

ESTHER---OVERVIEW

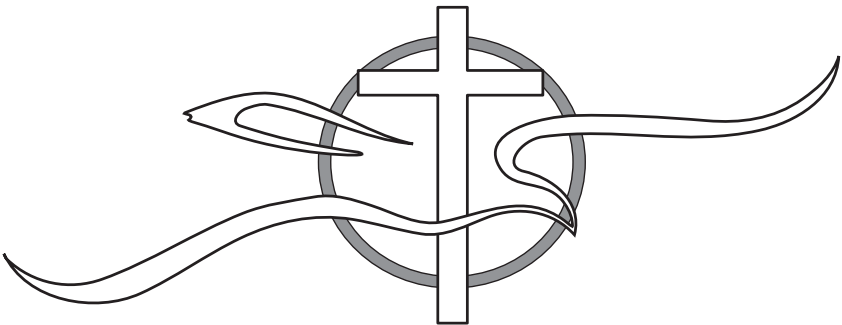
The story of Esther's life fits between chapters 6 and 7 of Ezra, between the first return led by Zerubbabel and the second return led by Ezra. It provides the only biblical portrait of the vast majority of Jews who chose to remain in Persia rather than return to Palestine after the Exile. God's hand of providence and protection on behalf of His people is evident throughout the book, though His name does not appear once! Haman's plot which brings grave danger to the Jews (chapters 1-4) is countered by the courage of beautiful Esther and the counsel of her wise cousin Mordecai, resulting in a great deliverance (chapters 5-10). The Feat of Purim becomes an annual reminder of God's faithfulness on behalf of His people.

Esther 1 & 2—Overview: The books of Ezra and Nehemiah relate the three returns of God's people after the Babylonian Captivity and Exile. But what of those who remained behind, those who had neither the heart nor the desire to rebuild their shattered homeland? Had God given up on them? The book of Esther provides the answer. It is a story of bravery and beauty set in the context of the Persian empire. God's sovereign hand is at work in the lives of His people. Queen Vasthi's banishment sets the stage for Esther to become queen. Meanwhile, Esther's cousin Mordecai is instrumental in saving the king's

life—an act of bravery on his part that is duly recorded and then promptly forgotten!

Esther 5-7---Overview: Fortified with faith, Esther courageously enters the king's court to make known her request. Wisely, she invites the king and Haman to a special banquet in their honor and uses the occasion to repeat the invitation a second time. Before the second banquet takes place, however, three events happen in rapid sequence: Haman builds an enormous gallows on which to hang Mordecai; the king discovers Mordecai's previously overlooked act of bravery in saving his life; and Haman is forced to endure the humiliation of bestowing on Mordecai the honor which he himself so greedily craved. At the second banquet, Esther reveals the plot against her and her people, and Haman is hung on his own gallows.

Esther 8-10---Overview: Haman is dead, but his murderous decree against the Jews cannot be changed. Though a "law of the Medes and Persians" could never be reversed, its effects could be counteracted by subsequent decrees. The king issues a new edict permitting the Jews to defend themselves throughout the empire on the day Haman had selected to annihilate them. The Feat of Purim is inaugurated to commemorate this historic deliverance of the Jewish people.



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Pre-service Preparation: Psalm 124

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Hymnal p. 5

Opening Hymn	540
Before Sermon	501
Offering Hymn	445
After Prayers:	400
After Benediction	451
Children:	"You Are My All in All"

Scripture Readings:

Esther 3:5-4:3

Haman, a proud scheming official from the palace, allows the king's promotion to go to his head. When Mordecai refuses to revere Haman by giving him honor only God deserves, the prime minister flies into a rage. Not only Mordecai, but also the entire Jewish population is marked for death. Using false charges and an enormous bribe, Haman secures the king's permission to put a deadly plan into motion. When the news reaches Mordecai and Esther, they fast in preparation for the most important meeting of Queen Esther's life...an unscheduled appearance before the king.

5 When Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow or pay him homage, Haman was filled with wrath. 6 But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone, for they had told him of the people of Mordecai. Instead, Haman sought to destroy all the Jews who were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus—the people of Mordecai. 7 In the first month, which is the month of Nisan, in the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus, they cast Pur (that is, the lot), before Haman to determine the day and the month, until it fell on the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar. 8 Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, "There is a certain people scattered and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of your kingdom; their laws are different from all other people's, and they do not keep the king's laws. Therefore it is not fitting for the king to let them remain. 9 If it pleases the king, let a decree be written that they be destroyed, and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver into the hands of those who do the work, to bring it into the king's treasuries."

10 So the king took his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews. 11 And the king said to Haman, "The money and the people are given to you, to do with them as seems good to you." 12 Then the king's scribes were called on the thirteenth day of the first month, and a decree was written according to all that Haman commanded—to the king's satraps, to the governors who were over each province, to the officials of all people, to every province according to its script, and to every people in their language. In the name of King Ahasuerus it was written, and sealed with the king's signet ring. 13 And the letters were sent by couriers into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all the Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, and to plunder their possessions. 14 A copy of the document was to be issued as law in every province, being published for all people, that they should be ready for that day. 15 The couriers went out, hastened by the king's command; and

Peace Thru Christ Lutheran Church & School • Announcements

BEFORE CHURCH:

Today

Sunday School---Jesus Appears to the Emmaus Disciples
Bible Class: Acts 21-22

THIS WEEK

Today

11:10 a.m. Choir
11:25 a.m. Quarterly Voters' Meeting
Monday 7:00 p.m. Confirmation/
Brandle-Gerbitz

Tuesday

10:30 a.m. Bible Class
at Oak Park Place
7:00 p.m. Hannah's Helping Hands

Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Bible Class

Wed-Fri CLC Teachers' Conference,
Mankato, MN. NO SCHOOL.

Thursday Pastoral Study Club—
Messiah, Hales Corners
4:00 p.m. Confirmation/McDonald

Friday

7:00 Family Fun Night

Next Sunday

9:00 a.m. S.S./Bible Class
10:00 a.m. Family Worship
11:10 a.m. Choir
11:25 a.m. Evangelism Meeting

LAST SUNDAY Attendance:

Worship: 44 SS. 6 Bible Class 22

OFFERINGS 10/10

for Unified Budget: \$2,729
\$10 Parsonage Windows/Siding

IN YOUR MAILBOX:

CLC Financial Report

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS:

We continue our Power Point study of the book by Pastor David Lau "Out of Necessity---A History of the Church of the Lutheran Confession" This Wednesday we will be looking at the documents *Church and Ministry* and the early organizing of the CLC. Come, learn with us.

BACK PEWS:

With the larger attendance that we have been having we would ask that the back pews be left open for parents with small children and babies. Thank you.

REFORMATION SERVICE:

The joint Reformation service this year will be held at Messiah Lutheran, Hales Corners at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 31st.

CLC NEWS: Pastor Dave Baker has accepted the call to Our Redeemer's Lutheran, Red Wing, MN. Prof. John Ude has accepted the call to serve during the interim until Pastor Baker is installed. Luther Memorial Church, Fond du Lac WI, has called Pastor Neal Radichel, Mountain View CA. The Church of the Lutheran Confession, North Port FL, has called Mark Weis as vacancy pastor and he has accepted.

Sermon Text:

Esther 4:13-17

GOD MAKES USE OF HIS CHILDREN TO ACCOMPLISH HIS WILL—

I. USE OF MORDECAI—

A RELATIVE WITH SOUND, CHRISTIAN ADVICE

II. USE OF ESTHER—

A BEAUTY QUEEN TO SPOKESWOMAN

III. USE OF JEWISH PEOPLE—

PRAYERS AND ENCOURAGEMENT

13 And Mordecai told them to answer Esther: "Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king's palace any more than all the other Jews. 14 For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" 15 Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai: 16 "Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will fast likewise. And so I will go to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish!" 17 So Mordecai went his way and did according to all that Esther commanded him.

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PEACE THRU CHRIST LUTHERAN WELCOMES YOU!

We are glad you are here this morning worshipping your Savior-God. We give thanks to our God who has led us to be a confessional Lutheran church that proclaims the verbally inspired, inerrant Word of God. We are eager to share this Word of salvation through Jesus Christ with you. Christ is coming! The time is short! Speak to Pastor Bernthal if there is any way we can serve you. Please come worship your Savior with us again and please also sign our guest book in the entry way.

the decree was proclaimed in Shushan the citadel. So the king and Haman sat down to drink, but the city of Shushan was perplexed.

Esther 4

1 When Mordecai learned all that had happened, he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city. He cried out with a loud and bitter cry. 2 He went as far as the front of the king's gate, for no one might enter the king's gate clothed with sackcloth. 3 And in every province where the king's command and decree arrived, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

Colossians 3:15-4:1

Whatever our station or status is in this life - father, mother, child, employer, employee - let us use that calling to the glory of God and for the service and welfare of God's people. How? By filling our hearts with the Word of Christ!

15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. 18 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them. 20 Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord. 21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. 22 Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. 23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. 25 But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.

Colossians 4

1 Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.