

## THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – 10 AM

### WELCOME

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.

✝ Preacher – Rev. Wes Smith

✝ Officiant – Pr. Rudy Schneider

### CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

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

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God, our provider, **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.**

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. **Amen.**

### OPENING HYMN: ELW#879 – For the Beauty of the Earth

**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.**

### GOD'S HOLY WORD

#### FIRST READING: 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.'"

The Word of the Lord...**Thanks be to God!**

### **Psalm 85: 8 - 13**

<sup>8</sup>I 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.

<sup>9</sup>**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land.**

<sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

<sup>11</sup>**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

<sup>12</sup>The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

<sup>13</sup>**Righteousness shall go before the LORD and shall prepare for God a pathway.**



### **HOLY GOSPEL**

A Reading from the Epistle of Paul to the Church at Ephesians Chapter 1, verses 3-6, 15-18;  
**Glory to You, O Lord!**

<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>15</sup>I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers.

<sup>17</sup>I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup>so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints.

The Gospel of the Lord...**Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!**

**SERMON – The Reverend Wes Smith**  
**“Blessed! Chosen! Destined! Called!”**

**HYMN: ELW#818 – O Master Let Me Walk with Thee**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

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 especially remember, those from our families and community in greatest need of our prayers and your blessings. *(Please name silently or out loud).* 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. Nurture our partnerships with other community organizations. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

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. **Amen.**

**OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER**

As we offer our gifts to you, we are reminded of your call to step out into the world and serve your people. Give us courage and wisdom as we engage with others around us, sharing your love and truth. Bless these offerings that they may support ministries and missions that reach out to those in need. And empower us to be your hands and feet in the world, shining your light wherever we go. **Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus the Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages, to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, through whom you created all things, and in whom you take delight.

He fulfilled all your will. He stretched out his hands in suffering, in order to free from suffering those who trust in you. As he was born to die, you raised him from death to life, so that we too know that we shall be raised from death to life.

We therefore remember that he took bread, and after giving thanks to you, said: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

And in the same way, 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 death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. And unto that time, we come before him praying;

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

### OUR TIME OF COMMUNION WITH THE LORD!

#### **COMMUNION HYMN: ELW# 638 – Blessed Assurance**

1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
Born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

**Chorus**

2. Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight,  
Angels descending bring from above  
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

**Chorus**

3. Perfect submission, all is at rest;  
I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
Watching and waiting, looking above,  
Filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

**Chorus**

**Chorus:**

This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long,  
This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long.

**Closing Prayer** - 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. **Amen.**

**Blessing** – The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ☩ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**



