

9:00 A.M., SUNDAY, JULY 11, 2021

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.



Welcome to guests and visitors! *This pamphlet will guide your worship today. The assembly's parts are indicated by ☒ and bold font. The vertical line in the left margin indicates when the assembly stands as each is able.*

About Holy Communion with Saint John Lutheran Church: "It is taught that the true body and blood of Christ are truly present under the form of bread and wine in the Lord's Supper and are distributed and received there" (Augsburg Confession, Article X)· "A person who has faith in these words, 'given for you' and 'shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,' is really worthy and well prepared." "Forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation are given to us in the sacrament" (The Small Catechism, Part VI)· "This church practices Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are welcomed to Communion" (The Use of the Means of Grace, Principle 50)·

Following the introductory verses, a welcome and introduction to the day are made.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

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

☒ Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your

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Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

☩ Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

☩ we confess

that we are captive 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.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

☩ Amen.

GATHERING PSALM (55)

Hear my prayer, O God;

☩ do not hide yourself from my petition.

Listen to me and answer me;

☩ I have no peace, because of my cares.

I am shaken by the noise of the enemy

☩ and by the pressure of the wicked;

for they have cast an evil spell upon me
☩ and are set against me in fury.

My heart quakes within me,
☩ and the terrors of death have fallen upon me.

Fear and trembling have come over me,
☩ and horror overwhelms me.

But I will call upon God,
☩ and the Lord will deliver me.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
☩ as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

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

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
☩ Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord.
☩ Lord, have mercy.

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.
☩ Lord, have mercy.

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

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
☩ Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

☩ And also with you.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

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.

FIRST READING: Amos 7:7-15

⁷This 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. ⁸And 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;

⁹the 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."

¹⁰Then 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. ¹¹For thus Amos has said,

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

¹²And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; ¹³but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom."

¹⁴Then Amos answered Amaziah, "I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, ¹⁵and 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.

PSALMODY: Psalm 85:8-13

⁸I 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.

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

¹⁰Mercy and truth have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

**☞ ¹¹Truth shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

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

**☞ ¹³Righteousness shall go before him,
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has
blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,
⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be
holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as
his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his
will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in
the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the
forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that
he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to
us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set
forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things
in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In 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,
¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for
the praise of his glory. ¹³In 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; ¹⁴this 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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,

☩ and grant us your salvation.

Lord, you were favorable to your land;

☩ you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of your people;

☩ you pardoned all their sin.

Alleluia. May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our hearts,

☩ that we may know the hope to which God has called us. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Mark 6:14-29

The holy gospel according to Mark.

☩ Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴King 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."

¹⁵But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." ¹⁶But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

¹⁷For 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. ¹⁸For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." ¹⁹And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, ²⁰for 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. ²¹But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. ²²When 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." ²³And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." ²⁴She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." ²⁵Immediately 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." ²⁶The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, ²⁸brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹When 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.

SERMON

Silence for reflection may follow the sermon.

MUSICAL OFFERING

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

☩ And also with you.

The assembly remains in place, as the service continues.

APOSTLES' CREED

God has made us God's people through our baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**☩ 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

Each petition ends: Lord, in your mercy,

☩ hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude: All these things and whatever else You see that we need, grant us, O God . . . one God, now and forever.

☩ Amen.

OFFERING PRESENTATION

Offerings are received at the door as one enters. The offering is presented for the work of Christ's Church, here and throughout the world.

OFFERTORY

Jesus said, "The first commandment is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one;

**☩ you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul,
and with all your mind,
and with all your strength.'**

The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

☩ There is no other commandment greater than these."

OFFERING PRAYER

At the conclusion, the assembly responds:

☩ Amen.

The table is set.

DIALOGUE

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 our God.

☩ It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

The minister continues, concluding: ... and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (SANCTUS)

**☩ Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. . . .

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

☩ Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

☩ Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**☩ Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

☞ Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION SONG (AGNUS DEI)

**☞ Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Please remain seated where you are. The communion elements will be brought to you. The host is received in your open hand. The wine will be taken by you from an individual glass. Carefully place your empty glass on the pew until end of worship.

BLESSING & POST-COMMUNION PSALM (84)

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

☞ Amen.

How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts!

**☞ My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.**

Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;
hearken, O God of Jacob.

**☞ Behold our defender, O God;
and look upon the face of your anointed.**

For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room,
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God than to dwell in
the tents of the wicked.

**☞ For the Lord God is both sun and shield;
he will give grace and glory;**

no good thing will the Lord withhold
from those who walk with integrity.

**☞ O Lord of hosts,
happy are they who put their trust in you!**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
☞ as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

At the conclusion, the assembly responds:

☞ Amen.

BLESSING

Response after the blessing:

☞ Amen.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please check web-sites and printed materials for further information.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

☞ Thanks be to God.

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Which Kingdom?

Amid the dancing, feasting, and complicated family dynamics of this week's gospel text, we hear a story of two leaders who embody power very differently: John, a man of righteousness and integrity, and Herod, whose power is corrupted by fear, greed, and paranoia. The former embodies the kind of power that points us to life and wholeness. The latter kind of power results in gruesome and irrational death. All too often, corruption and greed seem to win the day. We might find ourselves desperately searching for Christ and wondering if there is any hope to be salvaged from the wreckage of grief, anxiety, and pain present in our world.

The good news is that the story of God doesn't end in senseless violence at the hands of power-hungry rulers. There is another banquet to come. This banquet will be a celebration in which the wealthy and powerful are not front and center. It will be a feast where Jesus is the host and there is more than enough for everyone to eat their fill. It is a banquet of new life, hope, and a kind of power that empties itself for the sake of the other.

But first we sit in the hard truths of our world. In his dying breath, John continues to challenge us, pointing the way to Jesus and proclaiming a baptism of repentance. We must train our eyes to recognize power run amok, the places where fear governs our nations, our cities, our hearts. We must cry out against injustice, and speak up when we witness the truth of God's mercy and love being silenced.

In Christ, we have been freed to boldly proclaim and embody the gospel for the sake of our neighbors. We are citizens of *God's* kingdom after all, not Herod's. So, will we be people of courage and truth, or will we be people of self-preservation and fear? What kind of power will the church be known for in this time and place?