is sown as evil and planting the loving truth of our Lord Jesus.

Some of this work doesn't sound like much fun, does it? In fact, it can be overwhelming! For Jeremiah, in whose book we find our text for today, his prophetic calling often brought him pain. He loved the people to whom he had been sent, but they would not respond, and when they did respond, it was often against him. People outside and many times inside the church do not immediately respond to God's word today either. In Jeremiah's life & ministry there are numerous examples of unheeded warnings and challenging words that intended to call people back to Yahweh.

Twenty-six years ago, many in America went to the cinema to see a movie called *Schindler's List*. The movie recounted the horrors of the concentration camps and told the story of one man who worked to keep many people out of them. It was shot in black and white. For me, this was a blessing, the horrors of movie itself would have been too graphic in color. Many movie goers found themselves at the edge of emotional endurance as they viewed the story of oppression, destruction, and persecution as well as the tension of those who sought to deceive the authorities so that some might be redeemed. When I felt like I couldn't take it anymore, there was an interlude of calm and hope inserted into the movie.

In Jeremiah's book, we also find nuggets of God's hope and love for his people and for Jeremiah himself. Our text, found in Chapter 52, is no exception to this. When it seems that Jeremiah's book will end with an historic recounting that will only be a downer, listing total destruction; the sweet and fulfilling promises of God rescue and remind us that our God is about hope. He is about "a NEXT" that brings a future for his beloved people whom he draws, calls, and redeems.

Chapter 52 is a challenging, but largely passionless, restating of the justice of God that destroys, overthrows, breaks down, and plucks up that which has been rebellious, unbelieving, and faithless.

- It begins with the final rebellion and punishment of King Zedekiah, the last king in Jerusalem before Jerusalem's final destruction. His sons are

slaughtered before his eyes just before he is blinded and imprisoned for the remainder of his life.

- There is famine, the breaching of the walls, and the fleeing of the military.
- The city and, worst of all, the temple are burned, but not before all of the remaining wealth that made up the holy things of the temple are broken apart and/or removed, carried into Babylon seemingly to never be returned.
- The remaining priests and leaders are removed from the city and slaughtered publicly in the plain of Riblah by the King of Babylon.
- A precious few, 745, are the final group to be taken into captivity. Only a fraction of the population presumed to have survived. A few others, including Jeremiah, were left behind.

“The NEXT” for God’s people seems empty, without options, and certainly beyond hope. However, Yahweh is with his people even in this NEXT. He renews his promise.

Sixteen years later, removed but not disconnected from the hopeless horror of this chapter of Jerusalem’s final destruction, we read these words, a nugget of pure grace, *“Evel-meradoch, king of Babylon, in the year that he became king graciously freed Jehoiachin king of Judah and brought him out of prison.”*

Jehoiachin, known there as Jeconiah, had been languishing in jail for about 30 years from the time he was a young man, deposed as king after only 3 months. In many ways, he was unremarkable (*and unworthy, I might add*), but he was the man God gifted as the recipient and sign of God’s great NEXT for his people. Jehoiachin is the grandson of King Josiah, the last “good” king of Judah. Josiah responded to God’s leading through his re-discovered word, leading a temple reform and calling the people to repentance.

Most notably, he and his grandson, Jehoiachin are in the lineage of King David, with whom God had made an irrevocable covenant:

*Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. (Jeremiah 33:14)*

This word from Jeremiah guarantees God will follow through with his promise to David and to his people, even in the midst of the “breaking down” of God’s unrepentant people.

*I will cause a righteous shoot to spring up for David. (Jeremiah 33:15)*

This “new shoot” that we know as Jesus is not only for the future, but as Psalm 110 and Jesus himself in Matthew 22 proclaim, this shoot from David, PROMISED BY GOD, is truly God’s perfect, ultimate and all-encompassing NEXT.

*He is salvation;  
In him all will dwell securely;  
He is our (and David’s) righteousness - the perfect balancing of the scales.*

In Jeremiah’s time, people doubted this promise would be fulfilled. Some had even said that God was not keeping promises. (Feel familiar?)

God in his overflowing love desires the people and all of us to know *he makes good on his unbreakable promise to David and to his people.*

This promise would result in the building and planting of what God intended for his people in his great NEXT. To ensure this, God binds himself to his creative order. “*As surely as the day follows the night, he will keep this promise to his people.*”

Have you struggled in the midst of the “waiting periods” of life?

Have you found yourself like Jehoiachin, languishing in seemingly unending prison, (maybe even one of your own making)?

Does it seem nearly impossible to believe that God’s love could or would rebuild and replant?

*And he, (the king of Babylon) spoke kindly to him, giving him a seat **above the seats** of the kings who were with him in Babylon. (Jeremiah 52:32)*

When it is impossible to believe that God can redeem, when the story has left us only in despair, God reminds that he has “a NEXT.” The restoration of Jehoiachin allowed his son Shealtiel to beget a son, Zerubbabel, who would play a key role in the return of the exiles from Babylon. Ultimately out of David’s line would be born Joseph, who is known as the earthly father of the one who is the King, whose reign still is lasting to this day.

He is the promised one, the sacrificial lamb of God and now our risen king Jesus.

I have a friend who was in a near-fatal car wreck 5 years ago. He has lived the last five years as an amputee, functioning through the changes and learning to adjust and function with a prosthetic limb. During this time of pandemic, social unrest, and other uncertainty, (a time where we fear the NEXT), my friend shares that he has a great distaste for the term “new normal”. He prefers to approach each morning as a gift from God that is “new” every morning.

Jeremiah and the children of Israel did not just have a new normal. They had God’s sure and certain hope for what would come NEXT.

He would keep his promises!

He would grant hope!

He demonstrated this by reviving seemingly hopeless circumstances as he did with Jehoiachin.

As we today prepare for our “NEXT new thing,” we have a Lord Jesus who is our eternal and lasting NEXT. He does this not only with a word of promise, but by balancing that promise on his own sacrificial action for the sake of the world.

Want to prepare for the NEXT? Listen to the voice of the one who draws, calls, and redeems. He is always the NEXT and HE is “new every morning.” Amen.

### Offering Prayer

*If you have an offering present as you worship, you may place your hands over it during the offering prayer.*

Reader 1: With thankful hearts we receive from you, O Lord.

Reader 2: With thankful hearts we respond.

Reader 1: Receive our thanks and praise.

Reader 2: Receive our offerings.

Together: Receive us as your own.

### Prayers and the Lord’s Prayer

*Share prayer requests with one another. Pray over the requests shared, then pray the Lord’s Prayer together.*

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.

**Blessing** (Numbers 6:24-26)

Reader 1: The Lord bless you and keep you.

Reader 2: The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

Reader 1: The Lord look upon you with favor...

Reader 2: And give you peace.

Together: Amen.

*As applicable, please share this resource with others who would benefit. An electronic version is available at [www.calvaryslz.org](http://www.calvaryslz.org). We can also add friends to our mailing list if that is preferred.*

---

Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.