

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 14, 2024

PRELUDE, BELLS, WELCOME

HYMN “Christ Is Our Cornerstone” LSB 912

- 1 Christ is our cornerstone,
On Him alone we build;
With His true saints alone
The courts of heav’n are filled.
On His great love
Our hopes we place
Of present grace
And joys above.
- 2 Here may we gain from heav’n
The grace which we implore,
And may that grace, once giv’n,
Be with us evermore
Until that day
When all the blest
To endless rest
Are called away.
- 3 Oh, then, with hymns of praise
These hallowed courts shall ring;
Our voices we will raise
The Three in One to sing
And thus proclaim
In joyful song,
Both loud and long,
That glorious name.

Text: Latin, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, alt. Tune: John Darwall, 1731-89; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941 Text and music: Public domain

INVOCATION

- P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Psalm 124:8; 130:3–4; Luke 18:13

- P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C **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.**
- P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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.
C **Amen.**

KYRIE

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

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

C **Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

P 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.

C **Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

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

C **Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O Lord, amid earthly strife among nations, governments, and peoples within their own lands,

C **remind us through Your Word and Spirit that Your kingdom is not of this world, that as we face troubles in this life, we trust in the truth that through Christ's death and resurrection You have overcome the world;**

P through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Amos 7:7-15

This is what he showed me: The Lord was standing by a wall that had been built true to plumb, with a plumb line in his hand.

And the Lord asked me, "What do you see, Amos?" "A plumb line," I replied. Then the Lord said, "Look, I am setting a plumb line among my people Israel; I will spare them no longer.

"The high places of Isaac will be destroyed and the sanctuaries of Israel will be ruined; with my sword I will rise against the house of Jeroboam."

Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent a message to Jeroboam king of Israel: "Amos is raising a conspiracy against you in the very heart of Israel. The land cannot bear all his words.

For this is what Amos is saying: " 'Jeroboam will die by the sword, and Israel will surely go into exile, away from their native land.' "

Then Amaziah said to Amos, "Get out, you seer! Go back to the land of Judah. Earn your bread there and do your prophesying there.

Don't prophesy anymore at Bethel, because this is the king's sanctuary and the temple of the kingdom." Amos answered Amaziah, "I was neither a prophet nor a prophet's son, but I was a shepherd, and I also took care of sycamore-fig trees.

But the Lord took me from tending the flock and said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.' (NIV)

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Ephesians 1:3–14

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will--to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment--to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory. (NIV)

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 6:14–29

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

King Herod heard about this, for Jesus' name had become well known. Some were saying, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him."

Others said, "He is Elijah." And still others claimed, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of long ago." But when Herod heard this, he said, "John, the man I beheaded, has been raised from the dead!"

For Herod himself had given orders to have John arrested, and he had him bound and put in prison. He did this because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, whom he had married. For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." So Herodias nursed a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But she was not able to, because Herod feared John and protected him, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man. When Herod heard John, he was greatly puzzled; yet he liked to listen to him. Finally the opportune time came. On his birthday Herod gave a banquet for his high officials and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee.

When the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests.

The king said to the girl, "Ask me for anything you want, and I'll give it to you." And he promised her with an oath, "Whatever you ask I will give you, up to half my kingdom."

She went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask for?" "The head of John the Baptist," she answered.

At once the girl hurried in to the king with the request: "I want you to give me right now the head of John the Baptist on a platter."

The king was greatly distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he did not want to refuse her. So he immediately sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. The man went, beheaded John in the prison, and brought back his head on a platter. He presented it to the girl, and she gave it to her mother.

On hearing of this, John's disciples came and took his body and laid it in a tomb. (NIV)

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

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.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN "Through Jesus' Blood and Merit" LSB 746

- 1 Through Jesus' blood and merit
I am at peace with God.
What, then, can daunt my spirit,
However dark my road?
My courage shall not fail me,
For God is on my side;
Though hell itself assail me,
Its rage I may deride.
- 2 There's nothing that can sever
From this great love of God;
No want, no pain whatever,
No famine, peril, flood.
Though thousand foes surround me,
For slaughter mark His sheep,
They never shall confound me,
The vict'ry I shall reap.
- 3 For neither life's temptation
Nor death's most trying hour
Nor angels of high station
Nor any other pow'r
Nor things that now are present
Nor things that are to come
Nor height, however pleasant,
Nor darkest depths of gloom

- 4 Nor any creature ever
 Shall from the love of God
This ransomed sinner sever;
 For in my Savior's blood
This love has its foundation;
 God hears my faithful prayer
And long before creation
 Named me His child and heir.

Text: Simon Dach, 1605–59; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Tune: Musika Teutsch, Nurnberg, 1532; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

Text and music: Public domain

SERMON “In HIM”

Ephesians 1:3-14

OFFERING

HYMN “What Is the World to Me” LSB 730

sts. 1–2, 4

- 1 What is the world to me
 With all its vaunted pleasure
When You, and You alone,
 Lord Jesus, are my treasure!
You only, dearest Lord,
 My soul's delight shall be;
You are my peace, my rest.
 What is the world to me!
- 2 The world seeks to be praised
 And honored by the mighty
Yet never once reflects
 That they are frail and flighty.
But what I truly prize
 Above all things is He,
My Jesus, He alone.
 What is the world to me!
- 4 What is the world to me!
 My Jesus is my treasure,
My life, my health, my wealth,
 My friend, my love, my pleasure,
My joy, my crown, my all,
 My bliss eternally.
Once more, then, I declare:
 What is the world to me!

Text: Georg Michael Pfefferkorn, 1645–1732; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

Tune: Ahasverus Fritsch, 1629-1701; setting: Lutheran Service Book, 2006

Text and music: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Gracious Lord, we are citizens of the nations and places in which You have put us, with our citizenship in heaven assured.

In our land, guide and direct the governing authorities over us that they may serve according to Your will. Impart in them Your truth and wisdom that life be treasured and protected, justice enacted, and order kept secure. Grant Your protection over those who serve in the military both here and abroad, and safety to all who keep roads and communities safe in their law enforcement vocation. Amid the conflicts and tribulations in any land, instill in us responsible citizenship as we await the eternal kingdom not of this world. Thy kingdom come,

C Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

P In these summer months grant favorable weather and safe travel for all who give thanks for Your creation. In each and every season, continue to pour out Your mercy and grace that we as Your people remain faithful and trusting in Your promises made, fulfilled, and yet to come. Thy kingdom come,

C Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

P For all who face troubles and trials in life, in mind, body, or soul, give Your peace and comfort in times of affliction, [*especially* . . .]. For those who have gone before us in the faith, we give You thanks for their witness of truth and hope. Comfort those who grieve, [*including* . . .]. In all things, grant us Your Spirit to sustain us in our earthly pilgrimage. Thy kingdom come,

C Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

P We lift up to You the authorities over us in our Synod, districts, and congregations. Grant wisdom and confidence for all who lead. Bless all churches and people of all ages that You gather together as Your own, that we may be courageous witnesses of Your grace and truth to our neighbors, communities, and beyond. Thy kingdom come,

C Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Additional petitions may be added, closing with "Lord in Your mercy...Hear our prayer."

P Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

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.**

BENEDICTION

P 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.

C Amen.

HYMN “The Saints in Christ Are One in Every Place” LSB 838

- 1 The saints in Christ are one in ev’ry place
To serve the Gospel of His costly grace;
From those first days to this, our hope the same:
The love of Christ, one Lord, one saving name.

- 2 In chains for Christ! His pris’ners love to sing,
For slaves and free rejoice to praise our King;
What though the Church on earth still suffers wrong?
The cross of Christ remains our pilgrim song.

- 3 To live is Christ, for us, to die is gain;
Where then shall be our hunger, danger, pain?
Our joy to preach good news to rich and poor,
Then be with Christ, to live forevermore.

- 4 Lord Jesus Christ! Heav’n’s praise let earth repeat;
The work that You began, You will complete.
By grace let ev’ry foe become Your friend;
Your day, O Christ, shall dawn and never end.

Text: Christopher M. Idle, 1938, alt.

Tune: Walter Greatorex, 1877-1949; setting: Janette Cooper, b. 1937

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