

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—PROPER 10

July 11, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.

AS WE GATHER

In today's Gospel, it looks like the end of the story when John the Baptist is executed. But he was but the forerunner for Jesus, the promised Messiah. Appearances were certainly deceiving! That was the case with Amos, a herdsman and dresser of sycamore figs when the Lord called him. He did not look like a prophet, but he stood up to Amaziah and Jeroboam in a long line of faithful prophets. Sometimes Satan uses appearances to deceive us, but the Epistle reminds us that God had predestined us to be with Him forever—even before He began creation! Although others might not recognize it, the Holy Spirit is the guarantee of our inheritance. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

PRELUDE “Across the Lands” -Getty

HYMN “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” *LSB* 686

1 Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
 Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
 Call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
 Fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore Thee;
 May I still Thy goodness prove.

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer,
 Hither by Thy help I've come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
 Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
 Wand'ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
 Interposed His precious blood.

3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
 Daily I'm constrained to be;
Let that grace now like a fetter
 Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
 Prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
 Seal it for Thy courts above.

4 Oh, that day when freed from sinning,
 I shall see Thy lovely face;
Clothed then in the blood-washed linen,
 How I'll sing Thy wondrous grace!
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry;
 Take my ransom'd soul away;
Send Thine angels soon to carry
 Me to realms of endless day. Text: Public domain

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 85:1–13*

Pastor: Today's psalm has two parts. The first is the plea of the psalmist to God, and the second is his announcement of God's promised salvation. We now use Psalm 85 as we confess our sins and hear God's forgiveness for Jesus' sake.

Pastor: LORD, You were favorable to Your land;

People: You restored the fortunes of Jacob.

Pastor: You forgave the iniquity of Your people;

People: You covered all their sin.

Pastor: You withdrew all Your wrath;

People: You turned from Your hot anger.

Pastor: Restore us again, O God of our salvation,

People: and put away Your indignation toward us!

Pastor: Will You be angry with us forever?

People: Will You prolong Your anger to all generations?

Pastor: Will You not revive us again,

People: that Your people may rejoice in You?

Pastor: Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD,

People: and grant us Your salvation.

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,

for He will speak peace to His people, to His saints;

People: but let them not turn back to folly.

Pastor: Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,

People: that glory may dwell in our land.

Pastor: Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;

People: righteousness and peace kiss each other.

Pastor: Faithfulness springs up from the ground,

People: and righteousness looks down from the sky.

Pastor: Yes, the LORD will give what is good,

People: and our land will yield its increase.

Pastor: Righteousness will go before Him

People: and make His footsteps a way.

Pastor: The steadfast love and faithfulness of our God are endless. For the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ and His sacrifice for all our sins, God declares us to be His own children and has opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

KYRIE

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE “The Lord, My God, Be Praised” *LSB* 794

1 The Lord, my God, be praised,
 My light, my life from heaven;
My maker, who to me
 Has soul and body given;
My Father, who will shield
 And keep me day by day
And make each moment yield
 New blessings on my way.

2 The Lord, my God, be praised,
 My trust, my life from heaven,
The Father’s own dear Son,
 Whose life for me was given,
Who for my sin atoned
 With His most precious blood
And gives to me by faith
 The highest heav’nly good.

3 The Lord, my God, be praised,
 My hope, my life from heaven,
The Spirit, whom the Son
 In love to me has given.
His grace revives my heart
 And gives my spirit pow’r,
Help, comfort, and support
 In sorrow’s gloomy hour.

△ 4 The Lord, my God, be praised,
 My God, the ever-living,
To whom the heav’nly host
 Their laud and praise are giving.
The Lord, my God, be praised,
 In whose great name I boast,
God Father, God the Son,
 And God the Holy Ghost.

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SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. O Lord, You granted Your prophets strength to resist the temptations of the devil and courage to proclaim repentance. Give us pure hearts and minds to follow Your Son faithfully even into suffering and death; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Amos 7:7–15* (Amos boldly speaks for the Lord against Amaziah and Jeroboam.) This is what [the Lord God] showed me: behold, 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, “Behold, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass by them; 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 Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, “Amos has conspired against you in the midst 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, and eat 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 and said to Amaziah, “I was no prophet, nor a prophet’s son, but I was a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore figs. But the Lord took me from following the flock, and the Lord said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Ephesians 1:3–14* (God made our salvation certain before the creation of the world.) 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, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Matthew 5:10*

Pastor: Alleluia. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake,

People: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 6:14–29* (Herodias gets John the Baptist’s head.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the sixth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

King Herod heard of it, for Jesus’ name had become known. Some said, “John the Baptist has been raised from the dead. That is why these miraculous powers are at work in him.” But others said, “He is Elijah.” And others said, “He 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 it was Herod who had sent and seized John and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, because he had married her. For John had been saying to Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.” And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to put him to death. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he kept him safe. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed, and yet he heard him gladly. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his nobles and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. For when Herodias’s daughter 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 to you.” And he vowed to her, “Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half of my kingdom.” And she went out and said to her mother, “For what should I ask?” And she said, “The head of John the Baptist.” And she came in immediately with haste to the king and asked, saying, “I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.” And the king was exceedingly sorry, but because of his oaths and his guests he did not want to break his word to her. And immediately the king sent an executioner with orders to bring John’s head. He went and beheaded him in the prison and brought his head on a platter and gave it to the girl, and the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard of it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY “The Church’s One Foundation” *LSB* 644

1 The Church’s one foundation
 Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new creation
 By water and the Word.
From heav’n He came and sought her
 To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her,
 And for her life He died.

2 Elect from ev’ry nation,
 Yet one o’er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation:
 One Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses,
 Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses
 With ev’ry grace endued.

3 Though with a scornful wonder
 The world sees her oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder,
 By heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping;
 Their cry goes up, “How long?”
And soon the night of weeping
 Shall be the morn of song.

4 Through toil and tribulation
And tumult of her war
She waits the consummation
Of peace evermore
Till with the vision glorious
Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious
Shall be the Church at rest.

5 Yet she on earth has union
With God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won.
O blessed heav'nly chorus!
Lord, save us by Your grace
That we, like saints before us,
May see You face to face.
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SERMON "Can You Handle the Truth?"

- I. A Famous Line
- II. The Confrontation
 - What sins did the Jeroboams do?
 - What is the background of Amos?
 - How does Amaziah respond?
- III. The Word Proclaimed
 - What does Amaziah admit?
 - What other people is Amos like?
 - What instrument does God give us?

Have you ever seen the movie *A Few Good Men*? It features Tom Cruise, Jack Nicholson, Demi Moore, Kevin Bacon, Keifer Sutherland, and Cuba Gooding Jr. If you haven't seen the movie, you certainly know a line from it. It contains one of the most famous lines in cinema history. In the movie, there is a courtroom scene where Tom Cruise, who is a navy lawyer, is questioning Jack Nicholson, a colonel. Things begin to get heated, and they yell back and forth. At one point, Nicholson says, "You want answers?" to which Cruise's character responds, "I want the truth." Nicholson's character then gives the iconic line: "You can't handle the truth." He then elaborates on what really happened, and why he did it.

Nicholson's character is right, though. People can't always handle the truth. The truth can be messy, painful, unpleasant, and down right shocking. It can shatter reality and crush dreams. However, the truth isn't always bad, or negative. It can be powerful. The truth can change people, reveal a new world; it can enlighten, embolden, and free. The truth can be refreshing. It can also be life-changing, life-altering, and life-giving. Amos witnesses all of this as he preaches at the false sanctuary in Bethel. Amaziah the High Priest, Jeroboam the king, and the Israelites can't handle the truth, but it is the only thing that can bring them back to God.

So, what is going on? Jeroboam II is the ruling king of Israel. His kingdom is enjoying an outward prosperity, but enduring a spiritual poverty. Second Kings 14 tells us that Jeroboam continued in the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat. And what did Jeroboam son of Nebat do? He established false worship with golden calves, saying, "**Behold your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.**" He allowed idol shrines and high places scattered throughout the land. He appointed non-levitical priests, and made Dan and Bethel the places of worship, rather than Jerusalem. He created his own festivals and sacrifices rather than following what Moses wrote in the Pentateuch. Jeroboam II continued with all of this; he didn't stop it. In addition, the poor in Israel were being oppressed and plundered. Justice was subverted, the covenant despised,

and faith was waning. Israel was on spiritual life-support. The country might have been enjoying an outward prosperity with Jeroboam, but spiritually, they were bankrupt.

Enter the prophet Amos. Amos was a fig dresser and shepherd from the Southern Kingdom of Judah. He wasn't a formal prophet, nor did he go to seminary. He was a man of the field and crops. One day, God took him from following the flock and told him, **"Go, prophesy to my people Israel."** Despite their rebellion and sin, God still loved them. He still cared for them, and longed for their return. He sent Amos north, to the country of Israel, to preach His Word to that wayward and beloved nation. Amos does, and goes to Bethel, the chief center of idolatrous calf-worship, and testifies to the truth.

In our text, we see the sermon that led to the famous confrontation between Amos the prophet and Amaziah, the high priest of Bethel. Amos tells of a vision that he saw. He saw God standing beside a wall with a plumb line, which helps the builder to see if a line is straight. As Amos tells God what he sees, God gives a bone-chilling judgment: **"Behold, I am setting my plumb line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass by them; 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."** God makes it clear: Israel is like a crooked and leaning wall because of their sin, and they will not be spared. The high places will be laid waste, the false sanctuaries destroyed, and Jeroboam's house will come to an end. It is a harsh truth, but the truth nonetheless. Will the people repent? Will they turn? Will the leaders listen? How does Amaziah, the high priest, respond? What is his reaction?

He rejects the truth, and opposes it in a variety of ways. First, he lies about the truth. He lies to the king, saying, **"Amos has conspired against you in the midst of the house of Israel...For thus Amos has said, 'Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land.'"** Amos didn't say that, or do that (conspire). Amaziah took Amos' word and made it a personal threat to Jeroboam. That is one way to get rid of Amos.

Amaziah also left things out. Did you notice what Amaziah *didn't say*? He mentioned nothing of Amos' call to repentance, or Israel's apostasy. He made no mention of the prophet's prior pleading to God to spare the people, which Amaziah would have heard. All of this would have undermined Amaziah's lie about Amos' preaching.

The high priest does this to preserve the status-quo, his truth. The reality is that Amos' preaching would undercut these false sanctuaries, jeopardize the kingdom, and challenge their way of life, thinking, and beliefs. When Jeroboam son of Nebat established the false sanctuaries, he said, **"If this people go up to offer sacrifices in the temple of the LORD at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn again to their lord, to Rehoboam king of Judah...."** If believed, Amos' preaching would change everything: hearts, religion, and kingdoms.

Amaziah then results to threats and insults to seal the deal. He wants to silence Amos and his truth at all costs. He says, **"O Seer,"** you gazer, you man of terrible visions. **"Flee to Judah."** In other words, **"Go home and don't come back!"** **"Eat bread there, and prophesy there..."** He accuses Amos of being a prophet for hire and for only being concerned for wanting food. He finishes by saying, **"but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom."** Amaziah makes it loud and clear that Amos is not welcome here, and that he must be silenced. Amaziah lies, leaves things out, and silences Amos to have him stop preaching, and to stop sharing God's Word. He cannot handle the truth.

Don't we see the same today? In Amos, Amaziah represents all that opposes God and His Word. Don't we see and endure "Amaziah's" in our world that lie about our Christian faith? Don't we see God's Word taken out of context to manipulate, or slander? Don't we see a resistance to it from the status quo? How would God's Word change how people see the world? How it would change views on drinking, sex, the meaning of life, the family, or the sanctity of life? One country in Europe almost has a zero percent birth rate for children with Down Syndrome. Don't we see the slander and insults? Amaziah's are alive and well!

So, what happens to Amos? Let's see. The truth works! Look at Amaziah's claim: **"The land is not able to bear all his words."** To put it another way, some people believed Amos' preaching! Some repented, some turned; some rejected Bethel's false worship and gods. His work and ministry wasn't in vain. Amos boldly confessed the truth and defended himself against Amaziah's claims and insults. God sent the prophet north because despite their rebellion and sin, the people of Israel were still His. He wanted them to be His own

again. To do that, He sent them a prophet with the instrument that turns hearts, gives life, speaks peace, and bestows faith: the truth, God's Word. Amos boldly confessed that to a people that didn't quite handle it!

Amos' courage in the face of Amaziah is a part of a long tradition in which prophets dare to challenge the sinful establishment, and to share the truth of God's Word. Moses confronts Pharaoh with God's thunderous **"let my people go!"** Nathan courageously puts his prophetic career on the line when he thunders to David, **"you are the man!"** Elijah takes the heat from Ahab who calls him the **"troubler of Israel"**. Jeremiah daringly writes God's Word again after the king had sliced and burned it. Daniel's dream of the night shatters Nebuchadnezzar's illusion of the day.

Standing in the tradition of Moses, Nathan, Elijah, Jeremiah, Daniel, and Amos, and fulfilling their ministries, is another prophet, Israel's mightiest one, Who took the greatest stand. Climatically, He stood before the first century equivalent of Amaziah, the high priest Caiaphas, and confessed, **"In the future you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven."** Jesus was crucified for not only being a faithful Prophet and for living out a love that disrupted the social order, but as the Suffering Servant, He also bore the transgressions of humanity, died in the place of all sinners, and made atonement for all. He rose again victoriously and justifies all believers so that they are righteous. He instituted the new Kingdom of God, of which He Himself is King. What's more is that Jesus invites people to this Kingdom.

And standing in the shoes and place of Amos, God gives us the same instrument he gave him: the Word. God's Word is active and living. It is a Word at work in believers, in you and me. It is a word that brings to faith and new life. It is a word that provides comfort and hope in the midst of unbearable suffering and agonizing temptations, and gives boldness and courage to speak. It is a word that soothes broken and seared consciences, and one that delivers all of God's promises. It is a word that bespeaks us righteous, and declares us justified in Jesus Christ. It is a word that transforms hearts, minds, lives, actions, and deeds. It is a word that unites with, and gives us Jesus through the waters of baptism. It is a word that delivers Jesus' body and blood in the Lord's Supper. It is a word that brings us forgiveness and life, and all that Jesus has won at the cross. Simply put, it is a word that delivers Jesus, and all that He offers and gives.

It is a Word that will bear fruit, and a Word that will work. It is a Word that "the land will not be able to bear" and also one that will be opposed. To quote Nicholson, "Some won't handle the truth!" But, when it is, when it is believed by faith, we see the words of Pope Gregory the Great come to life (as He comments on the Holy Spirit): "The Spirit changes the human heart in a moment, filling it with light. Suddenly we are no longer what we were; suddenly we are something we never used to be." May God grant us a faithfulness like Ezekiel, and a boldness like Amos to share the truth. IN JESUS' NAME, AMEN.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

OFFERING "Just as I Am, without One Plea" LSB 570

1 Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

2 Just as I am and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

3 Just as I am, though tossed about
With many_a conflict, many_a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

4 Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
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PREFACE 2 Timothy 4:22

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who is Your Word Incarnate and who on this day spoke Your powerful word of victory over death and the grave by His glorious resurrection, opening to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

Holy holy holy Lord
God of power and might
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory
Hosanna in the highest

Blessed is he who comes
In the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna in the highest

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD’S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

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.

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God you take away

All the sin of the world

Oh Lamb of God have mercy on us

And grant to us your peace

You are invited to receive the Lord’s Supper if you believe and confess that Jesus Christ is your Savior from sin, you are a baptized child of the Triune God, and you believe that He gives you His body and blood in the bread and wine you receive. White grape juice can be found in the center of each tray for those who cannot receive alcohol. Children are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN “Thy Strong Word” *LSB* 578

1 Thy strong word did cleave the darkness;
At Thy speaking it was done.
For created light we thank Thee,
While Thine ordered seasons run.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia without end!

2 Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness,
Dark as night and deep as death,
Broke the light of Thy salvation,
Breathed Thine own life-breathing breath.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia without end!

3 Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous;
Bright with Thine own holiness,
Glorious now, we press toward glory,
And our lives our hopes confess.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia without end!

4 From the cross Thy wisdom shining
Breaketh forth in conqu’ring might;
From the cross forever beameth
All Thy bright redeeming light.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia without end!

5 Give us lips to sing Thy glory,
Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,
Throats that shout the hope that fills us,
Mouths to speak Thy holy name.
Alleluia, alleluia!
May the light which Thou dost send
Fill our songs with alleluias,
Alleluias without end!

△ 6 God the Father, light-creator,
To Thee laud and honor be.
To Thee, Light of Light begotten,
Praise be sung eternally.
Holy Spirit, light-revealer,
Glory, glory be to Thee.
Mortals, angels, now and ever
Praise the holy Trinity!

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BLESSING

Pastor: May our Lord's body and blood strengthen and preserve you in true faith to life everlasting. Depart in peace and with joy.

People: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

HYMN "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing" *LSB 924*

1 Lord, dismiss us with Your blessing,
Fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, Your love possessing,
Triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us; O refresh us,
Trav'ling through this wilderness.

2 Thanks we give and adoration
For Your Gospel's joyful sound.
May the fruits of Your salvation
In our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful
To Your truth may we be found.

3 Savior, when Your love shall call us
From our struggling pilgrim way,
Let not fear of death appall us,
Glad Your summons to obey.
May we ever, may we ever
Reign with You in endless day.
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DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE “Oh How Good It Is”

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

GENEROSITY THOUGHTS: *Amos 7:8 – “And the LORD said to me, ‘Amos, what do you see?’ And I said, ‘A plumb line.’ Then the Lord said, ‘Behold, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass by them.’ ”* In the book of Amos the Lord condemns the people for their lack of kindness, charity, and generosity toward the weak and lowly. God takes great offense at this because his activity toward us is built on kindness, charity, and generosity. He wants us to respond in kind.

PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY: Wednesdays we will have a prayer and Bible Study group. Please check with Pastor Kooi for the current start time. Each week, we will gather together to pray and study a text. We will be meeting in-person and virtually. For those that attend virtually, we will have you join us via Zoom (contact Pastor Kooi for the link). Please contact Pastor Kooi for more details.

HEAR “THE LUTHERAN HOUR” on Sunday mornings at 6:05 a.m. on WCCO 830 AM radio. Next week’s broadcast: “The Problem and Promise of Deathbed Conversion” Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Is a last-minute conversion cause for joy or an insult to lifelong believers? Dr. Michael Zeigler explores both the problem and the promise of deathbed conversions. (Ephesians 2)

Please join us after services on Sunday, July 18 for a cake and beverage reception to celebrate Pastor Kooi’s fifth anniversary of his ordination and installation at Emmaus.

The reception will be held in the Social Hall. We hope that you can join us. If there are any questions, please contact any member of the fellowship committee: Kjersti D, Pam N, Marilyn P, and Magdalena B