

# SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Amos's Time, Our Time

July 14 & 15, 2012

## AS WE GATHER

It's amazing how people will tolerate injustice just to save themselves. The Holy Gospel reading this week tells us about how powerful people will only tolerate so much "honesty" from those who speak against their excesses. King Herod had John the Baptist locked up in prison. St. Mark tells us that when Herod heard John, "he was greatly perplexed, and yet he heard him gladly" (6:20). John had told the king, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife" (6:18) and this angered Herodias. Herod was tricked by his wife to behead John the Baptist. The sad irony is that "the king was exceedingly sorry, but because of his oaths and his guests he did not want to break his word to her" (6:26). Today's Scripture readings teach us people will even oppose the truth to prove that they are right! Meanwhile, God keeps including those whom we are inclined to exclude from His kingdom.

## WELCOME

## HANDSHAKES & HUGS

+PREPARATION +

## OPENING HYMN # 802 "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

Immortal, invisible, God only wise, In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life Thou givest to both great and small  
In all life Thou livest, the true Life of all;  
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree  
And wither and perish but naught changes Thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,  
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight  
All laud we would render; O help us to see  
'Tis only the splendor of light that hides Thee.

(Please rise)

## INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

## CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

**All: Most merciful God, there are so many ways we deceive ourselves---believing that we are good while considering others to be unfit for our fellowship or your salvation. We hear in today's Scripture readings about the priest who would not allow words of judgment to be spoken in a house of worship. We learn about a king who executes an innocent man to save himself from public embarrassment. We listen to an account of religious people who had a difficult time understanding how those considered unclean could rightfully become inheritors of God's eternal promises. In all of these readings, we witness sinful people trying to prove their righteousness, at the cost of others. We, at times, are such people. Forgive us, O Lord! Blot out our sins. Show us your steadfast love for the sake of Jesus, who alone saves us from our sin.**

Pastor: In Christ, we are a forgiven people---not because our confession is so sincere or complete, but because God's steadfast love is unchanging, faithful, and just! Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. As we freely confess, so we are freely forgiven, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord, who won our redemption for us at a great price.

People: Amen. So let it be.

## HYMN OF PRAISE # 803 "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

Joyful, joyful we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, Praising Thee, their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, Drive the gloom of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around Thee, Center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest, Well-spring of the joy of living, Ocean-depth of happy rest! Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Fountainhead of love divine: Joyful, we Thy heav'n inherit! Joyful, we by grace are Thine!

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

**All: O Lord, you granted your prophets strength to resist the temptations of the devil and courage to proclaim repentance. Give us pure hearts and minds to follow your Son faithfully even into suffering and death; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

(Please be seated)

**9:00 BAPTISM** of Carter Daniel Hafemann

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*Please refrain from taking pictures during the worship service.*

### + WORD +

**OLD TESTAMENT** Amos 7:7-15 (*Amos is expelled from Bethel.*) This is what he showed me: The Lord was standing by a wall that had been built true to plumb, with a plumb line in his hand. And the Lord asked me, "What do you see, Amos?" "A plumb line," I replied. Then the Lord said, "Look, I am setting a plumb line among my people Israel; I will spare them no longer. "The high places of Isaac will be destroyed and the sanctuaries of Israel will be ruined; with my sword I will rise against the house of Jeroboam." Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent a message to Jeroboam king of Israel: "Amos is raising a conspiracy against you in the very heart of Israel. The land cannot bear all his words. For this is what Amos is saying: "Jeroboam will die by the sword, and Israel will surely go into exile, away from their native land.'" Then Amaziah said to Amos, "Get out, you seer! Go back to the land of Judah. Earn your bread there and do your prophesying there. Don't prophesy anymore at Bethel, because this is the king's sanctuary and the temple of the kingdom." Amos answered Amaziah, "I was neither a prophet nor a prophet's son, but I was a shepherd, and I also took care of sycamore-fig trees. But the Lord took me from tending the flock and said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'

**SECOND LESSON** Ephesians 1:3-14 (*Gentiles have also received God's promises.*)

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached

their fulfillment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ. In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

(Please rise)

**HOLY GOSPEL** Mark 6:14-29 (*The beheading of John the Baptist*) King Herod heard about this, for Jesus' name had become well known. Some were saying, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him." Others said, "He is Elijah." And still others claimed, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of long ago." But when Herod heard this, he said, "John, the man I beheaded, has been raised from the dead!" For Herod himself had given orders to have John arrested, and he had him bound and put in prison. He did this because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, whom he had married. For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." So Herodias nursed a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But she was not able to, because Herod feared John and protected him, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man. When Herod heard John, he was greatly puzzled; yet he liked to listen to him. Finally the opportune time came. On his birthday Herod gave a banquet for his high officials and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. When the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests. The king said to the girl, "Ask me for anything you want, and I'll give it to you." And he promised her with an oath, "Whatever you ask I will give you, up to half my kingdom." She went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask for?" "The head of John the Baptist," she answered. At once the girl hurried in to the king with the request: "I want you to give me right now the head of John the Baptist on a platter." The king was greatly distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he did not want to refuse her. So he immediately sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. The man went, beheaded John in the prison, and brought back his head on a platter. He presented it to the girl, and she gave it to her mother. On hearing of this, John's disciples came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

(Please be seated)

### 5:00 CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**SERMON HYMN # 819 "Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good"**

**SERMON "Every Spiritual Blessing in Christ" Ephesians 1:3-14**

(Please rise)

### 5:00 THE APOSTLES' CREED

(Please be seated)

**OFFERINGS** As your offering is collected, please sign our attendance book located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle.

**9:00 CONFIRMATION** of David Michael Sarff

(Please rise)

**PRAYER OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

Pastor: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places and who promises to hear our prayers. Holy Father, you predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ. Keep all of us who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection that we might hear and believe your Word of truth, the Gospel of our salvation, and that our lives might show that we are indeed dead to sin and alive to you in Christ Jesus. We pray especially for Carter, who was baptized this weekend and David who was confirmed. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Father, your Son taught us that He came not to abolish the Law and Prophets but to fulfill them. Teach us to treasure your commandments, to turn from our sinful ways, and to love what you have commanded. Strengthen us in times of temptation so the lures of this world never separate us from you. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord of life, you have given us sinners life with you on earth and in heaven. Prepare us to live and, when you will, to die faithfully confessing our Lord Jesus Christ. Comfort those who mourn including Steve and LeAnne. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Merciful Lord, you have reconciled us to yourself so that we who would otherwise die eternally can instead live in you forever. Reconcile us also with our brothers and sisters in Christ so that as we work together doing your will the world might see in our mutual love a reflection of your own. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Father of all compassion, be the strength of those who suffer from the effects of sin. Grant to our armed forces and to those who are in danger your protection; and heal those who are sick, injured, facing surgery, or recovering. We pray especially for Donald, Irma, and Joe. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Gracious Lord, you set us free from sin. Grant that same freedom to those

who are in prison. Fill them with patience and with faith. Guide all chaplains, and use your Word they speak to fill the prisoners with hope in your unfailing love. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Father, we confess that apart from Christ, our righteousness does not exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees. Forgive our sins. Nourish us with your Word and with the body and blood of Jesus that we might live with forgiveness and with the joyful certainty of salvation. We praise your name with those who celebrate including Keith, Bev, Rebecca, Dennis and Cheryl. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Father, because Jesus died and rose for us, hear our prayers and answer in the way you know to be best for us, for we pray in the name of Jesus.

**People: Amen.**

**5:00 THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**+ SACRAMENT +**

**WORDS OF OUR LORD**

**THE PEACE**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People: Amen.**

**AGNUS DEI** *(Tune #571: "God Loved the World So That He Gave")*

O Christ, the precious Lamb of God, By grace You take our sins away.

Grant us Your mercy, Lord, we pray, And send Your peace to us this day.

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(Please be seated)

**DISTRIBUTION** Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

**HYMN # 712**

**"Seek Ye First"**

Seek ye first the kingdom of God, And His righteousness. And all these things shall be added unto you! Allelu, alleluia!

Ask and it shall be given unto you, Seek and ye shall find, Knock and the door shall be opened unto you, Allelu, alleluia! *continued*

Man does not live by bread alone, But by ev'ry word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord, Allelu, alleluia!

**HYMN # 873 "Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies"**

Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true and only light,  
Sun of righteousness, arise; Triumph o'er the shades of night.  
Dayspring from ton high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn Unaccompanied by Thee;  
Joyless is the day's return Till Thy mercy's beams I see,  
Till they inward light impart, Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine, Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
Fill me, radiancy divine, Scatter all my unbelief;  
More and more Thyself display, Shining to the perfect day.

**HYMN # 589 "Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens"**

Speak, O Lord, Your servant listens, Let Your Word to me come near;  
Newborn life and spirit give me, Let each promise still my fear.  
Death's dread pow'r, its inward strife, Wars against Your Word of life;  
Fill me, Lord, with love's strong fervor That I cling to You forever!

Oh, what blessing to be near You And to listen to Your voice;  
Let me ever love and hear You, Let Your Word be now my choice!  
Many hardened sinners, Lord, Flee in terror at Your Word;  
But to all who feel sin's burden You give words of peace and pardon.

Lord, Your words are waters living When my thirsting spirit pleads.  
Lord, Your words are bread life-giving; On Your words my spirit feeds.  
Lord, Your words will be my light Through death's cold and dreary night;  
Yes, they are my sword prevailing And my cup of joy unailing!

As I pray, dear Jesus, hear me; Let Your words in me take root.  
May Your Spirit e'er be near me That I bear abundant fruit.  
May I daily sing Your praise, From my heart glad anthems raise,  
Till my highest praise is given In the endless joy of heaven.

(Rise)

**POST-COMMUNION COLLECT**

Pastor: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for His coming again, and that all who have received in His true Body and Blood the forgiveness of Christ may be

restored to live a new and holy life, through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

**People: Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN # 918 "Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer"**

Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer, Pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but Thou art mighty; Hold me with Thy pow'rful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, Feed me till I want no more:  
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain Whence the healing stream doth flow;  
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar Lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer, Be Thou still my strength and shield;  
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, Bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of death and hell's destruction, Land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to Thee;  
I will ever give to Thee.

Preacher/Liturgist  
Lectors  
Acolytes  
Organist  
Music Coordinator

Pastor Harold Bender, Jr.  
Virginia Sell, Frank Coogan  
Rachel Osell, Ana Gonzalez-Clark  
Roger Gottschalk  
Kim Woller