



EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 14, 2024

9:30 AM



**John
was a
righteous
and holy man**

MARK 6:20

Bethel Lutheran Church
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A congregation of the Montana Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Large print bulletins are available, please see the ushers for a copy.

As we gather for worship and prepare our hearts, we would ask that you please silence your cell phones for the duration of the service.

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 AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG

LH 548 Do Justice

CONFESSION AND 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.**

GREETING

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

KYRIE

Dakota Road Mercy On This Fallen World

R. Have mercy on this fallen world. Have mercy on us. Have mercy on this fallen world, mercy Lord have mercy on us..

*1. For all of the days that have fallen apart, have mercy.
For every life, for every heart, have mercy.
For all those who hunger each day, have mercy.
For all of the times that we turn away. R.*

*2. For all who have fears that come with the night, have mercy.
For all those who need to be held in the light, have mercy.
For all of creation through famine or feast, have mercy.
For all of the world to live in your peace.R.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. 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.**

FIRST READING: AMOS 7:7-15

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.

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. 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;
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."

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. For thus Amos has said,

'Jeroboam shall die by the sword,
and Israel must go into exile
away from his land.'

And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom."

Then Amos answered Amaziah, "I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'"

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 85:8-13

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.

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

Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

**Righteousness shall go before the LORD
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

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.

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, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. 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, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. 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; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Chicago Folk LH 102

***Sing praise to the Lord, all the earth! Alleluia, Alleluia!
Play music to praise God's name. Alleluia, Alleluia!***

The holy gospel according to Mark the sixth chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

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." But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

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. For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, 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. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. 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." And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." 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." The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then

the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

The gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND SERMON

Jim Carlson, LPA

HYMN OF THE DAY

LH 214 When Peace Like a River

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**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.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

Chicago Road Create In Me LH 106

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with your spirit free. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

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

WORLD HUNGER PRAYER

Dear Lord, Creator and Redeemer,
**in whom we live and have our being,
daily we hear stories of disasters,
violence, illness, hunger, and suffering.
Assure our hearts that you are with us
in these times of uncertainty and fear.
Send your Spirit among us that your church
may be a beacon of welcome and hope in the world.
Sustain your church in courage and compassion.
Empower us, dear Lord, that we may be
a blessing to others both near and far.
In Jesus Wonderful Name.
Amen**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ...and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Chicago Folk LH 107 Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of Hosts. Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Glory be to you, O Lord most high. Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosannah in the highest..

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus first taught us:

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

The Lord's Table is open to believers of all Christian traditions. We believe that Christ comes to us in the bread and cup for the forgiveness of sins and new life. Gluten free wafers are available, please let your server know. Choice of red wine and white grape juice offered.

LAMB OF GOD

Chicago Folk LH 109

*Christ, O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.*

*Christ, O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.*

*Christ, O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
give us your peace.*

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

ELW 461

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

BOB 243

You Are My All In All

COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. 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.

SENDING BLESSING FOR THE ELCA YOUTH GATHERING YOUTH AND CHAPERONES

BENEDICTION

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

SENDING HYMN

ELW 523 Let Us Go Now to The Banquet

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

And all God's children said: **Amen.**

SERVING TODAY

Accompanist	Lynn Ryan, piano;
Lay Assistant	Tamy Scholten
Usher	Laurie Turner
Tech	Gabe Smith
Projection	TBD
Children's Church	Julia Elkin and Tyler Grosenick

Hospitality

Sandy Pepos

Counters

Stephanie Cummings and Laurie Turner

Flowers are given by Don and Kathi Bisgard in celebration of their granddaughter Grace Clegg's 11th birthday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We celebrate the **8th Sunday after Pentecost**.

We welcome and thank **Jim Carlson, LPA** presiding in worship this morning. Jim has been authorized by the Bishop of the Montana Synod to provide pastoral services in this congregation this Sunday.

Today we lift up **ELCA World Hunger** and receive an additional offering in the wicker basket.

Blessings for a wonderful trip to **New Orleans for the ELCA Youth Gathering**. Kyle and Ryan Gilbertson, Ainsley Kubas, Austin Kupfner, and Kian Ryan. Thank you to our chaperones Amy and Randy Gilbertson and Colter McCarty.

New Adult Forum Book Study to begin August 4th after worship. Future Faith, Ten Challenges Reshaping Christianity in the 21st Century. If you would like Bethel to order a book for you, the cost is \$13.50, sign up on the table in the Narthex.

July 15th is our **Bethel Blood Drive**, the Red Cross is offering an incentive, *all who come to give blood July 1-31 will get a Fandango Movie Ticket by email to see TWISTERS! Plus, all who come to give in July will be automatically entered for a chance to win a 2025 Ram 1500 Big Horn®!* You may sign up on the Red Cross donor site or call the Bethel Office and Tami will help you sign up for your spot.

VBS is right around the corner, and we need your help with some snack and lunch item donations. The sign-up sheet is on the table in the Narthex.

THIS WEEK

Monday 7/15

- Red Cross Blood Drive in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 1:00 pm.

Tuesday 7/16

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Council meeting in the Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm

Friday 7/19

- Bethel office is closed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 7/21

- Worship at Redeemer Lutheran Church 10:00 am
- Set Up for VBS and FLBC Counselors arrive 5:00 pm

Monday 7/22

- VBS Day Camp begins 9:00 am to 1:30 pm

Tuesday 7/23

- VBS Day Camp 9:00 am to 1:30 pm

Wednesday 7/24

- VBS Day Camp 9:00 am to 1:30 pm
- Counselor/Junior Counselor service project 2:00 pm
- Counselor/Junior Counselor event 6:00 pm

Thursday 7/25

- VBS Day Camp 9:00 am to 1:30 pm
- Family Program and carnival 6:00 pm

Friday 7/19

- Bethel office is closed.
- VBS Day Camp last day 9:00 am to 1:30 pm

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