

*7th Sunday after
Pentecost*

Death
of a
Conscience?

the beheading of John the Baptist

July 11, 2021



Ascension Lutheran Church

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All are welcome!

Welcome to all God's guests, including those who call themselves "members" of this church named Ascension Lutheran Church more than 50 years ago.

A special welcome to guests who are here for the first time or who call yourselves "visitors" among the people of this community. It is at God's invitation, through worship, the Holy Spirit calls each of us to come to a place of **community, communion and commitment**. Each of us brings a different lens to worship, and yet, in a worshiping community, these differences become celebrations of diversity.

Introduction

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.

Welcome to Worship

Confession and Forgiveness

Please stand in body or spirit.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

All Amen

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

God our provider,

All help us.

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.

All Amen.

Opening Song

We Are Called

- 1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God.

Refrain

We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly;
We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

- 2 Come! Open your heart! Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless
so hatred and blindness will be no more. *Refrain*

- 3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other
as sisters and brothers united in love. *Refrain*

Text: David Haas, b. 1957

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The Greeting

P The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P O God, from you come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works.

All 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.

[You may be Seated](#)

A Reading from Amos, the 7th chapter

Amos is not the kind of prophet attached to temples or royal courts. Rather, he is an ordinary farmer from Judah (the southern kingdom) called by God to speak to Israel (the northern kingdom). God's word of judgment through Amos conflicts with the king's court prophet Amaziah, whom Amos encounters at Bethel.

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.'

Amos 7:7-15

L The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God!

A Reading from Ephesians, the 1st chapter

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

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.

Ephesians 1:3-14

L The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation

Please stand in body or spirit.

♪ ♪ Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia. ♪ ♪

Gospel Reading

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 6th chapter.

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

As Jesus and his disciples begin to attract attention, Mark recalls the story of John the Baptist's martyrdom. Like John, Jesus and his disciples will also suffer at the hands of those opposed to the gospel of salvation.

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. ²⁹ When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

Mark 6:14-29

P The Gospel of our Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

You may be Seated

Sermon

Pr. Debra Jimenez

Hymn of the Day

Please stand in body or spirit.

For Those Tears I Died

Verse 1

You said You'd come and share all my sorrows
You said You'd be there for all my tomorrows
I came so close to sending You away
But just like You promised You came here to stay
I just had to pray.

Chorus

And Jesus said come to the water, Stand by My side.
I know you are thirsty you won't be denied.
I felt ev'ry teardrop when in darkness you cried,
And I strove to remind you that for those tears I died.

Verse 2

Your goodness so great I can't understand
And dear Lord I know that all this was planned
I know You're here now and always will be
Your love loosed my chains and in You I'm free
But Jesus why me?

Verse 3

Jesus I give You my heart and my soul
I know that without God I'd never be whole
Savior You opened all the right doors
And I thank You and praise You from earth's humble shores
Take me I'm Yours

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Apostles' Creed

P Let us join together with one voice confessing our faith with the words of the 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.**

[You may be Seated](#)

Prayers of Intercession

L Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

♪ ♪ I cast all my cares upon You. ♪ ♪
I lay all of my burdens down at Your feet.
And anytime that I don't know what to do,
I will cast all my care upon You.

(each prayer petition ends with)

L: Lord, in your mercy

All: You hear our prayer.

Sharing the Peace

In our continued physical distancing out of love for the health of one another, we will share the peace of our risen Lord by “speaking” that peace through sign language.

P Christ become peace with you.

All And also with you.

Offering

While we still will not physically pass the offering plates we will continue to have the plates available at the entrance to receive your offerings and will lift them up in thanksgiving before the throne of grace.

♪ ♪ Praise God from whom all blessings flow ♪ ♪
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise God above, Praise God above ye heavenly host
Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost

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Offertory Prayer

P Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self,
and called us to the feast of plenty.

All 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. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving and Words of Institution

P The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P 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.

The Lord's Prayer

P Make us bold, O merciful God, to address you as our Abba as we pray:

All 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.

The Invitation

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

Sharing the Meal

P The body of Christ broken for you.

All Amen

P The blood of Christ shed for you.

All Amen

Post Communion Blessing

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

All Amen

Stewardship of Life & Ministry Announcements

Benediction

Please stand as you are able.

P The blessing of God,
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
✝ be upon you now and forever.

All Amen.

Sending Song

You are Mine

- 1 "I will come to you in the silence, I will lift you from all your fear.
You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice.
Be still and know I am here."

- 2 "I am hope for all who are hopeless, I am eyes for all who long to see.
In the shadows of the night, I will be your light.
Come and rest in me."

- Refrain*
"Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine."

- 3 "I am strength for all the despairing, healing for the ones who dwell in shame.
All the blind will see, the lame will all run free,
and all will know my name."

- 4 "I am the Word that leads all to freedom, I am the peace the world cannot give.
I will call your name, embracing all your pain.
Stand up, now walk and live!" *Refrain*

Text: David Haas, b. 1957

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Dismissal

P You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.
Go in peace. Share the good news.

All Thanks be to God.

Readings for next Sunday,
July 18th

First Reading:	Jeremiah 23:1-6
Psalm:	Psalm 23
Second Reading:	Ephesians 2:11-22
Gospel:	Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

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