

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Speaking an Unpopular Word

July 11, 14, 15, 2018

AS WE GATHER

When Amos speaks God's Word to Israel, they do not want to hear it. Amos is told to prophesy elsewhere. John the Baptist's message of repentance landed him in Herod's prison and, eventually, in the grave. Speaking God's Word is not always easy. It often meets resistance and sometimes even violence. As you gather with fellow hearers of God's Word, consider how you have been resistant to God's Word. Which portions have you chosen to skip over? Consider how you might better hear and speak God's Word this week.

WELCOME

"For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true." (Ephesians 5:8-9)

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #871 "Greet the Rising Sun"

Greet the rising sun, Shining with bright force,
Like an athlete strong, Set to run the course;
Birds soar high above, Wildflow'rs below;
With the day's new light, Glad to work I go.

Father, hear my prayer, Keep me safe today;
Sanctify my thoughts, All I do and say;
As I teach the young And esteem the old,
May Your bounteous grace By my life be told.

Lord, I will today On Your love rely;
Let no evil thought Cloud the clear blue sky.
Joyful and content With life's simpler things,
Knowing all I need From Your kindness springs.

(Rise)

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: Hear what God the Lord will speak,

People: for He will speak peace to His people, to His saints.

Pastor: Steadfast love and faithfulness meet.

People: Righteousness and peace kiss each other.

Pastor: Yes, the Lord will give what is good.

People: Righteousness will go before Him.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Yes, the Lord gives what is good. He sends His Word to every nation. But we have not always desired to hear His Word. We have not always done what His Word says. We have not always spoken His Word faithfully to others. Let us confess our sins to God, our heavenly Father. Heavenly Father,

People: we confess that we have ignored your Word. We confess that at times we have shamefully treated those who speak your Word. We confess that we have desired our own way and not your way. Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us!

Pastor: In love, God chose us for adoption as His heirs through Jesus Christ. We have redemption through Christ's blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace. As a called and ordained servant of the risen Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing, that we should be holy and blameless before Him.

HYMN OF PRAISE #789 "Praise and Thanksgiving"

Praise and thanksgiving, Father, we offer
For all things living, Created good:
Harvest of sown fields, Fruits of the orchard,
Hay from the mown fields, Blossom and wood.

Bless, Lord, the labor We bring to serve You
That with our neighbor We may be fed.
Sowing or tilling, We would work with You,
Harvesting, milling For daily bread.

Father, providing Food for Your children,
By Your wise guiding Teach us to share
One with another, So that, rejoicing
With us, all others May know Your care.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. 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 the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Amos 7:7–15* (Amaziah tells Amos to prophesy elsewhere, but Amos does as the Lord commands.) This is what he showed me: behold, the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. ⁸And the LORD said to me, “Amos, what do you see?” And I said, “A plumb line.” Then the Lord said, “Behold, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass by them; the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste, and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.” Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, “Amos has conspired against you in the midst of the house of Israel. The land is not able to bear all his words. For thus Amos has said, “‘Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land.’” And Amaziah said to Amos, “O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, and eat bread there, and prophesy there, but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king’s sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.” Then Amos answered and said to Amaziah, “I was no prophet, nor a prophet’s son, but I was a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore figs. But the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’”

EPISTLE *Ephesians 1:3–14* (Paul speaks of our redemption, adoption, forgiveness, and inheritance in Christ.) 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, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 6:14–29* (Herod puts John the Baptist to death.)

King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some said, “John the Baptist has been raised from the dead. That is why these miraculous powers are at work in him.” But others said, “He is Elijah.” And others said, “He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.” But when Herod heard of it, he said, “John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.” For it was Herod who had sent and seized John and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because he had married her. For John had been saying to Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife.” And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to put him to death. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he kept him safe. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed, and yet he heard him gladly. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his nobles and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. For when Herodias's daughter came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests. And the king said to the girl, “Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it to you.” And he vowed to her, “Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half of my kingdom.” And she went out and said to her mother, “For what should I ask?” And she said, “The head of John the Baptist.” And she came in immediately with haste to the king and asked, saying, “I want you to give me at once the head of John

the Baptist on a platter.” And the king was exceedingly sorry, but because of his oaths and his guests he did not want to break his word to her. And immediately the king sent an executioner with orders to bring John’s head. He went and beheaded him in the prison and brought his head on a platter and gave it to the girl, and the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard of it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #686 “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Come, Thou Fount of ev’ry blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory Fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore Thee; May I still Thy goodness prove.

Here I raise my Ebenezer, Hither by Thy help I’ve come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wand’ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, Interposed His precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor Daily I’m constrained to be;
Let that grace now like a fetter Bind my wand’ring heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; Prone to leave the God I love.
Here’s my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts above.

Oh, that day when freed from sinning, I shall see Thy lovely face;
Clothed then in the bloodwashed linen, How I’ll sing Thy wondrous grace!
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry; Take my ransom’d soul away;
Send Thine angels soon to carry Me to realms of endless day.

SERMON “An Interruption in the Story”

(Rise)

APOSTLES’ CREED (*found on the inside back cover of the hymnal*)

(Be seated)

OFFERING 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. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

O almighty and eternal God, in the face of opposition you call your Church to proclaim repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Give us courage like St. John the Baptist to continue boldly proclaiming your whole counsel of salvation to a dying world. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord of the Church, we commend to you all ministers of your Word. Make them zealous and faithful, that through their service your Kingdom would grow. Send the Holy Spirit upon all who hear them to turn hearts from the love of sin to the love of you. Remember in mercy Matthew, our Synod’s president; John, our district president; and Hal, our circuit visitor. Grant them wisdom in their work and joy in their calling. Grant us an increase in those who prepare to serve in the Office of the Holy Ministry and other church-work vocations. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: O Lord, in the waters of Baptism you severed your people from any obligation to the old nature, sealed us with your Spirit of promise and blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing. Grant that we may live our lives as people brought back from the dead to the praise of your glory. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Kind Master, you are near to all who are sick, to all who suffer, to all in grief and pain. Have mercy on those who carry heavy burdens, and especially those we have been asked to remember before you: Scott, LuEva, Mary, Vern, Dorothy, Judy, Dick, Carol, Anita, Cindy, Dorothy, Pastor Bender, Junie, Carlene, Nancy, Sue, Jan, Dolores, Pat, Cliff, Shirley, Gladys, Herb, Matthew, Russ, Arlene, Dorothy, John, Arlene, Jack, Pat, Shirley, Jonathan, Helen, Leonard and Sarah. Grant them to rest in your embrace, to look to you for relief and peace, and to wait in hope for the final healing of the resurrection through Jesus Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lover of mankind, as we prepare to come to the altar this day, make us poor sinners ready to receive the body and blood of your Son for the forgiveness of our sins and for a share in His unending life. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Father of all good things, we thank you for the many blessings you bestow upon us, and we join with Nick and Jeannie in celebrating John's second birthday. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: God of all comfort, bless and be with those who grieve the passing of loved ones. Bless the memories of loved ones we carry with us, even as Nancy remembers her dear husband, Jimmy. Grant us hope and peace in the face of death and strengthen our faith in the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Join these, our prayers and praises, with those of your faithful people of every time and every place, and unite them in the ceaseless petitions of our great High Priest until He comes again in power and glory as victorious Lord of all. Through Him, with Him and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, forever and ever.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, who pardons sinners, Show us mercy, show us grace.
Lamb of God, whose promise lingers, Grant Your peace in ev'ry place.
Lamb of God, the world is broken. It is filled with scattered souls.
Fill us with the words You've spoken, Reconcile and make us whole.

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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 #642 "O Living Bread From Heaven"

O living Bread from heaven, How well you feed your guest!
The gifts that you have given Have filled my heart with rest.
Oh, wondrous food of blessing, Oh, cup that heals our woes!
My heart, this gift possessing, With praises overflows.

My Lord, you here have led me To this most holy place
And with yourself have fed me The treasures of your grace;
For you have freely given What earth could never buy,
The bread of life from heaven, That now I shall not die.

You gave me all I wanted; This food can death destroy.
And you have freely granted The cup of endless joy.
My Lord, I do not merit The favor you have shown,
And all my soul and spirit Bow down before your throne.

Lord, grant me then, thus strengthened With heav'nly food,
while here My course on earth is lengthened, To serve with holy fear.
And when you call my spirit To leave this world below,
I enter, through your merit, Where joys unmingled flow.

HYMN #631 "Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face"

Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face;
Here would I touch and handle things unseen;
Here grasp with firmer hand the eternal grace,
And all my weariness upon Thee lean.

Here would I feed upon the bread of God,
Here drink with Thee the royal wine of heav'n;
Here would I lay aside each earthly load,
Here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiv'n.

This is the hour of banquet and of song;
This is the heav'nly table spread for me;
Here let me feast and, feasting, still prolong
The brief bright hour of fellowship with Thee.

I have no help but Thine; nor do I need
Another arm but Thine to lean upon.
It is enough, my Lord, enough indeed;
My strength is in Thy might, Thy might alone.

Mine is the sin, but Thine the righteousness;
Mine is the guilt, but Thine the cleansing blood;
Here is my robe, my refuge, and my peace:
The blood, Thy righteousness, O Lord, my God.

Too soon we rise; the vessels disappear;
The feast, though not the love, is past and gone;
The bread and wine remove, but Thou art here;
Nearer than ever; still my shield and sun.

Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,
Yet, passing, points to that glad feast above,
Giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,
The Lamb's great marriage feast of bliss and love.

HYMN #770 "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; Oh, what needless pain we bear
All because we do not carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a solace there.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore you that of your mercy you would strengthen us through the same in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #851 "Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us"

Lord of glory, You have bought us With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice;
And with that have freely given Blessings countless as the sand
To the unthankful and the evil With Your own unsparing hand.

Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You Gladly, freely of Your own.
With the sunshine of Your goodness Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures, Warmed by You, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed 'Tis to give than to receive.

Wondrous honor You have given To our humblest charity
In Your own mysterious sentence, "You have done it all to Me."
Can it be , O gracious Master, That You deign for alms to sue,
Saying by Your poor and needy, "Give as I have giv'n to you"?

Lord of glory, You have bought us With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust You boldly, Hope, to stay our souls on You;
but, oh, best of all Your graces, With Your love our love renew.

Preacher
Liturgist
Lectors
Acolytes
Organist

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