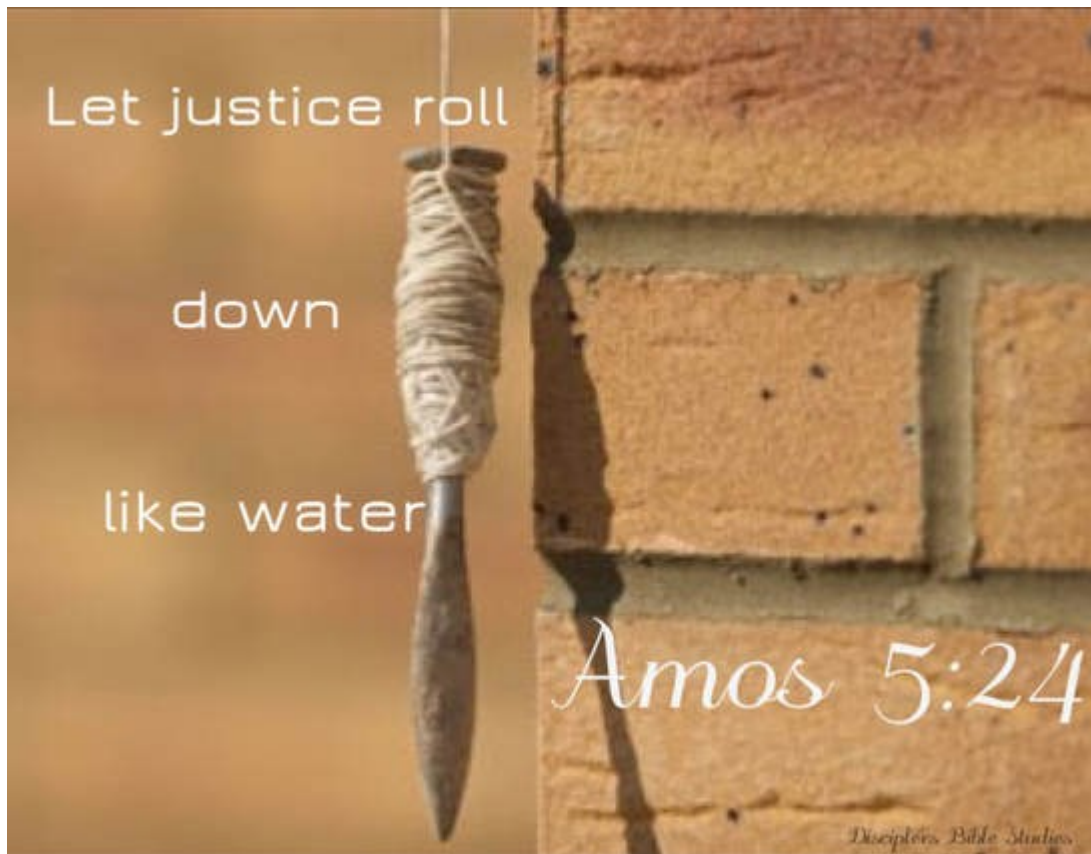


Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 14, 2024



Thought: *Gracious God, we are here in church today, not because we in wisdom and insight have chosen you but because you, in Jesus Christ, have chosen us. We, in our wandering and sin, couldn't make our way to you so you, in your love, made a way to us. That way is named Jesus Christ.*

We gather to praise you, praising and blessing you here in church on Sunday so that we may dance forth back into the world to praise you Monday through Saturday.

Prelude – Jill Rimington

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer Concerns

Sharing of the Peace

P: Chosen by God we share the Peace of relationship.
Peace be with you.

C: And also with you.

Call to Worship

L: God has a dream, a great uniting dream where all God's people know we are one in Christ.

C: God has a vision, a cosmic vision of reconciliation on earth and in heaven.

L: As Christ's church we are called to be bearers of the vision, dream catchers for God.

C: But we dimly see what God sees. We need our vision sharpened, our minds enlightened, and our hearts enlarged.

L: Let us be open to the moving of God among us as we sing hymns of praise, pray, and listen for God's living Word to us this day.

Gathering Hymn – "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" ELW #807

<https://youtu.be/1LWyBcCH7Wg>

by Eclipse 6

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son +, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Confession and Assurance

P: Dear God, we confess that we are far from a united Christian community. We are a fragmented people because we have created division by the way we regard one another in the church and in the world.

A time of reflection and prayer

We seem to have lost your vision that delights in differences within one essential, spiritual unity.

C: We have committed sins of prejudice, judgment, and self-righteousness. Forgive us for failing to be the incarnation of love that Jesus exemplified from his birth to his death, reconciling us to you. May we thus become reconcilers in his name. Amen.

P: In Christ, God made known “the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished upon us.” (Eph. 1:7-8) In Christ we are made one on earth and in heaven, a forgiven people freed to praise God together with our lips and lives.

C: Thanks be to God!

Hymn of Praise – “Let Justice Flow like Streams” ELW #717

<https://youtu.be/TD5YwR2ND6I>

by Ray Edwards

Prayer of the Day

L: O God, from you come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works.

C: 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.

Preparing for the word

L: Who is this who walks ahead, bidding us to courage?

C: It is Christ, who comes anew in the assurance of holy presence to accompany us.

L: Who is this who dares to look into faces of power and challenge their choices?

C: It is the Christ, who speaks anew the truth that must be raised come what may.

L: Who is this who bears our burdens willingly and lifts our hearts into a new day of hope?

C: It is Christ, who brings the promise of God’s love and justice that will be fulfilled.

The Word

Old Testament reading – Amos 7:7-15

The sign of the plumb line.

⁷ 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. ⁸ 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;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 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. 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, earn your 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 Amaziah, “I am no prophet, nor a prophet’s son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, ¹⁵ 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

I will listen to what the Lord God is saying.

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.

⁹ **Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land.**

¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹ Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

¹² The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

¹³ Righteousness shall go before the LORD and shall prepare for God a pathway.

Ephesians 1:3-14

<https://youtu.be/Pacc0J7KNps?si=f9haYYFc0YrDWKIF>

Chosen in Christ to live to the praise of God's glory

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 just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on 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 that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ 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, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ 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; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

Holy Gospel – Mark 6:14-29

The Holy Gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you O Lord.**

The death of John the Baptist.

¹⁴ 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." ¹⁵ But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It 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 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. ¹⁸ For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." ¹⁹ And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, ²⁰ 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. ²¹ But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. ²² 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." ²³ And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." ²⁴ She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." ²⁵ 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." ²⁶ The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷ Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, ²⁸ brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹ 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 of God Time

<https://youtu.be/hTi9S35gWYc?si=SEe5WAGGwA6UPgPk>

Message – “Who Me?”

https://youtu.be/x9CMOyy3Qss?si=xq6NDYMIyNS-NI_r

Hymn of the Day – “You Are the Way” ELW #758

<https://youtu.be/Nj-Xs0PGI50>

by Sammamish Hills Worship

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 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 Intercession

P: One in the communion of saints and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we join our voices in prayer.

A brief silence.

L: You gather your people into the body of Christ. Where your church is wounded, heal it. Where it is right, strengthen it. Where it is divided, reunite it. In your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: From before the foundation of the world, you are God. Revive ecosystems destroyed by human greed. Curb our desire to put wealth ahead of the health of all who call this planet home. In your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: You establish equity and make justice. Within every nation, tribe, and land, cause laws to be written and customs to be observed that protect the most vulnerable. In your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: On the cross your beloved Son endured pain and death. Bring healing to those in need, hope to any in despair, and comfort to the dying. (*We pray especially for those we have named and those we now name in our hearts.*) In your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: You send your Spirit into this community of faith. Empower our ministries that serve and build up local communities (*ministries may be named*). Nurture our partnerships with other community organizations (*organizations may be named*). In your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: All peoples praise you, O God. We give you thanks and praise for the lives of our loved ones who now rest in you (*especially*). In the fullness of time gather us with all your saints in light. In your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Holy God, holy and merciful: into your outstretched arms we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

Offering/Offertory Music – “Here I Am, Lord” ELW #574

Offertory Prayer

L: For those who have spread your word into our hearts, O God –

C: pastor and teachers, parents and friends...

L: for those into whose hearts you allow us to spread your word, O God -

C: children, friends and strangers...

L: we offer you these gifts of thanks. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you...

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

Consecration

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Distribution

Communion Music – Jill Rimington

Post Communion Blessing - Pastor

Post Communion Prayer

L: You have filled us with your word, O Christ,

C: even as you have filled us with yourself.

L: Direct us to spread your word throughout the world.

C: for we are your prophetic people.

L: We bless you now and evermore.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn – “When Our Song Says Peace” ELW #709

https://youtu.be/YSbcP_sH3ul

Dismissal

L: Chosen by God we speak the Word God has planted in our hearts.

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude – Jill Rimington

