

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
Pastor Christian Magnell, Pastor John R. Hanson
July 14, 2024, 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

Janet Hanson, Musician

COMMON THREAD *Though sin warps us and makes us crooked, God will restore us again. He forgives the sin of repentant people. The Israel of God (Gal 6:16) is predestined to be the redeemed in the land. Those who hear the word of truth and believe are guaranteed a righteous inheritance. Theirs is the kingdom of heaven, even if half of the kingdoms of this world are promised to others (Matt 5:3).*

THEME AND VERSE

Holy God, you are the author and giver of all good gifts. Increase in us the true faith, give us a love and fear of your holy name, and by your great mercy, sustain us in goodness and holiness all our days through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

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.

HYMN

“God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens”

Green #463

God, who stretched the spangled heavens infinite in time and place,
Flung the suns in burning radiance through the silent fields of space;
We, your children in your likeness, share inventive powers with you;
Great Creator, still creating, show us what we yet may do.

We have ventured worlds undreamed of since the childhood of our race;
Known the ecstasy of winging through untraveled realms of space;
Probed the secrets of the atom, yielding unimagined pow'r,
Facing us with life's destruction or our most triumphant hour.

As each far horizon beckons, may it challenge us anew;
Children of creative purpose, serving others, hon'ring you.
May our dreams prove rich with promise; each endeavor well begun;
Great Creator, give us guidance till our goals and yours are one.

CCLI Song #3250347 CCLI License #1713417

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

YOUTH MISSION TRIP SLIDE SHOW!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION God is good. **All the time.**

GOSPEL: Mark 6:14-29

Even as Herod's wife bore a grudge against John the Baptist, the world has a grudge against God's elect. The Church is often at odds with the rest of the world. So, we may end up losing our heads as we live in the kingdom of this world. But our future is sure. We await a new world, a heavenly kingdom in which righteousness dwells. (2Pet 3:13) May such faith as that of Jairus and this woman move the Church to greater belief. May we reach out to Jesus and be healed of any lack of faith.

14 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." 15 But others said, "He is Elijah." And others said, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." 16 But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised." 17 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. 18 For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." 19 And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to put him to death. But she could not, 20 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. 21 But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his nobles and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee.

22 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." 23 And he vowed to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half of my kingdom." 24 And she went out and said to her mother, "For what should I ask?" And she said, "The head of John the Baptist." 25 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." 26 And the king was exceedingly sorry, but because of his oaths and his guests he did not want to break his word to her. 27 And immediately the king sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison 28 and brought his head on a platter and gave it to the girl, and the girl gave it to her mother. 29 When his disciples heard of it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION All the time.

God is good!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We gather in the name of

the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lord God, your love for us in unconditional and freely given.

Yet human love is often conditional. We sometimes love others based on what they can do for us – financially, relationally, reputationally. We find ourselves using others and caring more about ourselves. We've sinned in other ways, ways known to us and to you.

Today we lay our brokenness before you and ask for forgiveness. Show us how to love you and the people around us.

Jesus died for you. For his sake, we are forgiven of our sins and made new each day. The Holy Spirit guides us and teaches us to love like Christ!

We thank and praise God the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S SERMON

"God Chooses Us!"

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Richly inspire us, O Lord, to consider and accomplish what you see is good. For we know that we cannot live without you, but that with you, we shall prevail. And so, we pray through Jesus Christ, your son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

From: Leonine Sacramentary, 6th Century

READING: Amos 7:7-15

Israel had been established by God to be straight and true. The people had become corrupt, out of line, crooked. Places of wrong worship had been set up all over the kingdom. The kingdom itself was improperly and illegitimately ruled. The Lord sent Amos to prophesy against the kingdom but instead of listening, they sought to send him away to the kingdom of Judah. God is measuring his people. His plumb line is true. Will his people listen to the word of the Lord and straighten out their ways?

7 This is what he showed me: behold, the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. 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; 9 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." 10 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. 11 For thus Amos has said, "Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land." 12 And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, and eat bread there, and prophesy there, 13 but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom." 14 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. 15 But the Lord took me from following the flock, and the Lord said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'

READING: Ephesians 1:3-14 *As God has always gone before us showing us his way, he has now sent us his Son. We have been consoled by his redeeming death and given hope in his resurrection. (Rom 6:4) Though this life is difficult and death lingers on the horizon, God has blessed us through his Son in terms of heavenly matters. He has given his people an inheritance. We have heard of it through his true word, and it is guaranteed by his Holy Spirit. When our days are over, we will take possession of his promise.*

3 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, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9 making known to us the mystery

of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. 11 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, 12 so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. 13 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, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

HYMN

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all.

O seed of Israel's chosen race now ransomed from the fall,
Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.

Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget the wormwood and the gall,
Go, spread your trophies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.

Oh, that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song and crown him Lord of all.

CCLI Song # 25400

SERMON – “Contrast”

HYMN

"This Is My Father's World"

Green # 554

This is my Father's world, and to my list'ning ears
All nature sings and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world; the bird their carols raise;
The morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world; he shines in all that's fair.
In the rustling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world; oh, let me not forget
That, though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world; why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is King, let the heavens ring! God reigns, let the earth be glad!

CCLI Song # 5713909

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER AT RECEIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Father God, you have given us so much. You've called us your children and saved us by your grace poured out by faith. Everything we have is from you. You've even made us heirs of your Kingdom. We ask that you'd use our gifts and offerings to bless and encourage the world around us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BLESSING & PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us so we and all your children shall be free and the whole earth live to praise your name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BENEDICTION

And now may the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen!

Let's go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost – July 14th, 2024

"...the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it." Ephesians 1:14

We are familiar with the concept of earnest money. It is the money you put down on, for example, a home to demonstrate your seriousness about buying. It is, in effect, a promise. "I am coming back to purchase this. I intend to complete the sale." There are, of course, a whole host of issues which can prevent you from keeping your promise. If your financing falls through, or you lose your job, or something else happens to prevent you from moving forward with the sale, you will lose that earnest money.

In these verses, Paul explains that the Holy Spirit is a "guarantee of our inheritance." The Greek word there is "Arrhabon." It is "money which in purchases is given as a pledge or down payment that the full amount will subsequently be paid." Do you see the parallel? And while humans can sometimes fail to follow through on their promises, God does not. What he claims as his is, in fact, his. And more so than money, God gives the Holy Spirit as a pledge or guarantee. While we can lose earnest money, God will not lose the Holy Spirit given to you.

This week, reflect on the implications for your life. What does it mean that God paid the price? That you have the Holy Spirit as a deposit or guarantee? What does it mean to you that the people around you also have the Holy Spirit and are claimed by God?