13You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, with what shall it be salted? For it no longer has any strength, but is to be thrown out and to be trampled upon by men.

14You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a mountain cannot be hid.

15Neither do they light a lamp and put it under a bushelbasket, but on the lampstand; and it shines for all who are in the house.

16In the same way also, you are to let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works, and may glorify your Father Who is in heaven.

15ولاً يُوقِدُونَ سِرَاجًا وَيَضَعُونَهُ تَحْتَ ٱلْمِكْيَالِ، بَلْ عَلَى ٱلْمَنَارَةِ قَدُضِيءُ لِجَمِيعِ ٱلَّذِينَ فِي ٱلْبَيْتِ فَيُضِيءُ لِجَمِيعِ ٱلَّذِينَ فِي ٱلْبَيْتِ 16فَلْيُضِئْ نُورُكُمْ هَكَذَا قُدَّامَ ٱلنَّاسِ، لِكَيْ يَرَوْا أَعْمَالَكُمُ ٱلْحَسَنَةَ، وَيُمَجِّدُوا لَكِيْ يَرَوْا أَعْمَالَكُمُ ٱلْحَسَنَةَ، وَيُمَجِّدُوا أَبَاكُمُ ٱلَّذِي فِي ٱلسَّمَاوَاتِ.

1The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

2And it shall come to pass, in the last days the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow into it.

3And many people shall go and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob. And He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

4And He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

50 house of Jacob, come and let us walk in the light of the Lord,

## Church service on 10 August 2025, 8th Sunday after Trinity, Kreuzkirche Bremerhaven

Sermon on Isaiah 2:1-5: Lector Ronald Stoffers

قداس يوم 10 أغسطس 2025، الأحد الثامن بعد الثالوث، كنيسة الصليب في بريمرهافن.

عظة على إشعياء 2: 1-5، القارئ رونالد ستوفرز.

## Dear congregation,

1. And so come now, come, you of the house of Jacob and you, sisters and brothers here in the Kreuzkirche, come and let us walk in the light of the Lord! So calls Isaiah, son of Amoz, this morning. And Jesus of Nazareth adds: "You are the salt of the earth, you are the light of the world!" – Yes, don't look to the side or at the ground. I mean you – and you! Salt of the earth, light of the world! I have the feeling that there is a huge misunderstanding here.

## أيها الحضور الأعزاء!

1 و هكذا يقول: تعالوا الآن يا بيت يعقوب، أنتم يا أخواتى وإخوتى هنا في كنيسة الصليب، تعالوا لنسلك في نور الرب! هكذا بنادي إشعياء بن اموص هذا الصباح ويضيف يسوع الناصري: «أنتم ملح الأرض، أنتم نور العالم!» – نعم، لا تنظر جانبًا ولا إلى الأرض.

2. I feel like all sorts of things this morning, but certainly not like the salt of the earth and the light of the world. And Isaiah's call "Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!" makes me realize how tired I am. No, don't worry, dear congregation, I didn't sleep excessively badly last night here in the wonderful maritime city of Bremerhaven.

2 أنت المقصود - وأنتم أيضًا! ملح الأرض ونور العالم! أشعر أن هناك التباسًا كبيرًا هنا. أشعر هذا الصباح بكل شيء إلا أنني ملح الأرض ونور العالم. ودعوة إشعياء: «تعالوا لنسلك في نور الرب!» تجعلني أدرك كم أنا متعب. لا تقلقوا يا أحبائي، لم أنم نومًا سيئًا البارحة هنا في ابريمر هافن البحرية الجميلة

3. But it is as if the world is getting darker by the day. It is as if many people are turning a switch that dims the light. Too much violence, too much nationalism, too much racism. There are global tendencies toward darkness - and the lack of light makes me tired and perplexed. But Isaiah, the son of Amoz, does not give up. He says what he has seen about Judah and Jerusalem and Washington and Moscow and Bremerhaven:

4."In the last days, the mountain of the Lord's house will be established as the highest of the mountains, exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it, and many peoples will go and say: Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and we may walk in his paths. For instruction will come from Zion and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. (Isaiah 2:2-3)

4. لأن من صهيون تخرج الشريعة، ومن أورشليم كلمة الرب (إشعياء ٢: ٢-٣). وهو يقضى بين الأمم ويؤدب شعوبًا كثيرين. فيطبعون سيوفهم سككًا ورماحهم مناجل. لا ترفع أمة على أمة سيفًا، و لا يتعلمون الحرب بعد فلموا يا بيت يعقوب، لنسلك في نور الرب! (إشعباء ٢: ٤-٥)

5. And he will judge among the nations and rebuke many peoples. They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. Come, O house of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the Lord! (Isaiah 2:4-5)

5. هناك أوقات، يا أحبائي، تبدو فيها هذه الرؤيا بعيدة جدًا. كان شعب إسرائيل يعيش في مثل هذا الزمن حين نطق إشعياء بهذه الكلمات هي كلمات من العهد القديم، على الأرجح من العصر الفارسي، ربما القرن الرابع قبل الميلاد. تحينها كان شعب إسر انبل مجرد و لاية صغيرة تابعة اللإمبراطورية الفارسية الهائلة، التي ا مثل كل الإمبراطوريات - تقوم على القوة الاقتصادية والعسكرية.

6. There are times, dear congregation, when this vision seems infinitely far away. The people of Israel were probably living in such a time when Isaiah spoke these words. These are words from the Old Testament, probably from the Persian period, perhaps from the fourth century BC. At that time, the people of Israel were a tiny vassal state in the vast Persian Empire, which - like all empires - was held together by economic power and military force.

بُصدّق إلى حد ان البعض احملوه إلى مستشفى الأمر اض النفسية رسالته تبدو جنونية بتكلم عن جبل الرب، صهيون، الذي سيكون اعلى من كل الجبال. وكل من يعرف الجغرافيا يعلم ان صهيون مجر د تل ۰ ۷۵ مترًا حتى جبل

7. And then a prophet appears - and says something incredible. So incredible that one could carry him away and send him to a psychiatric ward. This message is crazy. He speaks of the mountain of the Lord, Zion, which will be higher than all other mountains. And anyone familiar with geography knows that Zion is a hill, 750 meters high. Even the Mount of Olives opposite it is higher. And then they will all come, he says, the peoples, the nations. Voluntarily.

، تلك الدولة القزمة امم، بل مجرید انسانین

8. The powerful and great nations will move to the tiny state on the edge of the empire. They will flock there because they expect to find teaching and instruction, God's law, there of all places. That is crazy and unimaginable. But that is how it will be, says Isaiah. It is as if people from all nations want to say: Let us start all over again. It should be like it was in paradise, when there were no nations, only people, two people.

واحد فقط - ومع ذلك عصاة الانسان ومنذ ذلك الحين صار يعيش خارج عدن واول قصة تروى عن آلبشر بعد الفردوس هي قصة قتل: قابين يقتل أخاه بالقتل وسفك الدماء بكبر خوف ختی، بل غریب وربما

9. Back then, there was only one divine prohibition - and that's exactly the one humans broke. Ever since, they have lived east of Eden. And the first story told about humanity after paradise is a story of murder: Cain kills his brother Abel. Where people want to live without God's guidance, it ends in murder and bloodshed. Fear of one another begins to grow. You are no longer my brother or sister, but a stranger - and potentially my enemy. I need weapons to protect myself - and fail to see that weapons only escalate the violence.

9. عندها أحتاج سلاحًا لأحمى نفسى - دون أن أدرك أن السلاح يزيد العنف عندها تقول الأمم: عودوا إلى البداية! فلنسمع كلمة الله من جديد، ولنرجع إلى وصاياه. هذا أمر لا يُصدِّق: سيأتون جميعًا إلى صهيون. الفرس العظماء وسائر الأمم الله نفسه سيحكم بين الشعوب حتى في صهيون لا بوجد سلام بلا

10. The many nations will say: Let's go back! Back to the beginning! God shall speak His word, teach His commandments. What Isaiah says is incredible: They all come to Zion. The powerful Persians and all the others. God shall judge between the nations. Even in Zion, there can be no peace without justice. And there is never peace through violence. That's what the nations learn. And they act: They turn swords into plowshares, spears into pruning hooks farming instead of war machines!

[10] ولا يوجد سلام بالعنف ابدًا. هذا ما ستتعلمه الشعوب وسيتحركون: سيوف تتحول إلى محاریث، ورماح إلى مناجل، وزراعة بدل صناعة الحرب! اه يا إشعياء، ما أجمل هذا وما أعجبه! وأبدأ أحلم وأراهم امامى: کوریون شمالیون و جنوبیون يسيرون نحو صهيون – ومن بعيد لا أميز من القادم من الشمال الشيوعي ومن الجنوب

11. Oh, Isaiah, that's crazy - but also very beautiful. And I keep dreaming, and I see them before me: North and South Koreans walking together toward Zion - and from a distance, I can't even tell who's from the communist North and who's from the capitalist South. They speak one language and appear to be enjoying each other's company along the way. I see Iranians and Americans, Pakistanis and Indians; and with the Iranians, a few Israelis are walking as well; and then some Palestinians join them.

11 بتحدثون لغة واحدة وببدو يستمتعون بالحديث على ریق. اری ایرانیین و امریکیین، باکستانیین و هنود؛ ومع الإيرانيين يسير بعض الإسرائيليين؛ وهؤلاء ينضم إليهم

12. I look more closely - and I see Matteo Salvini, Italy's Minister of the Interior. For once, he's not ranting about refugees in the Mediterranean or devising new punishments for sea rescuers, but is walking among a group of Syrian war refugees, listening to them. And they have a lot to tell. And isn't that Donald Trump over there, having put away his smartphone - and, so they say, he even deleted his Twitter account yesterday? He's listening to a young man from Central America who made it to the southern United States after an adventurous escape.

13. Beautiful, dear Isaiah, but still very far off. We live in a time of immense global rearmament. Trump demands that Germany meet NATO's 2% target - and our new defense minister thinks that's a good idea. At least 2% of our gross domestic product is supposed to go into the defense budget. That goal was first formulated in 2002 and reaffirmed by NATO in 2014. Currently, Germany spends about 1.2% of its GDP on defense - that's 43.2 billion euros.

14. If we were to increase that to 2%, it would amount to 68 billion euros per year for defense. Just for comparison: the Ministry for Development Cooperation has a total budget of 10 billion euros. The logic of militarization seems to have taken over. The spiral is in full swing globally. Here in our country, the arms industry is thriving; 11% of the world's arms exports come from Germany. Among all nations, we rank third. There are times when the vision of Isaiah ben Amoz seems infinitely far away.

٦٨ مليار بورو سنوبًا وللمقارنة: وزارة التعاون الاقتصادى والتنمية لا تتجاوز ميز انبتها ١٠ منطق العسكرة صيار هو السيد. ح التي تزدهر اعمالها؛ ١١٪ عالمبًا هناك او قات تبدو فيها رؤب إشعباء بن اموص بعبدة جدًا.

15. There are times when the vision of Isaiah ben Amoz seems infinitely far away. In 1980, no one saw a disarmament treaty between the USA and the Soviet Union coming. SS-20 missiles were stationed in East Germany, Pershing II and cruise missiles in West Germany. The arms race was in full motion. It was a dark time during the Cold War. But Harald Bretschneider, the youth pastor from Saxony, refused to give in to resignation.

ا 15 كانت هناك ابضًا ا اخری فی ۱۹۸۰ لم یکن احد بنوقع معاهدة لنزع السلاح بين امريكا والاتحاد السوفييتي. سواریخ 20-SSکانت متصوبة كروز في الغربية حلقة التسلح كانت تدور بالا توقف كان العالم مظلمًا في زمن الحرب الباردة. لكن القس الشاب هار الد بر یتشنابدر من ساکسونیا رفض

16. He read the vision of swords being turned into plowshares - in the version found in the Book of Micah. How fortunate that important texts appear twice in the Bible! "Swords into plowshares" - in the middle of the Cold War, Bretschneider had an idea. He wanted to print these words on fabric so they could be sewn onto clothing - as a protest against the arms race. For "textile surface finishing" no official permit was required in the communist dictatorship of East Germany - unlike for printed materials.

17. The patches spread rapidly and became a symbol of the peace movement. When they were banned in the GDR in 1982, it was enough to draw a circle on your jacket or cut out a round hole to show what you stood for. No one should say that individuals can't make a difference. Harald Bretschneider is a name that stands against that notion.

17. انتشرت الشار ات بسرعة ىبرة – و صارت رمزًا حظر تها السلطات عام أحدهم دائرة على سترته بقص ثقبًا دائر بًا ليعلن موقفه

18. Stefan Nau is another. The blacksmith from Wittenberg did exactly what Isaiah envisioned: he forged a sword into a plowshare. This happened during the Protestant Church Congress in Wittenberg on September 24, 1983. It took him an hour and a half - and thousands watched as he did it. Don't say individuals can't make a difference. There have been - and still are - people who take risks, who refuse to remain silent, who don't settle into their resignation.

|18. واسم اخر: شتيفان ناو. الحداد الفنى من فيتنبرغ فعل ما رآه إشعباء: حوّل سبفًا إلى محرات حدث ذلك خلال مؤتمر الكنيسة الإنجيلية في فيتنبرغ، في ٢٤ سبتمبر ١٩٨٣ استغرق ساعة و نصف - و آلاف الناس شاهدوه. لا انقل إن الفرد لا يقدر أن يفعل شيئًا. هناك دائمًا من يغامر ويقاوم الصمت ولا يستسلم لليأس.

19. But I am not Bretschneider, and I am not Stefan Nau - and I can feel realism catching up with me. Again and again! Then I start thinking Isaiah's vision is ridiculous. And anyway: people who have visions - like the mentally ill - should see a doctor! It really is too beautiful to be true or ever come true. So: back to reality. At least that way I won't make myself vulnerable - as a dreamer, a naive dogooder, a would-be world-saver, a harmless ideologue of peace.

ا 19 لكننى لست بريتشنايدر ولست شتیفان ناو - و أشعر بالواقعیة تجذبني دومًا. كل مرة! حينها أرى ار وية إشعباء سخيفة وأفكر: من لديه ر و ي - مثل المرضى النفسيين -عليه أن يذهب إلى الطبيب! إنها جميلة جدًا لتكون حقيقية أو تتحقق يومًا. إذن فلنعد إلى الواقع. على الأقل لن أتهم بالسذاجة أو الطوباوية أو التعلق بحلم السلام.

20. Those who have visions are vulnerable. Others can point at them, mock them. Of all places - Zion? Jerusalem? That is supposed to be the place where something new begins? When people went there whether Romans in the first century, Persians in the early seventh, or Crusaders in the Middle Ages - they didn't go to learn God's guidance. They went to wage new wars, to cause new bloodshed in the name of their god.

20.من يملك رؤية يكون ضعيفًا. الأخرون بشيرون إليه ويسخرون منه صهيون بالذات، أورشليم ابالذات، تكون مركز الجديد؟ كل من ذهب إلى هناك - سواء الرومان في القرن الأول، أو الفرس في القرن السابع، أو الصليبيون في العصور الوسطى - لم يذهب لينعلم وصايا الله، بل ليصنع مذبحة جديدة باسم إلهه

21. And today, Jerusalem is far from being a place of learning for peace. Supposedly illegal Palestinian homes are demolished. A wall cuts deep into the land. What about Israel's actions in Gaza, the hunger there, and the responsibility of Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu? But Isaiah, son of Amoz, insists: No, you heard correctly - of all places, the nations stream to that place. God acts in strange ways - and against the logic you know.

[21] والبوم اورشليم بعيدة جدًا عن أن تكون مدرسة للسلام. تهدم بيوت الفلسطينيين بدعوى أنها غير قانونية. جدار يلتهم الأرض بعيدًا في الداخل. وماذا عن سلوك إسر ائيل في غزة، والجوع هناك، ومسؤولية انتنياهو؟ لكن إشعياء بن أموص يصر: نعم، سمعتم جيدًا إلى هناك بالذات ستأتي الأمم الله يعمل بطرق عجيبة - ضد منطقنا البشرى.

22. When, Isaiah - when will this happen? "In the latter days", the prophet replies. But his words aren't so easy to translate. In Hebrew it says beacharit ha-yamim. Literally, one could also translate it as "on the backside of the days". Isaiah sees us standing there - our gaze turned toward what we know and remember. Toward the past. And there we see everything that was - a history of human violence. War after war. Since the first murder, since Cain and Abel, immeasurable blood has been spilled! Again and again! That's where we stand, in the face of this history of violence. "When will they ever learn? When will humanity finally learn?"

22.متى يا إشعياء؟ متى يحدث ذلك؟ «في آخر الأيام»، يجيب النبي. لكن كلماته ليست سهلة الترجمة في العبرية «بِأَخَريتِ الْيَامِيم». ويمكن ان تترجم حرفيًا: «على ظهر الأيام» أو «خلف الأيام». إشعباء برانا واقفين ننظر الما نعرفه: الماضي. ونرى كل ما کان - تاریخ عنف بشری حروب فوق حروب منذ القتل الأول، منذ قابین وهابیل، سال دم بلا نهایة!

23. But then Isaiah says: Behind you, on the backside of the days, that's where the new thing is happening! It's already there! Not far away at all! You just have to turn around. Then it's within reach! About ten years ago, I was in Jerusalem. I sat on a plastic chair in front of the Western Wall. Before me, the stones that were placed there 2,000 years ago as part of the outer wall of the Temple. Now they are all that remains of it - after wars and conquests. Again and again, I observed a strange phenomenon. Groups of people would come to the Wall, chatting loudly, taking photos.

23 لكن إشعياء يقول: وراءك، على اظهر الأيام، يحدث الجديد! إنه قريب جدًا! فقط التفت. حينها يصبح في متناول البد قبل نحو عشر سنوات كنت في أورشليم. جلست على كرسى بلاستيكى أمام حائط المبكى. أمامي الحجارة التي بنيت قبل ألفي سنة كسور خارجي للهيكل. لم يبق من الهيكل شيء غيرها - بعد الحروب والاحتلالات.

24. But as they approached, their voices grew quieter meter by meter - until they fell completely silent. They stood before the stones, many reaching out a hand to touch one of them. And they remained like that for quite some time. That wall has something. Could it really be possible that this city might interrupt the logic of the world? That here, of all places, peace could be learned? God's peace? Here - and despite everything? Not Rome, not Wittenberg - Jerusalem! Could it be that people, here of all places, might begin to change their minds and lose their fear of one another? That they might recognize a brother or sister in the face of the other? Sitting there on my white plastic chair, Isaiah's vision, for a few minutes, didn't seem all that far away anymore.

[24] ورحت اراقب ظاهرة غربية. الحائط تتحدث يصبوت عال و تلتقط صبورًا لکن کلما اقتربوا خفتت اصبواتهم، مترًا بعد متر، حتى منهم بمد بده لبلمس حجرًا. يقفون هكذا دقائق. هناك شيء خاص في هذه المدينة منطق العالم؟ أن نتعلم هنا السلام؟ سلام الله؟ هنا بالذات غم كل شيء! ليس روما، ولا

25. It's a strange thing, dear congregation. And you've probably noticed it throughout the sermon: I keep wavering - between the hope Isaiah stirs in me, and the resignation I feel deep inside, between courage and despair. Some time ago, Sebastian Krumbiegel, lead singer of the band Die Prinzen, uploaded a song and music video to YouTube. "Democracy is female" - a song meant to inspire confidence in democracy in light of the elections in Saxony, Thuringia, and Brandenburg, where far-right, anti-refugee parties had electoral successes.

25 هل يمكن للناس هنا بغيروا عقولهم ويفقدوا

26. A hymn of praise to love and hope, to mercy and humanity and freedom. Sure, one can debate the poetic quality; and it won't match everyone's taste in music. Of course! But when I read the YouTube comments - how much hate and scorn was unleashed against Krumbiegel and his fellow musicians in no time - I found myself right back in my resignation.

26 إنه أمر غريب يا أحبائي. ولعلكم لاحظتم ذلك طوال العظة أنا أتأرجح بين الأمل الذي يوقظه إشعياء في داخلي واليأس العميق الذي أشعر به، بين الشجاعة والإحباط قبل فترة نشر سيباستيان كرومبيغل، مغنى فرقة «الأمراء»، أغنية على يوتيوب بعنوان «الديمقر اطية مؤنثة» - أغنية تشجع على الأمل بالديمقر اطية في مواجهة صعود كراهية اللاجئين.

27. But Isaiah doesn't give up: "Come now, house of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the LORD!" So: Come, you sisters and brothers of the Kreuzkirche in Bremerhaven! If I lose hope on my own, then we need one another. Perhaps today is the beginning of a peace movement. Someone has to take the first step.

27 أنشو دة حب و إمل، عن الرحمة والإنسانية والحرية. نعم، بمكن أن نختلف على جو دتها الشعرية؛ وقد لا تعجب كل الأذواق الموسيقية لكن عندما قر أت التعليقات على يو تيوب، ورأيت الكراهية والسخرية التي وُ جهت له ولر فاقه خلال وقت قصير، عدت إلى حالة الإحباط

28. And if not the rulers of the USA and Russia, if not the warlords in Syria and Afghanistan, if not Hamas and Hezbollah and Israel, if not Pakistanis and Indians - then maybe me, maybe us, and maybe now. "Swords into plowshares" - the symbol still exists. As a patch - or a sticker, or a beer coaster. Who knows what ideas we might come up with when we draw it again - with Isaiah's words in our minds and Jesus' promise in our ears: "You are the salt of the earth, you are the light of the world." Amen!

خوتے واخواتے هنا فی بريمرهاون! إذا فقدت ه اسر ائيل، و لا ياكستان و الهند، فر