

***The report of John's death, Jesus' mentor,  
was the end of innocence for Jesus' mission***



***Sunday July 11, 2021***

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

Few of us want to hear a hard truth, and perhaps fewer of us want to be the ones called to deliver one. Today's texts remind us that bearing God's word is risky business. King Jereboam exiles the prophet Amos for calling him to account. Herod delivers John the baptizer's head on a platter to his wife, Herodias, to fulfill a promise he never should have made. Speaking truth to power can cost us our lives. Yet this is exactly what God calls us to do.

**Prayer**

**Call to Worship:**

This is the day the Lord has made,

**Let us be glad and rejoice in it!**

Gracious God, we do not live by bread alone,

**but by every word that comes from you.**

Bless us as we hear your word.

**Make us hunger for the Word of life, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen**

**Time for 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 go?**

**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.  
**you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. Amen**

### **Song: On Eagle's Wings**

1 You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,  
who abide in this shadow for life,  
say to the Lord: "My refuge,  
my rock in whom I trust!"

#### *Refrain*

And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
bear you on the breath of dawn,  
make you to shine like the sun,  
and hold you in the palm of his hand.

2 The snare of the fowler will never capture  
you,

#### *Final refrain*

And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
bear you on the breath of dawn,  
make you to shine like the sun,  
and hold you in the palm of his hand;  
and hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.

Text: Michael Joncas, b. 1957

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May 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.**

**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.**

### **Children's Moment**

## 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.**

## Gospel Greeting: (sing it out!)

Al-le-lu--ia, Al-le--lu--ia,

Al-le-lu--ia, Al-le--lu--ia!

## Gospel: Mark 6:14-29

<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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord! **Praise to you O Christ!**

## **Gospel Greeting: (sing it out!)**

**Al-le-lu--ia, Al-le--lu--ia,  
Al-le-lu--ia, Al-le--lu--ia!**

## **Message**

### **Song: Lift Every Voice and Sing**

- 1 Lift ev'ry voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,  
ring with the harmonies of liberty.  
Let our rejoicing rise high as the list'ning skies,  
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;  
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
let us march on till victory is won.
- 2 Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast'ning rod,  
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet  
come to the place for which our parents sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;  
we have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,  
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last  
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

3 God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,  
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;  
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,  
keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;  
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;  
shadowed beneath thy hand may we forever stand,  
true to our God, true to our native land.

Text: James W. Johnson, 1871-1938

## **Apostles Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He 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,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again 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.

## **The Peace**

### **Announcements—We need your favorite hymns!**

--Non-perishable food drive to support the pantry of the St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Edith Stein.

--Thirsty Thursday: Pictures to [prandall22@gmail.com](mailto:prandall22@gmail.com). Theme: "How do you relax/unwind?"

--Get ready for Christmas in July, Sunday July 25

## **Offering time**

**Offering Prayer: Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord we pray. Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

Let us come in prayer before God who is one and who is three, and yet only one.

*A brief silence.*

Holy parent, you welcome your people into one family and gather all things to yourself. Bestow your grace upon your beloved church, lavish your wisdom upon us, and redeem us from our faults, that by our witness all might praise your glory. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Awesome Creator, you steadfastly tend to the smallest of seeds and the mightiest of sycamore trees. Spring up green growth from the earth, nourish the growth of fruit, grain, and other crops, and bless the work of farmers and laborers. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of the oppressed, turn the ears of those who are in power to the voices of prophets in our own day. Protect those who speak difficult truths when it is risky to do so. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of strength, you are near to those who endure difficulty. Comfort all who are survivors of violence, guard the refugee and the immigrant, and protect all those who are victims of prejudice and discrimination. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of love, we pray for this holy house and all those who worship here. We pray especially for those whose efforts behind the scenes often go unnoticed; for our sexton, Laura, our gardeners, Julie and Olga, for Peter who does so much maintenance work, for Pete and Marie who set up week after week, and for all of our volunteers. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We thank you, God, for the saints, martyrs, and prophets who have died in the faith, *especially Benedict of Nursia and Jan Hus.* We remember those in this community who have recently died. United with them as God's children, assure us that we are yours forever. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace. **Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

### Blessing:

May the blessing of God,  
who provides for us, who feeds us, and who is with us wherever we go, be  
upon you, now and forever. **Amen!**

## **Song: Go, My Children, with My Blessing**

1“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.

2“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.

3“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.

4“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.”

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919

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## **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**Thanks be to God!**

## **Postlude**

**Thanks for joining us!**

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