



United in Christ: Hope Now! Hope Always!

“Wait, Israel, for God! Wait with hope! Hope now! Hope always! Psalm 131:3

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

July 11, 2021

7th Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor: Paula Geister-Jones Lay Ministry Administrator: Jenny Hoffman

Organist/Pianist: Linda Kunz Soloist: Kyla Betts

Lector: Marti Conant Acolytes: Henry Brabender, Gatlin Empey

Ushers: Kyler Knauf, Elsa Jones, Flowers given by Rita Johnson in memory of her husband Eugene’s Birthday and their Anniversary

Tune your radio to FM 87.9 Technical Support: Thomas Lehr

When Amos reports his vision of God judging Israel for its mistreatment of the poor, he becomes a threat to the power of the priests and the king. John the Baptist also speaks truth to power, and Herod has him killed. In Herod’s fear that Jesus is John returned from the dead, we may hear hope for the oppressed: all the prophets killed through the ages are alive in Jesus. We are called to witness to justice in company with them, and to proclaim God’s saving love.

CALL TO WORSHIP: “Let Justice Flow Like Streams”

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

C: Amen

P: Drawn to Christ and seeking God’s abundance, let us confess our sin.
Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God, our provider,

C: help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to

our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

P: Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, ✝ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

C: Amen.

Stand

HYMN: "Just a Closer Walk with Thee" #697 ELW

Refrain: Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea;
daily walking close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

vs. 1: I am weak but thou art strong: Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee. *Refrain*

vs. 2: Through this world of toil and snares, if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. *Refrain*

vs. 3: When my feeble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;
guide me gently, safely o'er
to thy kingdom shore, to thy shore. *Refrain*

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

LITANY

P: The word is near you,

C: on your lips and in your heart.

P: If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,

C: and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

P: Faith comes from what is heard,

C: and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

HYMN OF PRAISE: "Oh, Sing to the Lord" #822 ELW vs. 1,2,5

vs. 1: Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song.

Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song.

Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song.

Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.

vs. 2: For God is the Lord, and God has done wonders.

For God is the Lord, and God has done wonders.

For God is the Lord, and God has done wonders.

Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.

vs. 5: For Jesus is Lord! Amen! Alleluia!

For Jesus is Lord! Amen! Alleluia!

For Jesus is Lord! Amen! Alleluia!

Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

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

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.

Sit

ANTHEM: "Healing River" by Hellerman & Minkoff

FIRST READING: Amos 7:7-15

⁷God showed me this vision: My Master was standing beside a wall. In his hand he held a plumb line. ⁸⁻⁹God said to me, "What do you see, Amos?" I said, "A plumb line." Then my Master said, "Look what I've done. I've hung a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel. I've spared them for the last time. This is it! "Isaac's

sex-and-religion shrines will be smashed, Israel's unholy shrines will be knocked to pieces. I'm raising my sword against the royal family of Jeroboam." ¹⁰ Amaziah, priest at the shrine at Bethel, sent a message to Jeroboam, king of Israel: "Amos is plotting to get rid of you; and he's doing it as an insider, working from within Israel. His talk will destroy the country. He's got to be silenced. Do you know what Amos is saying? ¹¹ 'Jeroboam will be killed. Israel is headed for exile.'" ¹²⁻¹³ Then Amaziah confronted Amos: "Seer, be on your way! Get out of here and go back to Judah where you came from! Hang out there. Do your preaching there. But no more preaching at Bethel! Don't show your face here again. This is the king's chapel. This is a royal shrine." ¹⁴⁻¹⁵ But Amos stood up to Amaziah: "I never set up to be a preacher, never had plans to be a preacher. I raised cattle and I pruned trees. Then GOD took me off the farm and said, 'Go preach to my people Israel.'

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

GOSPEL CANTICLE: "Word of God, Come Down on Earth" #510 ELW

**Word of God, come down on earth,
living rain from heav'n descending;
touch our hearts and bring to birth
faith and hope and love unending.**

**Word almighty, we revere you;
Word made flesh, we long to hear you.**

The Gospel is announced...

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 6th Chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Mark 6:14-19

¹⁴ King Herod heard of all this, for by this time the name of Jesus was on everyone's lips. He said, "This has to be John the Baptizer come back from the dead—that's why he's able to work miracles!" ¹⁵ Others said, "No, it's Elijah." Others said, "He's a prophet, just like one of the old-time prophets." ¹⁶ But Herod wouldn't budge: "It's John, sure enough. I cut off his head, and now he's back, alive." ¹⁷⁻²⁰ Herod was the one who had ordered the arrest of John, put him in chains, and sent him to prison at the nagging of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife. For John had provoked Herod by naming his relationship with Herodias "adultery." Herodias, smoldering with hate, wanted to kill him, but didn't dare because Herod was in awe of John. Convinced that he was a holy man, he gave

him special treatment. Whenever he listened to him he was miserable with guilt—and yet he couldn't stay away. Something in John kept pulling him back.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

Stand

HYMN: “Let Justice Flow like Streams” #717 ELW

vs. 1: Let justice flow like streams of sparkling water, pure, enabling growth, refreshing life, abundant, cleansing, sure.

vs. 2: Let righteousness roll on as others' cares we heed, an ever-flowing stream of faith translated into deed.

vs. 3: So may God's plumb line, straight, define our measure true, and justice, right, and peace pervade this world our whole life through.

APOSTLE'S 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: Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

A Brief Silence

P: Holy parent, you welcome your people into one family and gather all things to yourself. Bestow your grace upon your beloved church, lavish your wisdom upon us, and redeem us from our faults, that by our witness all might praise your glory. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Awesome Creator, you steadfastly tend to the smallest of seeds and the mightiest of sycamore trees. Spring up green growth from the earth, nourish the growth of fruit, grain, and other crops, and bless the work of farmers and laborers. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: God of the oppressed, 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,

C: hear our prayer.

P: God of strength, 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,

C: hear our prayer.

P: God of love, we pray for this holy house and 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 (*other positions may be named*), and for all of our volunteers. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: 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,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.

C: Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

C: And also with you.

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.

Sit

ANOUNCEMENTS

Stand

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

P: The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ✝ be upon you now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

SENDING HYMN: "Let Streams of Living Justice" #710 ELW vs. 1, 2

**vs. 1: Let streams of living justice flow down upon the earth;
give freedom's light to captives, let all the poor have worth.**

**The hungry's hands are pleading, the workers claim their rights,
the mourners long for laughter, the blinded seek for sight.**

**Make liberty a beacon, strike down the iron pow'r;
abolish ancient vengeance: proclaim your people's hour.**

**vs. 2: For healing of the nations, for peace that will not end
for love that makes us lovers, God Grant us grace to mend.**

**Weave our varied gifts together; knit our lives as they are spun;
on your loom of time enroll us till our thread of life is run.**

**O great weaver of our fabric, bind church and world in one;
dye our texture with your radiance, light our colors with your sun.**

POSTLUDE: "Thaxted" Holst/Dahl & Culli