

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

THEME: God plans are purposeful and always for our benefit.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN "Red Book" 234 (Twice through) This is the Day

(Men) This is the day,
(Women) This is the day
(Men) That the Lord hath made,
(Women) That the Lord hath made.
(Men) We will rejoice,
(Women) We will rejoice
(Men) And be glad in it,
(Women) And be glad in it,
(All) This is the day that the Lord hath made,
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
(Men) This is the day,
(Women) This is the day
(All) That the Lord hath made.

OPENING WORDS

P: Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my pleas for mercy!

C: In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

P: Enter not into judgment with your servant,

C: For no one living is righteous before you.

P: I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done;

C: I ponder the work of your hands.

P: Answer me quickly, O Lord! My spirit fails!

C: Hide not your face from me, lest I be like those who go down to the pit.

P: Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love, FOR IN YOU I TRUST!

C: Make me know the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul!

Psalm 143

OPENING UP TO GOD AND ONE ANOTHER

P: God wants us to be certain about our standing before Him. In today's passage from Ephesians we are reminded of God's good intentions for us personally: "He chose us in him before the foundations of the world." This passage, however, does not give us the right to judge others and their standing before God. During our time of silence today, we reflect on the ways we have fallen short by being too quick to judge others.

Silence

P: We confess.....

C: Lord, we confess that we have missed the mark. Wanting us to claim our position before You.....we have instead focused on where other people should be in their standing with You. Too often we have kept track of the shortcomings of others and their faults. Too often we have forgotten to keep track of the goodness You daily provide right before us. Give us a new heart today—one that trusts You to be the judge of all living things.

P: God, our heavenly Creator, hears the prayers of all people and answers those prayers. Our prayer for forgiveness is answered in the person of Jesus Christ, God's Son, who died for our sin that we might have new life. The distance between God and ourselves has been brought together by love made perfect in the sacrifice of Jesus. To those who believe God's word of truth comes power to be the people of God. Praise God for the gift of love to us.

C: Amen

HYMN OF PRAISE "Red Book" 74 (verses 1 and 5 only) Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy, holy, Holy, holy
Lord God Almighty; And we lift our hearts before You as a
Token of our love, Holy, holy, holy holy.

Gracious Father, Gracious Father, We're so blest to be Your
Children, Gracious Father; And we lift our heads before You as a
Token of our love, Gracious Father, Gracious Father.

Precious Jesus, Precious Jesus, We're so glad that You've redeemed
Us, Precious Jesus; And we lift our hands before You as a
Token of our love, Precious Jesus, Precious Jesus.

Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit, Come and fill our hearts a
New, Holy Spirit; And we lift our voice before You as a
Token of our love, Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit.

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
Hallelujah, And we lift our hearts before You as a
Token of our love, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us Pray.....God of glory, Father of love, peace comes from you alone. Send us as peacemakers and witnesses to your kingdom, and fill our hearts with joy in your promises of salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Old Testament: Amos 7:7-15

Amos shows the crookedness of the people with the plumb line

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. 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;
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.”

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. For thus Amos has said,

“Jeroboam shall die by the sword,
and Israel must go into exile
away from his land.”

And Amaziah said to Amos, “O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, and eat bread there, and prophesy there, but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.”

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. But the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’

Epistle: Ephesians 1:3-14

The mystery of God's plan is made known

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, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

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, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. 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, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL: Mark 6:14-29

John the Baptist is put to death

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.” But others said, “He is Elijah.” And others said, “He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.” But when Herod heard of it, he said, “John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.” 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. For John had been saying to Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife.” And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to put him to death. But she could not, 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.

But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his nobles and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. 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." And he vowed to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half of my kingdom." And she went out and said to her mother, "For what should I ask?" And she said, "The head of John the Baptist." 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." And the king was exceedingly sorry, but because of his oaths and his guests he did not want to break his word to her. And immediately the king sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison and brought his head on a platter and gave it to the girl, and the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard of it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

APOSTLE'S CREED

**C: 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 was 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 Christian Church,

The communion of saints,

The forgiveness of sins,

The resurrection of the body,

And the life everlasting. Amen.

SERMON

"Will We Be Missed?"

HYMN "Green Book" 424 (vs. 1,2,3 and 5 only)

Lord of Glory...

Lord of glory, you have bought us
With your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
That tremendous sacrifice;
And with that have freely given
Blessings countless as the sand
To the unthankful and the evil
With your own unsparing hand.

Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you
Gladly, freely of your own.
With the sunshine of our goodness
Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures,
Warmed by you, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed
'Tis to give than to receive.

Wondrous honor you have given
To our humblest charity
In your own mysterious sentence,
"You have done it all to me."
Can it be, O gracious Master,
That you deign for alms to sue,
Saying by your poor and needy,
"Give as I have given to you"?

Yes, the sorrow and the sufferings
Which on every hand we view
Channels are for gifts and offerings
Due by solemn right to your;
Right of which we may not rob you,
Debt we may not choose to pay
Lest that face of love and pity
Turn from us another day.

Lord of glory, you have bought us
With your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
That tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust you boldly,
Hop, to stay our souls on you;
But, oh, best of all your graces,
With your love our love renew.

OFFERING

We offer our thanksgiving for what God has first given us—our selves, our time, our possessions)

COLLECTING MITES

OFFERTORY

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

After each portion of the prayers, these words are spoken:

P: Lord, in your mercy

C: hear our prayer

C: Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

CLOSING HYMN "Red Book" 9

Beautiful Savior

Beautiful Savior, King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee, Truly I'd serve thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
He makes our sorrowing spirit sing.

Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight,
And the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer,
Than all the angels in the sky.

Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration,
Now and forevermore be Thine!

DISMISSAL

P: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.