

**Our Savior Lutheran Church  
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost  
July 11, 2021**

*Thought: The end of life is not to achieve pleasure and avoid pain.  
The end of life is to do the will of God, come what may.*

*–Martin Luther King Jr.*

From the first, Christianity encountered violent opposition because Christians told the truth to power. Even today, even in a culture of religious freedom, contemporary disciples of Jesus should expect to receive pushback from the world and those who hold worldly power because Jesus' people tell the truth.



**Prelude – Lillian Pinkston**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prayer Concerns**

**Sharing of the Peace**

**Call to Worship (Psalm 85:1-13)**

A: I will listen to what the Lord God is saying; for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

**C: Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land.**

A: Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

**C: Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

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

**C: Righteousness shall go before the Lord and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

## **Gathering Hymn – Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation**

First - Plymouth Church, Nebraska

<https://youtu.be/surmYyxfG2Q>

**Lillian Pinkston (one verse) ELW #645**

*Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ, our head and cornerstone,  
chosen of the Lord and precious, binding all the church in one;  
holy Zion's help forever and our confidence alone.*

## **Invocation**

### **Prayer of Confession and Forgiveness**

P: We don't like to feel powerless in our world, almighty God.

*A Time of Silence for Meditation*

P: In our feelings of powerlessness, we may lash out at those weaker than us or abuse the power that we do have.

**C: Forgive us, gracious God, when we have failed to treat those around us with compassion and mercy. Forgive us, loving God, when we have believed that earthly power is something to be desired above all else. Show us, God, your power in the world.**

P: Help us to understand that only through your nonviolent power of love and mercy will we ever experience true power in our lives and in our world. Jesus said from the cross – “Into your hands I commit my Spirit.”

**C: Guide us with your Spirit, O God. 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

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the people 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 and Amen!**

## Hymn of Praise – Listen, God is Calling

*(Concordia Publishing House)*

<https://youtu.be/9skJmBQsR-l>

## Prayer of the Day

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

**C: 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.**

## The Word

### Old Testament reading – Amos 7:7-15

*The sign of the plumb line: God's judgment on Israel*

<sup>7</sup> This is what he 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.'

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### Epistle reading – Ephesians 1:3-14

*Chosen in Christ to live to the praise of God's glory*

<https://youtu.be/ldzivinZ-HQ>

<sup>3</sup> 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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Holy Gospel – Mark 6:14-29**

*The death of John the Baptist*

The Holy Gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>14</sup> King Herod heard of it, 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.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Children of God Message**

<https://youtu.be/DmG9oqmHYzM>

**Homily – Pastor Barnes: The Plumb Line of Christ**

<https://youtu.be/saiqVEKj1YM>

**Hymn of the Day – Day of Peace**

First-Plymouth Church, Lincoln NE

[https://youtu.be/w3gc\\_YTLB0s](https://youtu.be/w3gc_YTLB0s)

**Lillian Pinkston (2 verses) ELW #711**

*O day of peace that daily shines  
through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,  
guide us to justice, truth, and love, delivered from our selfish schemes.  
May swords of hate fall from our hands, our hearts from envy find release,  
till by God's grace our warring world  
shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.*

*Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb,  
nor shall the fierce devour the small;  
as beasts and cattle calmly graze, a little child shall lead them all.  
Then enemies shall learn to love, all creatures find their true accord;  
the hope of peace shall be fulfilled,  
for all the earth shall know the Lord.*

### **Apostles' 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*

A: 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.**

A: 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.**

A: 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.**

A: 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.**

A: 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 and maintenance workers, for our office staff, and for all of our volunteers. Lord in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: 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.**

### **Offering and Offertory Prayer**

A: For those who have spread your word into our hearts, O God –

**C: Pastors and teachers, parents and friends...**

A: for those into who hearts you allow us spread your word, O God –

**C: children, friends and strangers...**

A: we offer you these gifts of thanks. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** 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**

**P:** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**C: Come, Holy Spirit.**

## **Lamb of God**

<https://youtu.be/LcgpnvQPoaQ>

## **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,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

## Words of Institution

### Distribution

#### Communion Music – Lillian Pinkston

[https://youtu.be/7SSJicZO6\\_g](https://youtu.be/7SSJicZO6_g)

Blessed Assurance – Jeremy Riddle/Worship Circle Hymns

#### Post Communion Blessing

#### Post Communion Prayer

A: You have filled us with your word, O Christ,

**C: even as you have filled us with yourself.**

A: Direct us to spread your word throughout the world.

**C: for we are your prophetic people.**

A: We bless you now and evermore.

**C: Amen.**

#### Benediction – Numbers 6

#### Sending Music – Lift High the Cross (John Birkhead)

<https://youtu.be/GbcBXYP4AIE>

#### Lillian Pinkston (2 verses) ELW #660

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

*Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,  
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God.*

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

*So shall our son of triumph ever be:  
praise to the Crucified for victory!*

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

## Dismissal

A: Sharing the Word, facing the world,  
standing in Christ, we go to serve.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

### Postlude – Lillian Pinkston

