



# John was a righteous and holy man

MARK 6:20

**8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

July 14, 2024

# Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

July 14, 2024 - 10:45am

*WHEN AMOS REPORTS HIS VISION OF GOD JUDGING ISRAEL FOR ITS MISTREATMENT OF THE POOR, HE BECOMES A THREAT TO THE POWER OF THE PRIESTS AND THE KING. JOHN THE BAPTIST ALSO SPEAKS TRUTH TO POWER, AND HEROD HAS HIM KILLED. IN HEROD'S FEAR THAT JESUS IS JOHN RETURNED FROM THE DEAD, WE MAY HEAR HOPE FOR THE OPPRESSED: ALL THE PROPHETS KILLED THROUGH THE AGES ARE ALIVE IN JESUS. WE ARE CALLED TO WITNESS TO JUSTICE IN COMPANY WITH THEM, AND TO PROCLAIM GOD'S SAVING LOVE.*

## **Prelude**

## **Welcome**

## **Announcements**

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, - the Father, † the Son and the Holy Spirit – the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **C Amen.**

**P** Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sins.

*SILENCE IS KEPT FOR REFLECTION.*

**P** God, our provider, **help us.**

**C** **It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

**P** Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **C Amen.**

*PLEASE STAND FOR THE GATHERING HYMN AS YOU ARE ABLE.*

# Gathering Hymn

# Faith of Our Fathers



1 Faith of our fa - thers, liv - ing still in spite of dun - geon,  
2 The mar - tyrs, chained in pris - ons dark, were still in heart and  
3 Faith of our fa - thers! We will love both friend and foe in



fire, and sword. Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy  
con - science free; and blest would be their chil - dren's fate  
all our strife; pro - claim thee too, as love knows how,

### *Refrain*



when - e'er we hear that glo - rious word.  
if they, like them, should die for thee. Faith of our fa - thers,  
by sav - ing word and faith - ful life.



ho - ly faith, we will be true to thee till death.

## Prayer of the Day

**P** We pray together.

**C** 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 Lesson

Amos 7:7-15

<sup>7</sup> This 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. <sup>8</sup> And 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; <sup>9</sup> 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.” <sup>10</sup> Then 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. <sup>11</sup> For thus Amos has said, ‘Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land.’ ” <sup>12</sup> And Amaziah said to Amos, “O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; <sup>13</sup> but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king’s sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.” <sup>14</sup> Then Amos answered Amaziah, “I am no prophet, nor a prophet’s son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, <sup>15</sup> and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’ ”

**L** The Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Psalmody

Psalm 85:8-13

<sup>8</sup> Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,  
for he will speak peace to his people,  
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

**<sup>9</sup> Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,  
that his glory may dwell in our land.**

<sup>10</sup> Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;  
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

**<sup>11</sup> Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,  
and righteousness will look down from the sky.**

<sup>12</sup> The LORD will give what is good,  
and our land will yield its increase.

**<sup>13</sup> Righteousness will go before him,  
and will make a path for his steps.**

## Second Lesson

Ephesians 1:3-14

<sup>3</sup> 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, <sup>4</sup> just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup> He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup> In 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, <sup>12</sup> so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In 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; <sup>14</sup> this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

**L** The Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*PLEASE STAND FOR THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION AS YOU ARE ABLE.*

## Gospel Acclamation

**P** Alleluia. Your word, O Lord, is truth;

**C** sanctify us in the truth. Alleluia.

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C** Glory to you, O Lord.

## Holy Gospel

Mark 6:14-29

<sup>14</sup> King 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." <sup>15</sup> But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." <sup>16</sup> But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised." <sup>17</sup> For 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. <sup>18</sup> For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." <sup>19</sup> And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, <sup>20</sup> for 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. <sup>21</sup> But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. <sup>22</sup> When 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." <sup>23</sup> And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." <sup>24</sup> She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." <sup>25</sup> Immediately 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." <sup>26</sup> The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. <sup>27</sup> Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, <sup>28</sup> brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. <sup>29</sup> When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

**L The Gospel of the Lord.**

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

*PLEASE BE SEATED FOR THE SERMON.*

**Sermon**

Pastor John Schier-Hanson

*PLEASE STAND FOR THE HYMN OF THE DAY AS YOU ARE ABLE.*

**Hymn of the Day**

**O God of Love, O King of Peace**



1 O God of love, O King of peace, make wars through -  
 2 Re - mem - ber, Lord, your works of old, the won - ders  
 3 Whom shall we trust but you, O Lord? Where rest but  
 4 Where saints and an - gels dwell a - bove all hearts are



out the world to cease; our greed and sin - ful wrath re - strain.  
 that our el - ders told; re - mem - ber not our sins' deep stain.  
 on your faith - ful word? None ev - er called on you in vain.  
 knit in ho - ly love; oh, bind us in that heav'n - ly chain.



Give peace, O God, give peace a - gain.

## **The Apostles' Creed**

**P** With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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.**

*PLEASE BE SEATED FOR THE PRAYERS.*

## **The Prayers of Intercession**

**L** One in the communion of saints and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we join our voices in prayer.

*A BRIEF SILENCE.*

You gather your people into the body of Christ. Where your church is wounded, heal it. Where it is right, strengthen it. Where it is divided, reunite it. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

From before the foundation of the world, you are God. Revive ecosystems destroyed by human greed. Curb our desire to put wealth ahead of the health of all who call this planet home. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You establish equity and make justice. Within every nation, tribe, and land, cause laws to be written and customs to be observed that protect the most vulnerable. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

On the cross your beloved Son endured pain and death. Bring healing to those in need, hope to any in despair, and comfort to the dying. (*We pray especially for . . . .*) In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You send your Spirit into this community of faith. Empower our ministries that serve and build up local communities (*ministries may be named*). Nurture our partnerships with other community organizations (*organizations may be named*). In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

All peoples praise you, O God. We give you thanks and praise for the lives of our loved ones who now rest in you (*especially*). In the fullness of time gather us with all your saints in light. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**L** Holy God, holy and merciful: into your outstretched arms we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **C Amen.**

*PLEASE STAND TO SHARE THE PEACE AS YOU ARE ABLE.*

## **The Peace**

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C And also with you.**

## **Offertory Prayer**

**P** Let us pray. Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

**C Amen.**



## **The Great Thanksgiving**

**P** The Lord be with you.                   **C** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.                   **C** **We lift them up to the LORD.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the LORD, our God.

**C** **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

**P** It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; 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 the church on earth and the host of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

**P** Blessed are you Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you sent your only Son so that all those who believe in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now into our hearts and upon these your own gifts of bread and wine your Holy Spirit so that we may receive our Lord with a living faith.

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.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

## **The 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 trespasses 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 forever. Amen.**

**P** Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

*PLEASE BE SEATED FOR COMMUNION.*

## **Blessing after Communion**

**P** The body of our Lord Jesus Christ and His most precious blood strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

**C Amen.**

## **Post Communion Prayer**

**P** Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.

**C Amen.**

## **Benediction**

**P** The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us – the Father, ✠ the Son and the Holy Spirit – be upon you now and forever.

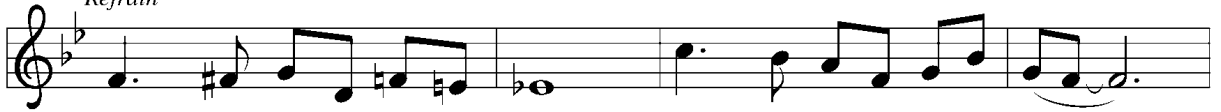
**C Amen.**

*PLEASE STAND FOR THE SENDING HYMN AS YOU ARE ABLE.*

# Sending Hymn

# Just a Closer Walk with Thee

*Refrain*



Just a clos-er walk with thee, grant it, Je-sus, is my plea;



dai - ly walk-ing close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.



- 1 I am weak but thou art strong: Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;
- 2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal-ter, Lord, who cares?
- 3 When my fee-ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;

*Refrain*



I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.  
Who with me my bur - den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.  
guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy king - dom shore, to thy shore.

## Dismissal

**P** Go in Peace. You are the body of Christ.

**C** Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

## Postlude

## Speaking Truth to Power

Few of us want to hear a hard truth, and perhaps fewer of us want to be the ones called to deliver one. Today's texts remind us that bearing God's word is risky business. King Jereboam exiles the prophet Amos for calling him to account. Herod delivers John the baptizer's head on a platter to his wife, Herodias, to fulfill a promise he never should have made. Speaking truth to power can cost us our lives.

Yet this is exactly what God calls us to do. God's prophets are ordinary people called to deliver an extraordinary message. Listen to the praise Paul heaps on the Ephesians, naming them as God's blessed, God's chosen, and God's adopted children (Eph. 1:3-5). It is the kind of pep talk coaches give their players just before sending them back into the game against a seemingly unbeatable team. Like Amos, who freely confesses his humble background and unlikely credentials, we are sent from worship each week to proclaim God's in-breaking reign to all the powers that profess to rule this world.

Still, beneath the apparent victory of power over truth, there is a hidden story bursting through the seams of this tale. Yes, John the Baptist dies, but the integrity of his witness outshines all of Herod's corrupt court intrigues. Herod himself was drawn to John's preaching, and in the end it is Herod's character that seems most tragic.

Like Herod, we are each challenged to really listen to the challenging voice of God in our day and age, and to turn away from the lures and temptations that attempt to seduce us away from fidelity to God. Through us, God speaks words of peace, love, and faithfulness that challenge the world's violence, hatred, and treachery.