

Herod  
feared  
John,  
knowing  
that he was  
a righteous  
and holy man

MARK 6:20

# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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**WELCOME** Thank you for being with us.

We are a Christian church within the Lutheran tradition (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) and we welcome people of all Christian traditions as well as people of other faiths and people of little or no faith. Christian worship has been offered to God in this congregation for 185 years. By worshipping with us today, you become part of that living tradition.

**Restrooms** are available in the Good Shepherd Room (Springettsbury lobby) and the narthex. Baby changing stations are provided in these restrooms.

**The 10:30 AM Liturgy is live streamed on YouTube.** Search St. Paul's Lutheran Church S. George, York, PA. or use this link to our St. Paul's YouTube home page.

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYCfdMzkJo\\_Xvbkxn2IYIg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYCfdMzkJo_Xvbkxn2IYIg). You may also view the service at a later time on YouTube. Please be aware that conversations may be audible to those viewing from home.

**We are not relaxing our guidelines at this time. Procedures at St. Paul's are currently being reviewed by our Covid Task Force and by Church Council. Please remain diligent.**

## **Guidelines for Worship during the time of COVID-19**

### **Entering and Leaving the Church:**

*Face masks are required inside,*

*Please take your service bulletin with you and dispose of it properly.*

### **Offerings:**

*Monetary offerings may be placed in the basins provided at the entrances to the nave prior to the service or immediately following the service. You may also donate via our website at*

*[www.stpaulsyork.org](http://www.stpaulsyork.org)*

### **While in the Nave:**

***Please wear your mask.** Please sit in designated pews only. You may sit together as a family. We ask that you practice social distancing from one family to the next within the pew. Occasionally an usher may seat a guest in the red zone.*

### **Communion Procedure:**

- *Ushers will direct you. The pulpit side (left) of the nave communes first followed by the font side (right).*
- *Wearing your face mask, come to the chancel step taking your place at one of the five positions marked on the chancel floor with a green cross.*
- *Your entire household may gather at a position marked by the green cross.*
- *Extend your arms and cup your hands together to receive the host.*
- *Once the minister has moved to the next group, then remove your mask, receive the host, replace your mask and return to your pew by the closest side aisle. There is no need to hurry.*
- *We are receiving communion in one kind only (bread/host).*

Our COVID-19 task force is assisting us as we remain open. Please thank Dr. Jessica Ericson, Sheridan Palmer, Deacon Harold Sargeant, and Dr. Martha Thomas for their dedication and service.

**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Sunday, July 11, 2021**  
**Holy Communion 10:30 AM**

**PRELUDE**

*I Call to You Lord Jesus*

J. S. Bach

*Stand turning towards the font.*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*The assembly stands. The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

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

**Amen.**

Let us pray. Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

**ENTRANCE HYMN** *Let Justice Flow Like Streams (WOV 763) stanzas 1, 2 & 3*



1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spar - kling wa - ter, pure,  
2 Let righ - teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,  
3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true.



en - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans - ing, sure,  
an ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans - lat - ed in - to deed,  
and jus - tice, right, and peace per - vade this world our whole life through.

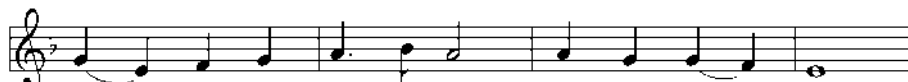
**APOSTOLIC GREETING**

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.**

**KYRIE**



A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:    ☩ Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*



A Chri - ste e - le - i - son:    ☩ Christ, have mer - cy.  
*Christ, . . . . have mer - cy:*



A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:    ☩ Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

*Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

*Sit*

**FIRST READING**

Amos 7:7-15

*(back cover)*

**PSALM**

Psalm 85:8-13 *Spoken responsively by half verse.*

- <sup>8</sup> I will listen to what the LORD | God is saying,\*  
**for he is speaking peace to his faithful people  
and to those who turn their | hearts to him.**
- <sup>9</sup> Truly, his salvation is very near to | those who fear him,\*  
**that his glory may dwell | in our land.**
- <sup>10</sup> Mercy and truth have | met together;\*  
**righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.**
- <sup>11</sup> Truth 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 him,\*  
**and peace shall be a pathway | for his feet.**

*Stand*

**VERSE**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Stand*

**HOLY GOSPEL**

Mark 6:14-29

*(back cover)*

The Holy Gospel according to **St. Mark** **Glory to you, O Lord.**  
*At the conclusion of the Gospel.*  
The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

**SERMON**

Pastor Reep

*Stand*

## APOSTLE'S 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.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

*A brief silence.*

Holy God, bestow your grace upon your beloved church, lavish your wisdom upon us, and redeem us from our faults, that by our witness your name will be exalted. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You steadfastly tend to the smallest of seeds and the mightiest of sycamore trees. Nourish the growth of fruit, grain, and other crops, and bless the work of farmers and laborers.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

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.**

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.**

We pray for this holy house and for all those who worship here. We pray especially for those whose efforts behind the scenes often go unnoticed; for the custodian(s) and maintenance workers, for our office staff 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. 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; Father, Son and Holy Spirit, trusting in your abiding grace. **Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

*The ministers and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## OFFERTORY

*As the pastor prepares the altar the people sing.*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## THANKSGIVING

We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you. Through him you created all things, and in him you take delight.

He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb.

He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.

It is he, our Lord Jesus, who fulfilled all your will and won for you a holy people; he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

It is he who, handed over to a death he freely accepted, in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection, taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:

Take and eat; this is my body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This is my blood poured out for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection, we lift this bread and cup before you, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

And we ask you:

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your Church;  
gather into one all who share this bread and wine;  
fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth,  
that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ.

Through him all glory and honor are yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church both now and forever. Amen.

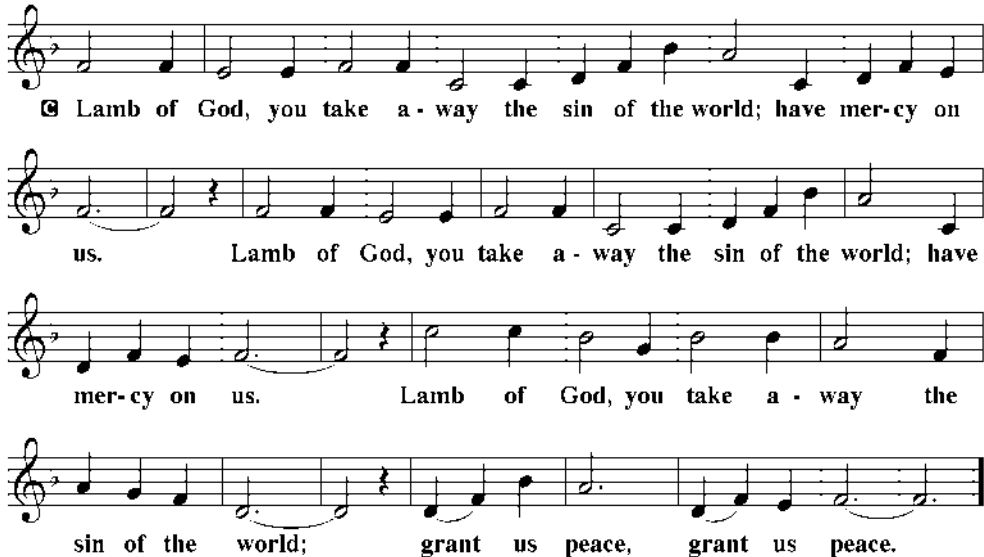
Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

### 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

FRACTION RITE *The bread is broken. A brief silence is kept.*

AGNUS DEI *sung by all*



☞ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*Sit The pastor cleanses hands and prepares for the distribution of Holy Communion.*

### COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

*Instructions for receiving the sacrament are on the inside front cover of the bulletin.*

*Stand*

### POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
Amen



## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever. **Amen**

## BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, Son, Holy Spirit, Bless you now and forever. **Amen**

## HYMN

*Faith of Our Fathers (LBW 500) stanzas 2&3*



1 Faith of our fa - thers, liv - ing still in spite of dun - geon,  
2 The mar - tyrs, chained in pris - ons dark, were still in heart and  
3 Faith of our fa - thers! We will love both friend and foe in



fire, and sword. Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy  
con - science free; and blest would be their chil - dren's fate  
all our strife; pro - claim thee too, as love knows how.

*Refrain*



when-e'er we hear that glo - rious word.  
if they, like them, should die for thee. Faith of our fa - thers,  
by sav - ing word and faith - ful life.



ho - ly faith, we will be true to thee till death.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Sit*

## POSTLUDE

*Toccata*

*Gilbert Martin*

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*Please join in fellowship outside on the South lawn.*

*Please...be respectful of distancing and personal space as you leave.*

*...feel free to gather outside for conversation.*

*...take your service bulletin with you and dispose of it properly.*

*In our prayers we remember...*

*The Hawkins Family, Deirdre McManama, Nancy Smith, Jim Gilbert, Roland Craig, Julie Stephan, Elaine Mummert, Orven Cook, Martha Spillman, Ron Stiffler, Ann DeMille, Terry Kaczor, Barbara Ruppert, Chuck Oelsner, Chas Ebling, Morgan Lanzalotti, Courtney Snell, Jessica Arnold, Betty Mehring, Drew Herdson, Kristine Gross, Porter Stacey.*

**St. Paul's Food Pantry –  
Volunteer Opportunity on Sunday Morning and Tuesday Distribution**

Thankfully, the St. Paul's Food Pantry has been able to remain open, with modifications, throughout the pandemic. In March 2020, pantry volunteers moved quickly to prepackaging food for clients and meeting them outside with groceries. Our highest numbers were up to 80 families per week. Now we are closer to 40 which is in the high range of pre-pandemic times. Every family receives 3-4 frozen meats, 1-2 dozen eggs, milk, cheese, and often a fresh fruit along with cereal, pastas, soups, canned fruits, beans, and vegetables.

While some volunteers were unable to continue serving, some stepped forward and began serving weekly instead of monthly. At least 8 new volunteers have participated as well. For those wishing to help, but unable to participate due to jobs or school during the week, there is a new volunteer opportunity. Twice a month volunteers work between Sunday services at 9:00 AM to stock the shelves. Contact Patty Snyder if you are willing to help in this ministry.

We can once again safely bring clients into the building to select their own groceries. With this return comes the need for additional helpers on Tuesday mornings. Please help if you can.

**Food Pantry—July**

**Items needed:** Pancake mix, 4 pks of toilet paper, canned or boxed potatoes, stuffing mix, jelly, boxed rice. We also need paper grocery bags with handles.

Anyone able to help can contact Teresa Rohrbaugh, Patty Snyder, or Janet and Larry Moore. Plastic Bags are always needed. Money donations are gratefully accepted. Please place cash or check in a "special" envelope marked "Pantry".



Flowers This Week

*The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God.*

**Altar Flowers**

The Springettsbury Hallway bulletin board has the sign-up sheet to sponsor flowers for available dates for the year. Many Sundays are still available! Cost is \$30 per vase.

## This Week at St. Paul's July 11—18

Church office open 7:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Mon—Thurs, 7:30 a.m.—12 noon Fri

### Sunday, July 11

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist—Outside  
 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist - live streamed.  
 6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

### Monday, July 12

6:30 PM Scout Leaders Mtg—ZOOM  
 7:00 PM Boy Scout Meeting— ZOOM

7:00 PM Council Meeting

### Tuesday, July 6

9:30 AM Pantry  
 4:30 PM Bible Adventure-Rocky Ridge, Grey Squirrel Pavillion

### Sunday, July 18

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist—Outside  
 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist - live streamed.  
 6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

Next Sunday we welcome organ students, Jacqueline and Jonathan Brettschneider, who will be playing for our 10:30 AM service. Both students study with Victor Fields and their mother, Mable Tang is our piano technician.

## Serving the Lord with Gladness

DATE	TIME	Prayers	Lector	Ushers	AV Team Livestream	Outside Set-up Crew	Altar Set-up Communion Both	Altar Clean-up Communion 10:30AM
7/11	Early Outside	Lois Ann Schroeder	Deb Becker	Larry Becker Sheridan Palmer		Tom Martin	Same	
	Late	Bob Reed	Connie Reed	Kem Vaught Carol Woodbury	Andrew			Sandy Dicken-sheets Tonya Cave

### STAFF

Pastor  
 Youth Director  
 Secretary  
 Sexton  
 Preschool Director

Reverend Stanley Reep [prreep.stpaulsyork@comcast.net](mailto:prreep.stpaulsyork@comcast.net)  
 Kelly Moore-Spencer [kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net](mailto:kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net)  
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 Ted Weikert [st.paulsyork@comcast.net](mailto:st.paulsyork@comcast.net)  
 Deb Becker [director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com](mailto:director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com)

I fear we have lost our momentum. I fear we have lost sight of being an Easter people. I fear that decisions made during the past months of the pandemic have offended, annoyed, aggravated, and have driven away sisters and brothers once embraced by the mission of the congregation *“To teach the world that God is love.”* I fear that complacency has reached in and wrapped folks up turning them inward rather than out toward neighbor and world. These are a few of my congregation fears. But there are other fears that are beyond the community of faith.

On the global front South Korea fears North Korea’s growing arsenal of missals. Japan fears China’s advancing border as they push out into the sea. The UK, post Brexit, fears ramifications of trade from the European Union. Developing nations fear they won’t receive enough vaccine in a timely fashion to keep up with advancing variants. On the home front, perhaps masked by recent celebrations of Independence Day, we fear Cyber-attacks, nuclear proliferation, climate change, national debt, and a host of other things from vulnerable power grids to increased gun violence in our streets.

Such fears are not new to people, especially to people of faith. We have a history that is riddled with fearful situations, fearful times, fearful leaders, and a God who persistently acts seeking to calm fears and put us on a different footing.

In the Old Testament reading Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, feared Amos the prophet. God’s people have not been living according to the law of the Lord. King Jeroboam has led the people astray. Amaziah knows that the king will not like what Amos the prophet has to say. They are not measuring up. The prophet Amos’ word will not be welcomed by King Jeroboam it will offend him, annoy him, aggravate him, and seek to have Amos driven away.

In the gospel reading from Mark, it is the religious community who feared the disciples. Can you imagine fearing the disciples? These are a dozen folks who have been called to follow Jesus going about doing the things that he commands them to do. But the religious community feared them. They feared them because the disciples went out 2 by 2 and were successful. Success, meaning that they did what they were sent to do; casting out demons, healing the sick, and preaching the Word in the greater community. They were doing the same things that Jesus was doing. Now there were more of them. Fear was heightened.

King Herod feared John the Baptist. John the baptizer opens the account of the gospel announcing repentance for the forgiveness of sins. He is seen as a prophet on the edge. This one who wore camel’s hair and ate wild locusts is now incarcerated in one of King Herod’s prison cells. Herod feared him. Herod feared him because of the immorality he entered into utilizing the improper use of his civic power. John sits in a prison cell while Herod and his guests celebrate at a birthday party that is careening out of control. It is out of control because once again the King’s immoral desires and actions lead to an outlandish promise.

John’s fate now rests in the hands of a ruler who can be manipulated by others. *“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.” And he solemnly swore to her, “Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom.” The girl went out and*

said to her mother, “What should I ask for?” her mother replied, “The head of John the baptizer.” 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.” Herod feared John.

Later on we encounter Pilate. Pilate feared Jesus. Jesus, whose message was peaceful, ends up in the presence of a ruler who can be manipulated by others. Like Herod, Pilate, reluctantly agrees to an execution he would not have chosen himself. The people screamed “crucify him” Pilate caved, and Jesus is put to death on a cross on a hill outside of Jerusalem.

Fear is in the air. Sometimes it is palpable. I fear lots of things; the results of medical tests, I fear skin cancer in the summer and I fear falling and breaking bones on winter’s ice. I fear other things too; like the societal drift from God, congregants who scarcely participate in worship, I fear the slip of prayer from daily life. And you, you have fears too. Some we may share, but many are different I am sure. For the majority of the faith community it’s been over a year and a half since we have gathered together formally or informally and articulated our fears.

These texts creep into the middle of our summer worship. They creep into the middle of the gospel account of Mark and provide the reader a turning point, a transition as Jesus’ ministry moves into full swing. Fear is a terrible thing. That is why messengers of God, more times than not, proclaim “Fear not” “Don’t be afraid.” And yet in our human condition fear remains.

South Korea fears North Korea. Japan fears China’s subtle but threatening advances. The UK fears ramifications from Brexit. Nations fear vaccine unavailability. We fear Cyber-attacks, nuclear proliferation, climate change, national debt, vulnerable power grids and violence in our streets. Amaziah fears Amos. The religious community fears the disciples.

Herod fears John the Baptist. Pilate fears Jesus.

The good news in Christ Jesus is that our fears need not manipulate us, or lead us to reluctant decisions. Christ Jesus was feared by those who could not control him, who did not understand him, who could not grasp the love that he embodied or the depth of his kindness, his grace, his mercy. Jesus offers us a turning point this morning. To turn from fear and the things and situations that draw us away from him, that draw us away from the faith community, and away from his message of beauty, truth, and love for all, to turn to him.

This morning there isn’t a birthday party featuring exotic dancers, but there is a rich and sumptuous feast, a holy meal to which you are invited. At this banquet we are not granted anything we wish as participants, but we are given what is needed for life, the body of our Lord Jesus Christ; we receive his forgiveness and the reconciliation that comes from it. Such a lavish gift can seem to be exotic but it cannot be controlled, completely understood, or fully comprehended. That is the way of God. Coming to us suddenly when we least expect it, a child in a manger, a teacher in an upper room, a healer on a cross, a voice from the other side of the tomb providing us a turning point where fears subside and life that is really life begins. Christ Jesus calls us from fear and death, to live as his hope filled sisters and brothers. Amen.

**FIRST READING: Amos 7:7-15**

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.'"

**Psalms 85:8-13****SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14**

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, <sup>4</sup>just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup>He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup>that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

<sup>11</sup>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, <sup>12</sup>so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>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; <sup>14</sup>this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

**GOSPEL: Mark 6:14-29**

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.

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 23; Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56.

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