

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Appearances Are Deceiving

July 10 & 11, 2021

AS WE GATHER

In today's Gospel, it looks like the end of the story when John the Baptist is executed. But he was but the forerunner for Jesus, the promised Messiah. Appearances were certainly deceiving! That was the case with Amos, a herdsman and dresser of sycamore figs when the Lord called him. He did not look like a prophet, but he stood up to Amaziah and Jeroboam in a long line of faithful prophets. Sometimes Satan uses appearances to deceive us, but the Epistle reminds us that God had predestined us to be with Him forever—even before He began creation! Although others might not recognize it, the Holy Spirit is the guarantee of our inheritance. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Reception of Holy Communion: If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

WELCOME

"For you were called to freedom, brothers.

Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh,

but through love serve one another." (Galatians 5:13)

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #589 "Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens"

Speak, O Lord, Your servant listens, Let Your Word to me come near;

Newborn life and spirit give me, Let each promise still my fear.

Death's dread pow'r, its inward strife, Wars against Your Word of life;

Fill me, Lord, with love's strong fervor That I cling to You forever!

Oh, what blessing to be near You And to listen to Your voice;

Let me ever love and hear You, Let Your Word be now my choice!

Many hardened sinners, Lord, Flee in terror at Your Word;

But to all who feel sin's burden You give words of peace and pardon.

Lord, Your words are waters living When my thirsting spirit pleads.

Lord, Your words are bread life-giving; On Your words my spirit feeds.

Lord, Your words will be my light Through death's cold and dreary night;

Yes, they are my sword prevailing And my cup of joy unfailing!

As I pray, dear Jesus, hear me; Let Your words in me take root.

May Your Spirit e'er be near me That I bear abundant fruit.

May I daily sing Your praise, From my heart glad anthems raise,

Till my highest praise is given In the endless joy of heaven.

(Rise)

INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Today's psalm has two parts. The first is the plea of the psalmist to God, and the second is his announcement of God's promised salvation. We now use Psalm 85 as we confess our sins and hear God's forgiveness for Jesus' sake.

Pastor: LORD, you were favorable to your land;

People: **You restored the fortunes of Jacob.**

Pastor: You forgave the iniquity of your people;

People: **You covered all their sin.**

Pastor: You withdrew all your wrath;

People: **You turned from your hot anger.**

Pastor: Restore us again, O God of our salvation,

People: **and put away your indignation toward us!**

Pastor: Will you be angry with us forever?

People: **Will you prolong your anger to all generations?**

Pastor: Will you not revive us again,

People: **that your people may rejoice in you?**

Pastor: Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
People: and grant us your salvation. We confess, Lord our God, that we have listened to the voices of Satan, the world, and our own desires. We have not loved you with all that we are and have, and we have not considered our neighbors’ needs as important as our own. We can only throw ourselves on the mercy of your gracious court and ask for forgiveness, that we may amend our sinful ways.

Pastor: Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for He will speak peace to His people, to His saints;
People: but let them not turn back to folly.

Pastor: Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,
People: that glory may dwell in our land.

Pastor: Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;
People: righteousness and peace kiss each other.

Pastor: Faithfulness springs up from the ground,
People: and righteousness looks down from the sky.

Pastor: Yes, the LORD will give what is good,
People: and our land will yield its increase.

Pastor: Righteousness will go before Him
People: and make His footsteps a way.

Pastor: The steadfast love and faithfulness of our God are endless. For the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ and His sacrifice for all our sins, God declares us to be His own children and has opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE #814 “O Bless the Lord, My Soul”

O bless the Lord, my soul! Let all within me join
And aid my tongue to bless His name Whose favors are divine.

O bless the Lord, my soul, Nor let His mercies lie
Forgotten in unthankfulness And without praises die!

‘Tis He forgives thy sins; ‘Tis He relieves thy pain;
‘Tis He that heals thy sicknesses And makes thee young again.

He crowns thy life with love When ransomed from the grave;
He that redeemed my soul from hell Hath sov’ reign pow’r to save.

He fills the poor with good; He gives the suff’rers rest.
The Lord hath judgments for the proud And justice for th’ oppressed.

His wondrous works and ways He made by Moses known,
But sent the world His truth and grace By His beloved Son.

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.

People: Give us pure hearts and minds to follow your Son faithfully even into suffering and death;

Pastor: through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with yand the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.
(Be seated)

☩ WORD ☩

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Amos 7:7–15* (Amos boldly speaks for the Lord against Amaziah and Jeroboam.) ⁷This 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; 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.”¹⁰ 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. 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, and eat 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 and said to Amaziah, “I was no prophet, nor a prophet's son, but I was a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore figs. ¹⁵But the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE *Ephesians 1:3–14* (God made our salvation certain before the creation of the world.)

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, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In 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, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³In 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, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN’S SONG “**ABCDEFGG**” Hubert Mitchell

A B C D E F G, Jesus died for you and me
H I J K L M N, Jesus died for sinful men, AMEN!
O P Q R S T U, I believe God’s Word is true.
U V W, God has promised you,
X Y Z, a home eternally! (repeat song)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 6:14–29* (Herodias gets John the Baptist’s head.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the sixth chapter.

People: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁴King 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.” ¹⁵But others said, “He is Elijah.” And others said, “He 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 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. ¹⁸For John had been saying to Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife.” ¹⁹And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to put him to death. But she could not, ²⁰for 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. ²¹But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his nobles and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. ²²For 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.” ²³And he vowed to her, “Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half of my kingdom.” ²⁴And she went out and said to her mother, “For what should I ask?” And she said, “The head of John the Baptist.” ²⁵And 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.” ²⁶And the king was exceedingly sorry, but because of his oaths and his guests he did not want to break his word to her. ²⁷And immediately the king sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison ²⁸and brought his head on a platter and gave it to the girl, and the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹When his disciples heard of it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Be seated)

SERMON HYMN #743 “**Jesus, Priceless Treasure**”

Jesus, priceless treasure, Fount of purest pleasure, Truest friend to me,
Ah, how long in anguish Shall my spirit languish, Yearning, Lord, for Thee?
Thou art mine, O Lamb divine! I will suffer naught to hide Thee;
Naught I ask beside Thee.

6 continued

In Thine arms I rest me; Foes who would molest me Cannot reach me here.
Though the earth be shaking, Ev’ry heart be quaking, Jesus calms my fear.
Lightnings flash And thunders crash; Yet, though sin and hell assail me,
Jesus will not fail me.

Satan, I defy thee; Death, I now decry thee; Fear, I bid thee cease.
World, thou shalt not harm me Nor thy threats alarm me While I sing of peace.
God’s great pow’r Guards ev’ry hour; Earth and all its depths adore Him,
Silent bow before Him.

Hence, all earthly treasure! Jesus is my pleasure, Jesus is my choice.
Hence, all empty glory! Naught to me thy story Told with tempting voice.
Pain or loss, Or shame or cross, Shall not from my Savior move me Since He
deigns to love me.

Evil world, I leave thee; Thou canst not deceive me, Thine appeal is vain.
Sin that once did blind me, Get thee far behind me, Come not forth again.
Past thy hour, O pride and pow’r, Sinful life, thy bonds I sever,
Leave thee now forever.

Hence, all fear and sadness! For the Lord of gladness, Jesus, enters in.
Those who love the Father, Though the storms may gather,
Still have peace within.
Yea, whate’er I here must bear, Thou art still my purest pleasure,
Jesus, priceless treasure!

SERMON

(Rise)

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** located at the end of the pew and review the Communion exhortation. 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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us go to God in prayer for the Church around the world, the nations of this earth, and all who call to Him in their various needs.
Our Father in heaven, uphold and strengthen all families on the earth. Guide parents to teach their children all that you have done and promised. Grant your blessing wherever your people gather around Word and Sacrament. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: When the world seems to be winning and your holy name is used without thought, put a strong confession on the lips of church leaders everywhere. Grant that they are used so that the reality of your power and grace shine forth to dispel fear and to bring many to faith in our Savior. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Extend your kingdom, O Lord, through mission efforts around the world. Open voices to speak your word of judgment and grace, and open ears to hear your invitation to turn and be saved. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Raise up, we pray, leaders at all levels of government who will order society according to your will. Strengthen those who protect at home and those who defend abroad so that our nation and all others find peaceful solutions to chaos and conflict. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Hear the prayers of the poor, so that their daily needs of food, clothing, and shelter be available to them. Bless all who grow and distribute crops, all who seek to alleviate pain and suffering, and all who fund and build decent housing. Listen especially to those whose needs we know, including Ray, Russell, Versa, Don, Judy, Nancy, Dorothy, Steve, Marilyn, Cindy, Jan, Louis, Dawn, Carol, Debbie, Mary, Dennis, Diane, June, Jerry, Shirley, Sarah, Gladys, Shirley and Sarah. Give them the healing, comfort, and hope that fits your gracious plans for them. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Father, you are the giver of every good and perfect gift. We rejoice in the gift of life and give you thanks for Jay Graf who celebrates his 20th birthday in these days. Grant us thankful hearts for the gift of the people you place in our lives.. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, you suffered and died on the cross to save us all from sin and death. Fill our hearts with true faith, sincere repentance of all sin, and grant us your grace and forgiveness anew as we receive your precious body and blood at the altar this day. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: You have graciously forgiven us for Jesus’ sake; open doors of opportunity for this congregation to be a welcoming place for people burdened with their past. Grant us to tell them what you have to say to them—words of forgiveness, peace, and hope. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into your hands we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in your grace for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

People: 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.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

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

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

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O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION Wait for the ushers to direct you to come forward. 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 #545 “Word of God, Come Down on Earth”

Word of God, come down on earth, Living rain from heav’n descending;
Touch our hearts and bring to birth Faith and hope and love unending.
Word almighty, we revere You; Word made flesh, we long to hear You.

Word eternal, throned on high, Word that brought to life creation,
Word that came from heav’n to die, Crucified for our salvation,
Saving Word, the world restoring, Speak to us, Your love outpouring.

Word that caused blind eyes to see, Speak and heal our mortal blindness;
Deaf we are: our healer be; Loose our tongues to tell Your kindness.
Be our Word in pity spoken, Heal the world, by sin now broken.

10 continued

Word that speaks God’s tender love, One with God beyond all telling,
Word that sends us from above, God the Spirit, with us dwelling,
Word of truth, to all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

HYMN #744 “Amazing Grace”

Amazing grace how sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see!

The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be, As long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail In heaven’s joy and peace.

When we’ve been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise Than when we’d first begun.

HYMN #629 “What Is This Bread”

What is this bread? Christ’s body risen from the dead:
This bread we break, This life we take, Was crushed to pay for our release.
O taste and see the Lord is peace.

What is this wine? The blood of Jesus shed for mine;
The cup of grace Brings His embrace Of life and love until I sing!
O taste and see the Lord is King.

So who am I, That I should live and He should die Under the rod?
My God, my God, Why have You not forsaken me?
O taste and see the Lord is free.

Yet is God here? Oh, yes! By Word and promise clear,
In mouth and soul He makes us whole Christ, truly present in this meal.
O taste and see the Lord is real.

Is this for me? I am forgiven and set free!
I do believe That I receive His very body and His blood.
O taste and see the Lord is good.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness,
who in loving-kindness sent your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we
thank you that for His sake you have given us pardon and peace in this
Sacrament, and we ask you not to forsake your children but always to
rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled
constantly to serve you; 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.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN #922 “Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

Go, My children, with My blessing, Never alone.

Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are my own.

In My love’s baptismal river I have made you Mine forever.

Go, My children, with My blessing – You are My own.

Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure.
Here you heard My dear Son’s story; Here you touched Him, Saw His glory.
Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.

Go, My children, fed and nourished, Closer to Me;
Grow in love and love by serving, Joyful and free.
Here My Spirit’s power filled you; Here His tender comfort stilled you.
Go, My children, fed and nourished, Joyful and free.

I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace.
I the Lord will smile upon you And give you peace;
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, My children; I will keep you And give you peace.

Preacher & Liturgist
Lector 9:00
Director of Parish Music

Pastor Ehlke
Bob Reynolds
Michelle Prince