

Sunday, July 15, 2018  
8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**PRELUDE**

***“When In Our Music God Is Glorified”***

Charles Callahan

**\*GATHERING SONG**

***“Praise to You, O God of Mercy”***

**ELW 208**

Praise to you, O God of mercy:  
thanks be to you forever!  
Raising high the weak and lowly:  
thanks be to you forever!

From of old you loved and sought us:  
thanks be to you forever!  
Truth and justice you have taught us:  
thanks be to you forever!

***Bridge***

Strong is your faithfulness,  
strong is your love,  
rememb'ring your covenant of life with us.

Praise to you, O God of mercy:  
thanks be to you forever!  
Raising high the weak and lowly:  
thanks be to you forever!  
Thanks be to you forever!

**\*GREETING**

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

**G** **And also with you.**

**\*CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

***“When Peace like a River” vv. 1***

**ELW 785**

*It Is Well with My Soul*

When peace like a river attendeth my way,  
when sorrows like sea billows roll,  
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,  
it is well, it is well with my soul.  
It is well (it is well)  
with my soul, (with my soul,)  
it is well, it is well with my soul.

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** O God,

**G** 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 READING

Amos 7:7-15

*Amos was not the kind of prophet attached to temples or royal courts. Rather, he was 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 conflicted with the king's court prophet Amaziah, whom Amos encountered at Bethel.*

<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.'"

## Reflection

*The Lord has called Amos, a shepherd from Tekoa, in the southern kingdom of Judah, to prophesy against the idolatry and oppression in the northern kingdom of Israel. What is Amos's vision in verse 7? If you've ever tried to build something in a straight line, perhaps you've used a plumb line. What is the Lord's message in the vision of the plumb line? (verse 8) What do you think this means? What would the Lord be saying about the life and worship of Israel? Amos is not a long book—if you want to know what is crooked in this kingdom, see chapter 2:6-6:14. Jeroboam (verse 9) is the king of Israel. What does the Lord, through Amos, say about Israel? (verse 9) What was the reaction of Amaziah, the priest of Bethel on Jeroboam's side (one of the*

*high places that were not to be used in worship because they were used for the worship of idols) to Amos's prophecy? (verses 10-14) What did Amos do in response? (verses 14-17) What often happens to those who "prophesy" against the ruling people? Should this surprise us? Why or why not? This reminds me of Jesus' words in John 8, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." The response he hears is, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone." Amaziah and his ilk could not believe that God would ever turn against them, no matter what they had done. How are we like them? About what do we need to hear Amos's prophecy?*

### **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 be- | fore the LORD  
and shall prepare for | God a pathway.**

### **Reflection**

*This psalm celebrates the people of God who have repented of their sin against the Lord. What is the promise in this psalm for those who fear and love God? (verses 8-9) What will happen to their nation? (verses 10-13) How does this affect your life and worship?*

### **SECOND READING**

### **Ephesians 1:3-14**

*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.*

<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.

### **Reflection**

*I remember studying this passage with a group of others when I was in seminary. The professor who led our group commented that this is one of his favorite passages, because it is almost hard to believe. "You're talking about us?????" Why does the author of Ephesians call them (and us!) blessed? (verses 3-4) How do you react or feel to being called "holy and blameless before [God]"? What is our destiny, as followers of Jesus? (verse 5) How can this be "his good pleasure"? (verse 6) What have we received through Christ? (verse 7) What is "the mystery of his will"? (verses 8-10) What is our inheritance (or our destiny)? (verses 11-12) What does it mean to live for the praise of God's glory? Sometimes we have trouble believing this about ourselves, mundane and, shall we say, sinful as our lives are. Often we have trouble believing this about others. How do we know it is true—about ourselves and those we can't believe it's true about them? (verses 13-14)*

### **\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

***"Alleluia! Give the Glory"***

**Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia!  
Give the glory  
and the honor  
to the Lord! (repeat)**

### **\*GOSPEL**

**Mark 6:14-29**

*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.*

<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.

### **Reflection**

*This is a horrible story, almost unbelievable in its cruelty and capriciousness. The only thing I can say I like about this story is that Herod was haunted by John the Baptist and by what he had done to John. (verse 16) This story is introduced by noting that people were trying to figure out who Jesus was. (verses 14-15) What happened to John? (verse 17) Why? (verses 18-19) What was Herod’s relationship with John? (verse 20) Next comes a drunken party for Herod’s birthday. Do not imagine that Herodias danced a lovely ballet, but whatever she danced, what did Herod promise her? (verses 21-23) Herodias asked her mother for advice, and what advice did she get? (verses 24-25) How did Herod respond? (verses 26-28) Why do you think Mark included this story in his gospel? Why do bad things happen to good people?*

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

Kris Langdon

**SERMON**

**The Prophet’s Voice: Speaking Truth to a Broken City**

***Amos: Speaking Truth to Power***

Rev. Roger Lenander

**SONG OF THE DAY**

***“Forever”***

**Give thanks to the Lord  
Our God and King  
His love endures forever  
For He is good He is above all things  
His love endures forever  
Sing praise sing praise**

**With a mighty hand  
And an outstretched arm  
His love endures forever  
For the life that's been reborn  
His love endures forever  
Sing praise sing praise**

***Chorus***

**Sing praise sing praise  
Forever God is faithful  
Forever God is strong  
Forever God is with us**

Forever forever

From the rising to the setting sun  
His love endures forever  
And by the grace of God  
We will carry on  
His love endures forever  
Sing praise sing praise (*Chorus*)

**\*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.

**\*PRAYER SONG**

*"Lord, Listen To Your Children Praying"*

**ELW 752**

Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Growing in faith and discipleship, we give thanks for God's merciful compassion as we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of truth, put your word of justice on our lips. Bless your church in the task of holy resistance. Make us a living and persistent sign of your righteousness and your lovingkindness. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of heaven and earth, pour your healing power upon our fragile earth for us and for all who will inherit it. Inspire the work of engineers and environmentalists who seek sustainable sources of energy, food, and clean water. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of justice, hold your plumb line to the nations. Speak convicting words of holy judgment to those in positions of authority. Redeem all harms caused by corruption and the hunger for power. Restore peace to our world. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of salvation, bring wholeness to all your beloved children. Anoint the hands of all caregivers, nurses, doctors, therapists, hospice workers, and chaplains. Bring abundance of life to all who long for healing *especially Randy, Linda, Lisa, Fran and Bob, Klaire, and Kay*, and for those we name before you aloud or silently in our hearts (pause for 10 seconds). Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of tenderness, you adopt us as your own. Help us to provide nourishing care for all children in our midst. Inspire us with their creativity and energy. Heal and protect children who are victims of abuse, neglect, or scorn. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of the saints, you have claimed the faithful departed as your own and given them an inheritance in glory. Sustain us in faith until the fullness of time, when you gather up all things in heaven and on earth. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, we lift to you these prayers and the prayers of our hearts, trusting in your everlasting love and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen!**

**\*SHARING OF THE PEACE**

☞ *The peace of Christ be with you always.*

☞ **And also with you!**

**OFFERTORY**

*“The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing”*

**ELW 531**

**The trumpets sound, the angels sing  
The feast is ready to begin  
The gates of heav’n are open wide  
And Jesus welcomes you inside**

***Refrain***

**Sing with thankfulness songs of pure delight  
Come and revel in heaven's love and light**

**Take your place at the table of the King  
The feast is ready to begin  
The feast is ready to begin**

**Tables are laden with good things  
O taste the peace and joy he brings  
He'll fill you up with love divine  
He'll turn your water into wine *Refrain***

**The hungry heart he satisfies  
Offers the poor his paradise  
Now hear all heaven and earth applaud  
The amazing goodness of the Lord *Refrain***

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE**     *the final refrain of the offertory*

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

**P** *Merciful God,*

**C** **you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing. You have set this feast before us. Open our hands to receive it. Open our hearts to embrace it. Open our lives to live it. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen!**

**\*DIALOGUE**

**P** *The Lord be with you.*

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** *Lift up your hearts.*

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

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

**\*PREFACE**

**P** *It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
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 all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

**\*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

Holy, holy, holy, holy,  
holy, holy is our God,  
God, the Lord of earth and heaven.  
Holy, holy is our God.  
Holy, holy, holy, holy,  
holy, holy is our God,  
God, the Lord of all of hist'ry.  
Holy, holy is our God.

**\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

**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.*

**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

**P** *Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.*

**C** **Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen!**

**\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**P** *Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.*

**\*BLESSING**

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

**C** **Amen!**

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P** *Jesus Christ, host of this meal,*

**C** **you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love. Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord forevermore. Amen!**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**P** *May God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope. Almighty God, Father,  $\dagger$  Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.*

**C** **Amen!**

**\*SENDING SONG**

*“The Trees Of The Field”*

**You shall go out with joy  
And be led forth with peace  
And the mountains and the hills  
Will break forth before you  
There'll be shouts of joy  
And all the trees of the field  
Will clap will clap their hands**

**And all the trees of the field  
Will clap their hands  
The trees of the field  
Will clap their hands  
The trees of the field  
Will clap their hands  
While you go out with joy**

**\*DISMISSAL**

**L** *Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.*

**C** **Thanks be to God!**