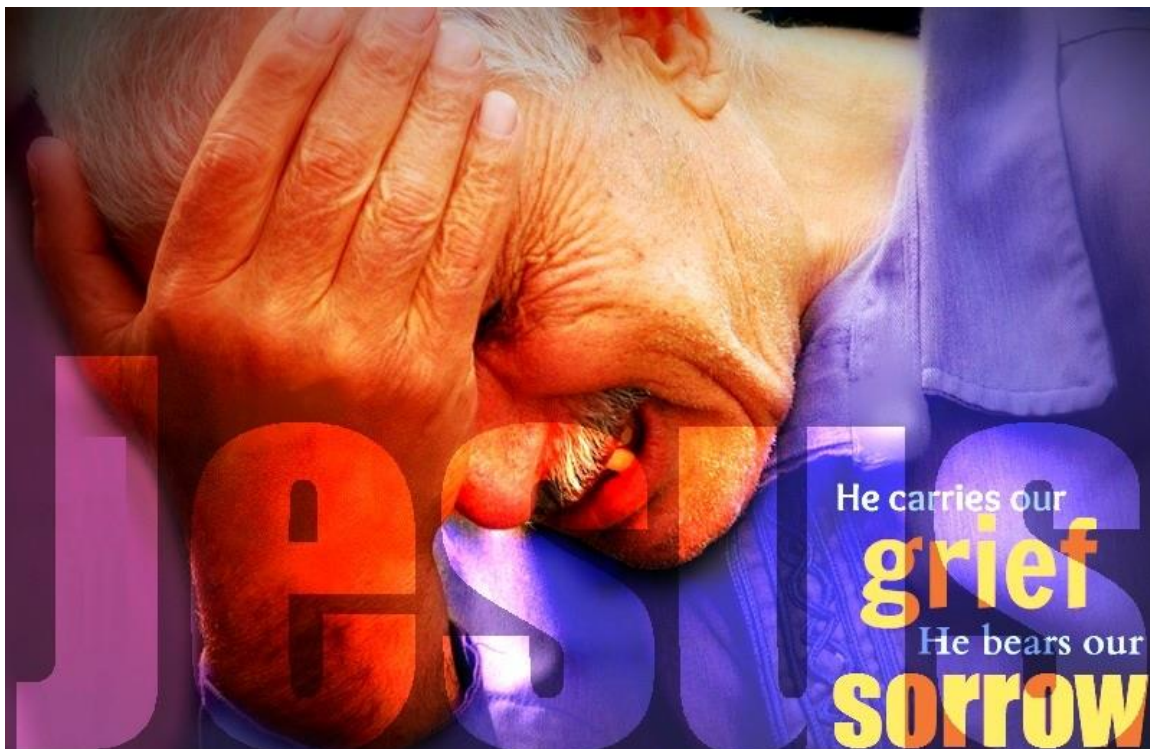


Triune Lutheran Church

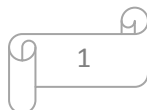


Eighth Sunday after Pentecost



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



*We thank you for joining us here
at Triune Lutheran Church, a
family united by our Risen Lord,
Jesus Christ!*



In order to make you feel more at home, here are a few notes about the service. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. We hope to make your time here as meaningful as possible!

Worship

- The * by the headings throughout the service indicate when we invite you to stand, as you are able.
- The light print will be spoken by the pastor or another worship leader, while we encourage you to speak the **bold print**.
- The hymns are chosen from our *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) hymnal, which is the red book directly in front of you in the pews. You will find the hymns in the last two-thirds of the book with the bold numbers on the top of the pages.
- We welcome all the baptized to join us in the Lord's Supper, where we believe Jesus is present "in, with, and under" the bread and wine as his body and blood. After the organist and assisting minister commune, you will be invited to come forward up the non-organ side aisle to the pastor, who will give you bread (gluten-free wafers also available upon request). You are encouraged to keep the bread in your hands and then dip it into the chalice of wine for intinction. You may also come forward to receive a blessing by simply keeping your hands folded. You may return to your seat up the center aisle. If you are unable to come forward, the elements will be brought to you.
- For visitors, if you so choose, we encourage you to fill out a card available at the center-aisle end of the pew to learn more about us.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
full of compassion and mercy,
abounding in steadfast love.

Amen.

Trusting God's promise of forgiveness,
let us confess our sin against God and one another.

*You are invited to kneel or remain standing. Silence is kept
for reflection and self-examination.*

Eternal God our creator,

in you we live and move and have our being.

**Look upon us, your children,
the work of your hands.**

**Forgive us all our offenses,
and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty
desires.**

**By your grace draw us near to you,
our refuge and our strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit given to us.
In the mercy of almighty God,
Christ died for us while we still were sinners;
and for his sake, God † forgives you all your sins.
Amen!

***GATHERING HYMN**

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

ELW 781

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God, from you come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen!

FIRST READING

Amos 7:7-15

⁷This is what [the Lord GOD] showed me: 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,
“See, I am setting a plumb line
in the midst of my people Israel;

I will never again pass them by;
⁹the 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.”

¹⁰Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King
Jeroboam of Israel, saying, “Amos has conspired against you
in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able
to bear all his words. ¹¹For thus Amos has said,
‘Jeroboam shall die by the sword,
and Israel must go into exile
away from his land.’”

¹²And Amaziah said to Amos, “O seer, go, flee away to the
land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there;
¹³but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king’s
sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.”

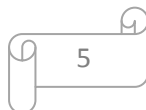
¹⁴Then Amos answered Amaziah, “I am no prophet, nor a
prophet’s son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of
sycamore trees, ¹⁵and the LORD took me from following the
flock, and the LORD said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people
Israel.’”

The Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

PSALM

Psalm 85:8-13

⁸I will listen to what the LORD | God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those
who turn their | hearts to you.



**⁹Truly, your salvation is very near to | those who
fear you,**

that your glory may dwell | in our land.

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have | met together;
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.

**¹¹Faithfulness shall spring up | from the earth,
and righteousness shall look | down from
heaven.**

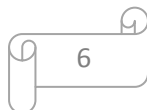
¹²The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity,
and our land will | yield its increase.

**¹³Righteousness shall go be- | fore the LORD
and shall prepare for | God a pathway.**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:3-14

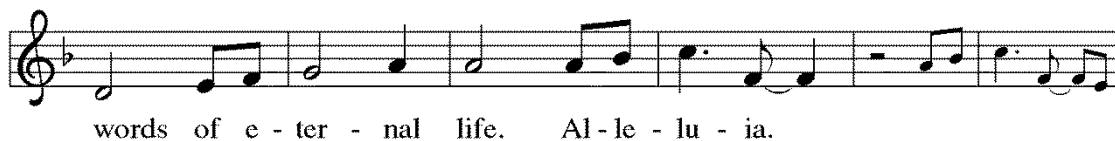
³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in
the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the
foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him
in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through
Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to
the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us
in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his
blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the
riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom
and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will,
according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as
a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him,
things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also



obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL

Mark 6:14-29

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord!

¹⁴King Herod heard of [the disciples' preaching,] for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." ¹⁵But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." ¹⁶But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

¹⁷For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her.

¹⁸For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." ¹⁹And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, ²⁰for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. ²¹But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. ²²When his daughter Herodias 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." ²³And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." ²⁴She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." ²⁵Immediately she rushed back to the

king and requested, “I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.” ²⁶The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John’s head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, ²⁸brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

**This is the Holy Gospel of our Lord!
Praise to you, O Christ!**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Healer of Our Every Ill”

ELW 612

***APOSTLES’ CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;**



**he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen!**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Growing in faith and discipleship, we give thanks for God's merciful compassion as we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence

God of truth, put your word of justice on our lips. Bless your whole church in the task of holy resistance. Make us a living and persistent sign of your righteousness and your lovingkindness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of heaven and earth, pour your healing power upon our fragile earth for us and for all who will inherit it. Inspire the work of engineers and environmentalists who seek sustainable sources of energy, food, and clean water. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of justice, hold your plumb line to all the nations. Speak words of wisdom and inspiring compassion to those in positions of authority. Redeem all harms caused by corruption and the hunger for power. Restore peace to your world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of salvation, bring wholeness to all your beloved children. Anoint the hands of all caregivers, nurses, doctors, therapists, hospice workers, and chaplains. Bring abundance of life to all who long for healing, including Hazel Schwab, Trudy Weidman, Gary Weiss, Mardell Weiss, Dave & Clara Wilcox, Ed Uhlir, Jenny Bennett, Cathy Gallagher, Richard Jakubcin, George Tomaselli, those serving in the armed forces, and all those we name in our hearts...Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of tenderness, you adopt us as your own. Help us to provide nourishing care for all children in our midst. Inspire us with their creativity and energy. Heal and protect children who are victims of abuse, neglect, or scorn. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of the saints, you have claimed the faithful departed as your own and given them an inheritance in glory. Sustain us in faith until the fullness of time, when you gather up all things in heaven and on earth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, we lift to you these prayers and the prayers of our hearts, trusting in your everlasting love and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

***PEACE**

The peace of the Risen Christ be with you always!

And also with you.

OFFERING

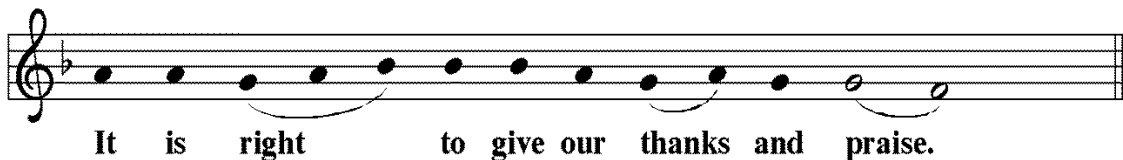
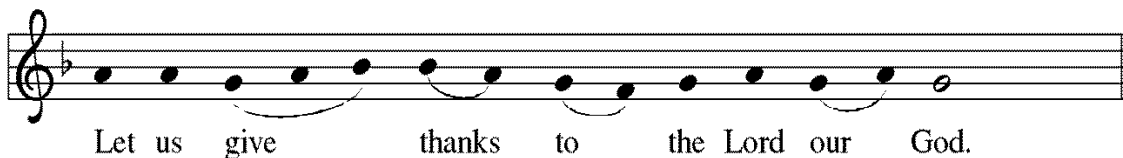
***OFFERING HYMN**

“We Come to the Hungry Feast” Verse 1 ELW 479

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Merciful God,
you open wide your hand
and satisfy the need of every living thing.
You have set this feast before us.
Open our hands to receive it.
Open our hearts to embrace it.
Open our lives to live it.
We pray this through Christ our Lord.
Amen!

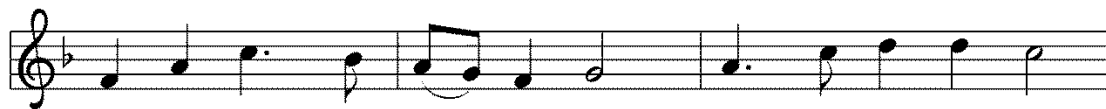
*GREAT THANKSGIVING



*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of
everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

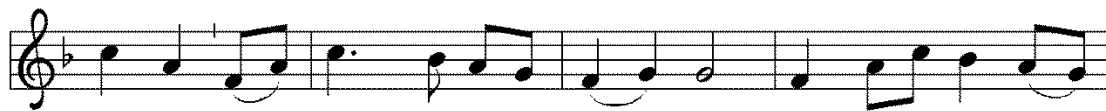
*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,
our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer,
in the harmonious world of your creation,
the plants and animals, the seas and stars
were whole and well in your praise.

When sin had scarred the world,
you sent your Son to heal our ills
and to form us again into one.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,
his acts of healing,
his body given up,
and his victory over death,
we await that day when all the peoples of the earth
will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Holy Spirit, you are among us and in this meal:
as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,
so let your church be gathered from the ends of the earth,
that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
both now and forever.

Amen!

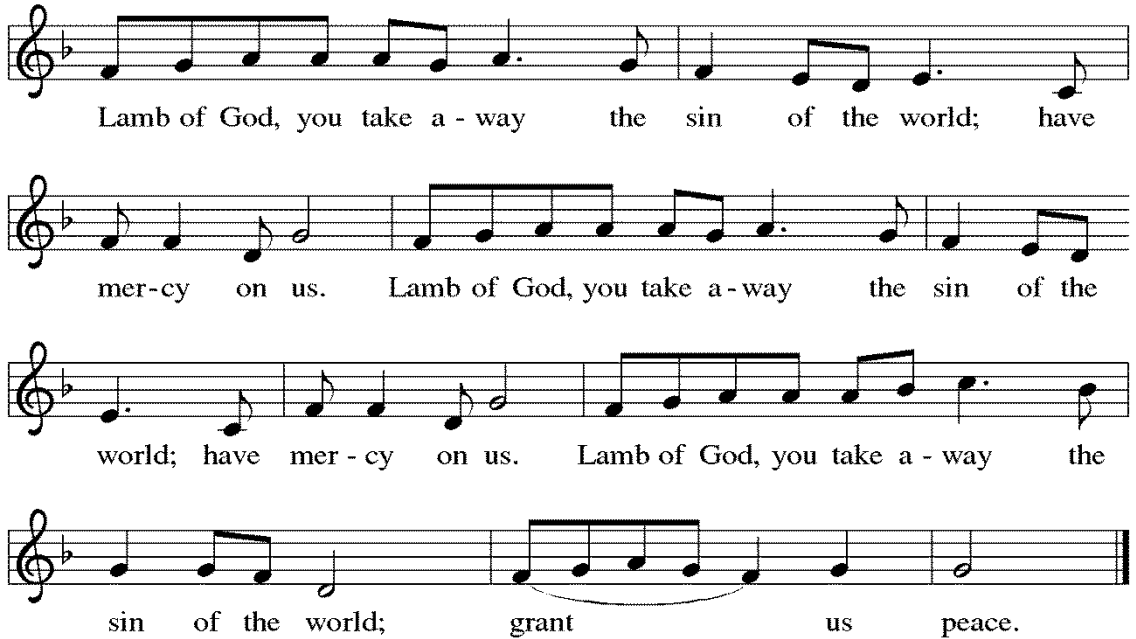
***LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**Come, let us eat, for now the feast of joy is spread before us
all!
Thanks be to God!**

*COMMUNION HYMN



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION

*COMMUNION PRAYER

Jesus Christ, host of this meal,
you have given us not only this bread and cup,
but your very self, that we may feast on your great love.
Filled again by these signs of your grace,
may we hunger for your reign of justice,
may we thirst for your way of peace,
for you are Lord forevermore.

Amen!

*BLESSING

May God, whose power working in us
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine,
grant you the gifts of faith and hope.

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever. **Amen!**

*SENDING HYMN

“Jesus, the Very Thought of You”

ELW 754

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve!

Thanks be to God!

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Ministers: ***All People***
Pastor: ***Brad Ross***
Worship Leader: ***Dale Kirk***
Organist: ***Edith Schatt***
Office Manager: ***Jan Piskac***

Sitting on Two Chairs

Paul Harvey had a long-running radio program called *The Rest of the Story*. It was always fun to listen to. He would tell, in somewhat breathless fashion, little known facts about some historical event or person, withholding identifying information until the end when he would say something like, “... and that little boy grew up to be Abraham Lincoln! And now (breathless pause) you know the rest of the story.”

Our Gospel lesson has a “rest of the story” feel to it. It starts out talking about Jesus and about how people are wondering who Jesus is. They are speculating that he is Elijah. This is not a random name—according to 2 Kings, Elijah did not die but was taken into heaven in a whirlwind after the appearance of “chariots of fire,” so maybe he has come back. Or maybe he was another of the prophets, resurrected and sent to preach to Israel? King Herod leaps to an interesting, guilt-driven, tell-tale heart conclusion—”It’s John the Baptist, whom I beheaded.” Mark then shifts and tells us “the rest of the story.”

“King Herod” is a familiar name in the Gospels because there was more than one ruler with the name. Herod the Great was king when Jesus was born. He was the one who met the magi and had all the babies in Bethlehem killed. Herod the Great had three sons named Herod: Herod Archelaus, Herod Philip, and Herod Antipas. Also, there’s a woman in this story named Herodias. Confused yet? Just wait. Herodias who was married to Herod Philip, had an affair with Herod Antipas, divorced Herod Philip, and then married Herod Antipas.

There’s more. Herodias had a daughter. Jewish historian Josephus tells us she was named Salome. She’s the one dancing in the story, and she was 1) Herod Antipas’s niece, 2) Herod Antipas’ brother Herod Philip’s daughter and 3) eventually she became Herod Antipas’ sister-in-law by marrying one of his half-brothers—Herod Philip II. Wow—that feels like an episode of *The Jerry Springer Show* doesn’t it?

Into the midst of all this mess, John the Baptist came preaching. He called Herod and Herodias by name. He lambasted them on issues of morality and leadership. He pointed out where Herod had failed to be a good king—politically and in his personal life. Herod’s wife, Herodias, reacted with fury; she wants John executed. Herod reacts cautiously. On the one hand, he does have John arrested and put in jail, but on the other hand, he protects him from his wife’s revenge, being more afraid of John than he is of his wife. As the text says, “*Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him*” (Mark 6:20).

Herod is probably thinking something like: “What if John is right? What if I do need to repent? What if God is real and is really displeased with the way I am leading my life?”

Herod is the central figure in this tale. He is a perplexed seeker, a dabbler in the mysteries of God. He believes just enough to keep himself awake at night but not enough to change his way of living. He fears doing the wrong thing, but he hasn’t enough moral will to do the right thing.

He stands on the precipice of disaster, the way of moral ruin yawning wide in front of him. But he does not plunge in; he teeters there, barely holding on to his dignity and his sense of right and wrong. He does not love God, but at least he fears God's prophet and God's judgment. He is unwilling to embrace the call to repentance and discipleship—but he is not ready to turn his back upon it either.

And then comes the fateful day. Herod throws a party with lots of important and influential people as his guests. A lot of food is eaten; a lot of wine is drunk. Salome dances. Men leer and cheer. Herod shows off by promising to reward her with “anything she wants.”

His wife seizes the moment. “Ask for John's head!” And the perplexed Herod is befuddled and overwhelmed once more. He can't back down; he's already promised. How would it look? He falls off the cliff; he loses what little moral compass he has left—he orders John murdered and his head brought to Salome on a platter. Then, some months later, Jesus comes along, preaching repentance and forgiveness and the kingdom of God. Intense guilt and remorse strike at Herod's heart and his withered, fearful soul screams out, “It's John the Baptist, whom I beheaded!”

Opera singer Luciano Pavarotti often told a story about taking voice lessons while also attending teacher's college. At graduation, he said to his father, “What shall I do, be a singer or a teacher?”

His father said, “Luciano, if you try to sit on two chairs, you will fall between them. For life, you must choose one chair.” Herod tried to sit on more than two chairs. He tried to please his wife; he tried to please his Roman bosses; he tried to please his friends; he tried to appease his enemies; he tried to quiet his conscience without either obeying or offending God. And in the end, he fell and fell hard.

At this point Paul Harvey would say, “And now, you know the rest of the story,” but we don't really do we? Herod's story has ended—ours is still going on. Every day the world presents us with a hundred ways, both big and small, that we can serve ourselves instead of serving others.

We are constantly confronted with a metaphorical choice between chairs, and we must decide in which chair we are going to sit. Amid perplexity and confusion, the noise and distraction of many voices telling us what we can and should do, we are invited to listen for the “righteous and holy” voice of God. When we hear that voice calling us to repentance, forgiveness, joy, love and a life of service, that is when the rest of our story begins. Amen and amen.

- The Rev. Delmer Chilton