

December 5, 2023

3rd Day of Advent

Something new is coming! *'Lo how a Rose ere blooming* is a favorite advent hymn. The second verse of that hymn starts "Isaiah 'twas foretold it..." Certainly, Isaiah wasn't the only prophet that predicted something new, but he did it specifically and consistently. The first two verses of chapter 11 are powerful expressions of his expectations.

Isaiah 11

1 A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

2 The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—

3 and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
or decide by what he hears with his ears;

4 but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.

He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

5 Righteousness will be his belt
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

6 The wolf will live with the lamb,
the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling^[a] together;
and a little child will lead them.

7 The cow will feed with the bear,
their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

8 The infant will play near the cobra's den,
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.

9 They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

10 In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious. **11** In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to reclaim the surviving remnant of his people from Assyria, from Lower Egypt, from Upper Egypt, from Cush,^[b] from Elam, from Babylonia,^[c] from Hamath and from the islands of the Mediterranean.

Isaiah's words gave hope to those who were troubled. Those same words can give us comfort today.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, Isaiah gave hope to those in his world. His words assure us in this advent season. Thank you for his prophecy. Amen.

Owen Blakslee

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church