

the beheading of John the Baptist

Sth Sunday after Pentecost



Ascension Lutheran Church

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Welcome to Worship...

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.

Children are always welcome in worship services; however please know a nursery space is available for parents who need to tend to their little ones

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.

Bread of Life

Welcome to Worship

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All And also with you.







P The Lord be with You

All And also with you.

Confession and Forgiveness

Please stand in body or spirit.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity,

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 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.

you are shown God's mercy:

you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

All Amen

Prayer for This 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, ¹⁵ and 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.

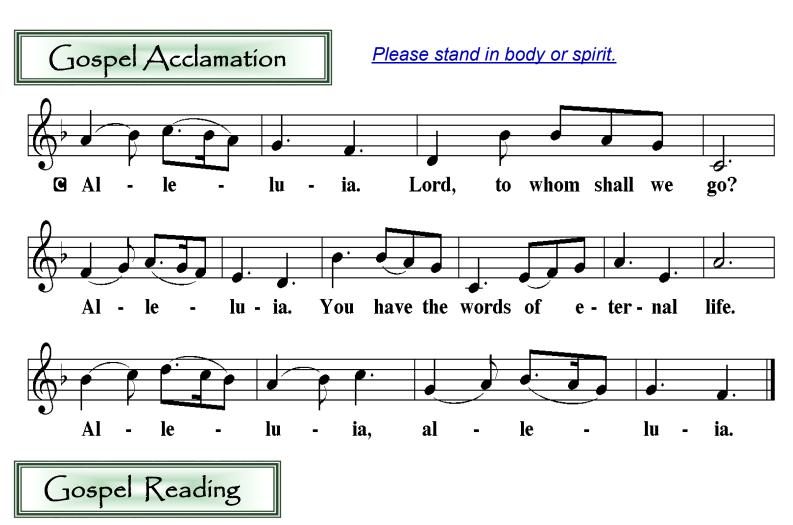
³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through 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!



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." 19 And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, ²⁰ 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. 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." 23 And 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.

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.



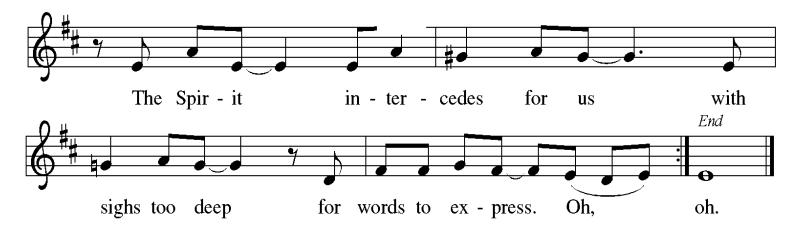
Apostles' Creed

- P Let us join together with the saints across the ages 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 The People

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



(each prayer petition ends with)

WA: In your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

Passing of the Peace

- P Jesus Christ become peace with you.
- All And also with you.



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

Offertory Prayer

- P God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens.
- All Accept these gifts that you have first given us.

 Unite them with the offering of our lives
 to nourish the world you love so dearly;
 through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Holy Communion

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

Please stand in body or spirit.

P God in Community, Holy and One,we lift our prayers to you, saying ...

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

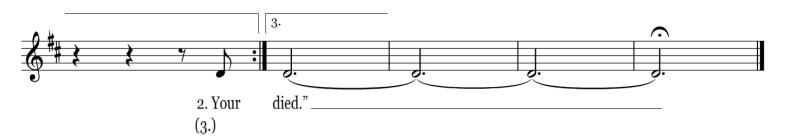
P Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.
Come!

Note: the communion cups on the periphery of the tray contain red wine while the cups in the center contain white grape juice.

Gluten Free wafers available –ask the communion attendant









Post Communion Blessing and Prayer

- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- All Amen
- P Let us pray,Jesus, Bread of life,
- All 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. Amen

You may be Seated

Stewardship of Life & Ministry Announcements

Benediction

- All Amen.

Sending Song





P God, who created us to join in His work also created us to rest in his peace.

Go in peace, celebrate God's love!

All Thanks be to God!

Readings for next Sunday, July 21st Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Second Reading:

Psalm 121 Exodus 13:17-21