

CREATED, SAVED AND GIFTED BY GOD,
WE SEEK, SERVE AND SHARE JESUS CHRIST.



EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 14, 2024 - 10:30 AM

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
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EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Introduction

When Amos told what he saw when God held up the plumb line of justice next to Israel—that the poor were being trampled—he was a threat to the power of priests and king. John the Baptist also spoke truth to power, and Herod had him beheaded. In Herod's fear that Jesus is John returned from the dead, we may hear hope for the oppressed: that all the prophets killed through the ages are alive in Jesus. We are called to witness to justice in company with them.

Risk-taking Witness

What makes a good leader? Confidence, compassion, or courage? Popularity and prestige? A quick Google search offers no shortage of books, articles, and classes on leadership. And it's no wonder: organizations, communities, and entire governments depend on the abilities of those who step into decision-making roles. A good leader can inspire the masses and impact the world in profoundly positive ways, while a corrupt leader can cause entire systems to crumble, resulting in devastation for individuals and communities alike.

It turns out these concepts are not new. Scripture has much to say about the qualities of leaders and the consequences of their decisions. The Bible offers several stories of faithful leaders: those who think about what is best for the whole community, particularly the people who are most vulnerable. These kinds of leaders follow God's call at great personal risk. John the Baptist is just one example.

Meanwhile, corrupt leaders are most concerned with self-preservation. They are governed by fear and greed, easily threatened by those on the margins. Herod finds himself in this position. While he may have been intrigued by John, saving his own reputation mattered more to him than John's life. The result is nothing short of horrific, culminating with an innocent man's head on a platter.

Our world is full of leaders who wield their power for their own benefit. But the good news is, God continues to call faithful leaders who pave the way with risk-taking, truth-telling witness. This type of leadership is not easy, and the personal risk is great. John's story illustrates this in alarming ways. And yet, John's story is not defined by his death—in Christ, his prophetic words and deeds echo through the ages. His impact lives on, calling us to the humble, compassionate way of Jesus.

So, what kind of leader will you be? And whom will you choose to follow?

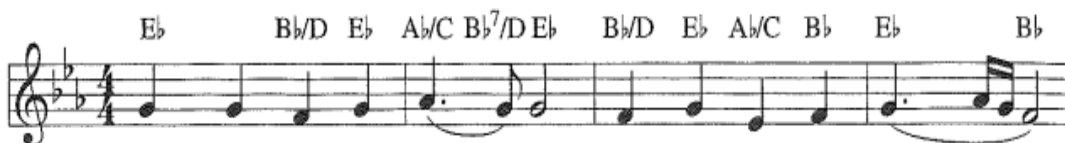
GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Jamie Vannoy

CALL TO WORSHIP

There Is a Redeemer (W&P 140)



1 There is a Re - deem - er, Je - sus, God's own Son,
2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, name a - bove all names,
3 When I stand in glo - ry, I will see his face;



pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes - si - ah, Ho - ly One.
pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes - si - ah, hope' for sin - ners slain.
there I'll serve my king for - ev - er, in that ho - ly place.

Refrain



Thank you, O my Fa - ther, for giv - ing us your Son and



send - ing your Spir - it till the work on earth is done.

OPENING LITANY

God comes into a world filled with uncertainties and darkness.

God seeks out the voids of belief and conviction.

God embraces the wounded and broken.

God knocks down the walls of division and strife.

God is the candle shining in the darkness of our days.

God is the light of our lives.

God is the one who makes all things new.

Praise be to God, now and forevermore!

**** GATHERING SONGS**

Come Thou Fount, Come Thou King

(Verse 1)

Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise;
Teach me some melodious sonnet sung by flaming tongues above,
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.

(Verse 2)

I was lost in utter darkness 'til you came and rescued me;
I was bound by all my sin when your love came and set me free;
Now my soul can sing a new song, now my heart has found a home;
Now your grace is always with me, and I'll never be alone.

(Refrain)

Come, thou Fount; come, thou King,
Come, thou precious Prince of Peace;
Hear your bride, to you we sing;
Come, thou Fount of our blessing.
Come, thou Fount; come, thou King,
Come, thou precious Prince of Peace;
Hear your bride, to you we sing;
Come, thou Fount of our blessing.

(Verse 3)

O, to grace, how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be;
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee;
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

(Refrain)

Come, thou Fount; come, thou King,
Come, thou precious Prince of Peace;

Hear your bride, to you we sing;
Come, thou Fount of our blessing.
Come, thou Fount; come, thou King,
Come, thou precious Prince of Peace;
Hear your bride, to you we sing;
Come, thou Fount of our blessing.



One Thing Remains (Your Love Never Fails)

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)

Higher than the mountains that I face.
Stronger than the power of the grave,
Constant in the trial and the change,
One thing remains, one thing remains.
Your love, your love, your love will never change.

(Verse 2 - Music Ministers)

On and on and on and on it goes.
It overwhelms and satisfies my soul.
And I never, ever have to be afraid.
One thing remains, one thing remains.

(Refrain - All)

**Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.
Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.
Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me:
Your love.**

(Verse 3 - All)

**On and on and on and on it goes.
It overwhelms and satisfies my soul.
And I never, ever have to be afraid.
One thing remains, one thing remains.**

(Refrain - All)

**Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.
Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.
Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me:
Your love.**

(Music Ministers/**All**)

In death, in life, I'm confident and covered
By the power of your great love.
My debt is paid; There's nothing that can separate my heart
From your great love.

**In death, in life, I'm confident and covered
By the power of your great love.
My debt is paid; There's nothing that can separate my heart
From your great love.**

(Refrain - **All**)

**Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.
Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me.
Your love never fails, it never gives up, never runs out on me:
Your love.**

**In death, in life, I'm confident and covered
By the power of your great love.
My debt is paid; There's nothing that can separate my heart
From your great love, your love.**

(Final Verse - Music Ministers)

Higher than the mountains that I face.
Stronger than the power of the grave,
Constant in the trial and the change,
One thing remains, one thing remains:
Your love.

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*Lord, I Need You*

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)

Lord, I come, I confess.  
Bowing here, I find my rest.  
And without you, I fall apart.  
You're the one that guides my heart.

(Refrain - **All**)

**Lord, I need you, oh, I need you.  
Every hour I need you.**

**My one defense, my righteousness;  
O God, how I need you.**

(Verse 2 - Music Ministers)

Where sin runs deep, your grace is more.  
Where grace is found is where you are.  
And where you are, Lord, I am free.  
Holiness is Christ in me.  
Where you are, Lord, I am free.  
Holiness is Christ in me.

**(Refrain - All)**

**Lord, I need you, oh, I need you.  
Every hour I need you.  
My one defense, my righteousness;  
O God, how I need you.**

(Music Ministers)

Teach my song to rise to you  
When temptation comes my way.  
And when I cannot stand, I'll fall on you.  
Jesus, you're my hope and stay.  
And when I cannot stand, I'll fall on you.  
Jesus, you're my hope and stay.

**(Refrain - All/ Music Ministers)**

**Lord, I need you, oh, I need you.  
Every hour I need you.  
My one defense, my righteousness;  
O God, how I need you.**

**Lord, I need you, oh, I need you.  
Every hour I need you.  
My one defense, my righteousness;  
O God, how I need you.**

My one defense, my righteousness;  
O God, how I need you.

## **CONFESSION**

**Eternal God, our judge and redeemer, we confess that we have tried to hide from you, for we have done wrong. We have lived for ourselves and apart from you. We have turned from our neighbors and refused to bear the burdens of others. We have ignored the pain of the world and passed by the hungry, the poor, and the oppressed.**

**In your great mercy, forgive our sins and free us from selfishness, that we may choose your will and obey your commandments; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## **FORGIVENESS**

**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.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*Assistant Minister*

**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.**

## **THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**



# WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

## 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 Ju-dah (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.*

A reading from the book of Amos.

This is what he 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 herds-man, 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

**Psalm 85:8-13**

*I will listen to what the Lord God is saying. (Ps. 85:8)*

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.*

A reading from the book of Ephesians.

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

**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.*

The holy gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

King Herod heard of it, 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.**

## **YOUTH MESSAGE**

### **MESSAGE**

*Pr. Jamie Vannoy*

### **\*\* 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 power of the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended into hell.  
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 COMMUNITY**

### **GATHERING OF GIFTS**

### **OFFERTORY**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

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.**

# MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Lift up your heads; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your voices; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your hearts; **we lift them up to God.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

And so we gather at the table. We come from many different places in life. And as we come together around the table we discover that our differences are not something we just tolerate, but that our differences are indeed a blessing. So come, children of God, just as you are. Wherever you are on this journey of life and faith, you are welcome here - here in this place, here in this community, here at this table. Come, children of God, come and remember. Remember the stories that Jesus' friends tell: Stories of bread broken and shared to feed a multitude; stories of gathering both enemy and friend together around a common table; stories of unlikely guests revealing the face of the sacred.

On a night of both celebration and betrayal Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it; gave it to his disciples and said, "Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Then Jesus took the cup, blessed it, and gave it to his disciples 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."

And so we pray: Lord, bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking that our eyes might be open, and that we might recognize the risen Christ in our midst, indeed in one another .

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

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

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

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

## **REFLECTION DURING COMMUNION**

**\*\* TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and always keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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**

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

**\*\* SENDING HYMN**

*Step by Step (W&P 132)*

O God, you are my God, and I will ev - er praise  
you. O God, you are my God, and  
I will ev - er praise you. I will seek you in the morn-  
- ing, and I will learn to walk in your ways, and

Chords: D(no3), G, G<sup>2</sup>, G, D/F#, D, C/E, C/D, G, D(no3), G, G<sup>2</sup>, D/F#, D, C/E, C/D, G, G<sup>2</sup>, G, Em, C/E, Em, D<sub>sus</sub>, D, Am/E, Am/C, Am

G G<sup>2</sup> G D/F# D C/D Am/D D<sup>7</sup>sus  
 step by step you'll lead me, and I will fol-low you all of my

1 G D(no3) 2 G G<sup>2</sup> G Em  
 days. O days, and I will fol-low you all of my

Dsus D Am<sup>7</sup> F C D<sup>7</sup>sus  
 days, and I will fol-low you all of my days, and

G<sup>2</sup>/D D C/D G  
 step by step you'll lead me, and I will fol-low you all of my days.

**\*\* DISMISSAL**

*Assistant Minister*

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**Created, saved and gifted by God, we seek, serve and share Jesus Christ.**

**Hallelujah! Thanks be to God.**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below;

praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

**POSTLUDE**

**“W + 2” = Worship Plus Two**  
**Make a commitment to not only worship each week**  
**but also try to find a way to serve in the congregation**  
**and seek out a way to serve our community.**

**YOU ARE NOW ENTERING THE MISSION FIELD**

## Upcoming Commemorations

### **Bartolomé de Las Casas, missionary to the Indies, died 1566 Wednesday, July 17, 2024**

A native of Spain, Las Casas first came to the Western hemisphere while serving in the military. Upon arriving in the West, Las Casas was granted a large estate with Indigenous enslaved people whom he freed after he was ordained a priest. He worked in the Caribbean and Central America to improve the lives of the native peoples.

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