

# SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Appearances Are Deceiving

July 11, 2021



**As We Gather:** In today's Gospel, it looks like the end of the story when John the Baptist is executed. But he was but the forerunner for Jesus, the promised Messiah. Appearances were certainly deceiving! That was the case with Amos, a herdsman and dresser of sycamore figs when the Lord called him. He did not look like a prophet, but he stood up to Amaziah and Jeroboam in a long line of faithful prophets. Sometimes Satan uses appearances to deceive us, but the Epistle reminds us that God had predestined us to be with Him forever—even before He began creation! Although others might not recognize it, the Holy Spirit is the guarantee of our inheritance. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

## ✕ PREPARATION ✕

Opening Hymn    Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens #589 v. 1, 4



1 Speak, O Lord, Your ser - vant lis - tens, Let Your Word to  
4 As I pray, dear Je - sus, hear me; Let Your words in



me come near; New - born life and spir - it give me,  
me take root. May Your Spir - it e'er be near me



Let each prom - ise still my fear. Death's dread pow'r, its in - ward  
That I bear a - bun - dant fruit. May I dai - ly sing Your



strife, Wars a - gainst Your Word of life; Fill me, Lord, with  
praise, From my heart glad an - thems raise, Till my high - est



love's strong fer - vor That I cling to You for - ev - er!  
praise is giv - en In the end - less joy of heav - en.

Tune and text: Public domain

### Invocation

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

### God's Kids Song and Message

#### *Go and Tell*

Go and tell  
Ev'ryone!  
Tell them all about our Jesus!  
How He died and rose to save us.  
Go and tell  
Ev'ryone!

Share the news  
Ev'ry where!  
Jesus loves me, is my Borthor  
I love Him, we love each other,  
Share the news  
Ev'rywhere!

Go and tell  
Ev'ryone!  
Tell the world to trust and love Him;  
He brins joy and gives us heaven,  
Go and tell  
Ev'ryone!

Copyright © 1991 Concordia Publishing House

**Confession and Absolution**     *Psalm 85:1–13*

P     Today's psalm has two parts. The first is the plea of the psalmist to God, and the second is his announcement of God's promised salvation. We now use Psalm 85 as we confess our sins and hear God's forgiveness for Jesus' sake.

LORD, You were favorable to Your land;

**C     You restored the fortunes of Jacob.**

P     You forgave the iniquity of Your people;

**C     You covered all their sin.**

P     You withdrew all Your wrath;

**C     You turned from Your hot anger.**

P     Restore us again, O God of our salvation,

**C     and put away Your indignation toward us!**

P     Will You be angry with us forever?

**C     Will You prolong Your anger to all generations?**

P     Will You not revive us again,

**C     that Your people may rejoice in You?**

P     Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD,

**C     and grant us Your salvation.**

**We confess, Lord our God, that we have listened to the voices of Satan, the world, and our own desires. We have not loved You with all that we are and have, and we have not considered our neighbors' needs as important as our own. We can only throw ourselves on the mercy of Your gracious court and ask for forgiveness, that we may amend our sinful ways.**

P     Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,  
for He will speak peace to His people, to His saints;

**C     but let them not turn back to folly.**

P Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,  
C **that glory may dwell in our land.**

P Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;  
C **righteousness and peace kiss each other.**

P Faithfulness springs up from the ground,  
C **and righteousness looks down from the sky.**

P Yes, the LORD will give what is good,  
C **and our land will yield its increase.**

P Righteousness will go before Him  
C **and make His footsteps a way.**

P The steadfast love and faithfulness of our God are endless. For the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ and His sacrifice for all our sins, God declares us to be His own children and has opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

**Kyrie** *Ephesians 1:4, 11; 13–14*

P In peace, “holy and blameless before Him,” let us pray to the Lord.  
C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For peace from God’s blessing us in Christ, choosing “us in Him Before the foundation of the world,” let us pray to the Lord.  
C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace of the whole world, in which all things work “according to the counsel of His will,” let us pray to the Lord.  
C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For this holy house and all places where people hear “the word of truth, the gospel of Your salvation,” let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord, until we acquire possession of our inheritance.

C **Amen.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE**      The Law of God Is Good and Wise      #579 v. 1, 3



1 The Law of God is good and wise And sets His  
3 To those who help in Christ have found And would in



will be - fore our eyes, Shows us the way of righ - teous -  
works of love a - bound It shows what deeds are His de -



ness, And dooms to death when we trans - gress.  
light And should be done as good and right.

Text and tune: Public domain

**Salutation**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

**Prayer of the Day**

P Let us pray.

O Lord, You granted Your prophets strength to resist the temptations of the devil and courage to proclaim repentance.

C **Give us pure hearts and minds to follow Your Son faithfully even into suffering and death;**

P through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

## Old Testament Reading *Amos 7:7–15*

<sup>7</sup>This is what [the Lord God] showed me: behold, 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, “Behold, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass by them; <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 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. <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, and eat 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 and said to Amaziah, “I was no prophet, nor a prophet’s son, but I was a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore figs. <sup>15</sup>But the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle *Ephesians 1:3–14*

<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>even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love <sup>5</sup>he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed 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>which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in

heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup>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, <sup>12</sup>so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>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, <sup>14</sup>who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### **Holy Gospel**    *Mark 6:14–29*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the sixth chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>14</sup>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." <sup>15</sup>But others said, "He is Elijah." And others said, "He 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 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. <sup>18</sup>For John had been saying to 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 put him to death. But she could not, <sup>20</sup>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.

<sup>21</sup>But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his nobles and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. <sup>22</sup>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." <sup>23</sup>And he vowed to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half of my kingdom." <sup>24</sup>And she went out and said to her mother, "For what should I ask?" And she said, "The head of John the Baptist." <sup>25</sup>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." <sup>26</sup>And the king was exceedingly sorry, but because of his oaths and his guests he did not want to break his word to her. <sup>27</sup>And immediately the king sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison <sup>28</sup>and brought his head on a platter and gave it to the girl, and the girl gave it to her mother. <sup>29</sup>When his disciples heard of it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**CREED**            *Nicene Creed*

**C** **I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from  
heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living  
and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the Lord and giver of life,  
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and  
 glorified,  
 who spoke by the prophets.  
 And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Sermon Hymn Thy Strong Word #578 v. 1, 5

1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark-ness; At Thy  
 5 Give us lips to sing Thy glo-ry, Tongues Thy  
 speak-ing it was done. For cre-at-ed  
 mer-cy to pro-claim, Throats that shout the  
 light we thank Thee, While Thine or-dered sea-sons run.  
 hope that fills us, Mouths to speak Thy ho-ly name.  
 Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! Praise to  
 Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! May the  
 Thee who light dost send! Al-le-lu-ia,  
 light which Thou dost send Fill our songs with  
 al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia with-out end!  
 al-le-lu-ias, Al-le-lu-ias with-out end!

**Sermon** Heaven is Not for Everyone - Revelation 22:12-17, 20

**Offering Hymn** *All People That on Earth Do Dwell* #791 v. 1-2

1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, Sing to the  
2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed; With - out our  
Lord with cheer - ful voice. Him serve with mirth, His  
aid He did us make. We are His folk, He  
praise forth - tell; Come ye be - fore Him and re - jice.  
doth us feed, And for His sheep He doth us take.

Tune and text: Public domain

**Prayer of the Church**

**P** Let us go to God in prayer for the Church around the world, the nations of this earth, and all who call to Him in their various needs.

Our Father in heaven, uphold and strengthen all families on the earth. Guide parents to teach their children all that You have done and promised. Grant Your blessing wherever Your people gather around Word and Sacrament. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** When the world seems to be winning and Your holy name is used without thought, put a strong confession on the lips of church leaders everywhere. Grant that they are used so that the reality of Your power and grace shine forth to dispel fear and to bring many to faith in our Savior. Lord, in your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

P Extend Your kingdom, O Lord, through mission efforts around the world. Open voices to speak Your word of judgment and grace, and open ears to hear Your invitation to turn and be saved. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Raise up, we pray, leaders at all levels of government who will order society according to Your will. Strengthen those who protect at home and those who defend abroad so that our nation and all others find peaceful solutions to chaos and conflict. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Hear the prayers of the poor, so that their daily needs of food, clothing, and shelter be available to them. Bless all who grow and distribute crops, all who seek to alleviate pain and suffering, and all who fund and build decent housing. Listen especially to those whose needs we know, [*including . . .*]. Give them the healing, comfort, and hope that fits Your gracious plans for them. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

*(additional local prayers may be spoken here)*

P You have graciously forgiven us for Jesus' sake; open doors of opportunity for this congregation to be a welcoming place for people burdened with their past. Grant us to tell them what You have to say to them—words of forgiveness, peace, and hope. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Into Your hands we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your grace for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C Amen.**

**✠ SACRAMENT ✠**

## Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## Proper Preface

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

**Sanctus** Holy, Holy, Holy (Spoken)

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;  
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.**

**Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;  
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He

bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

### **Words of Our Lord**

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

### **Proclamation of Christ**

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

### **Lord's Prayer**

**C 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.

### Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

### Agnus Dei Lamb of God (spoken)

C 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.

### Distribution Hymn: Word of God, Come Down on Earth #545



1 Word of God, come down on earth, Liv - ing rain from  
2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to  
3 Word that caused blind eyes to see, Speak and heal our  
4 Word that speaks God's ten - der love, One with God be -



heav'n de - scend - ing; Touch our hearts and bring to birth  
life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,  
mor - tal blind - ness; Deaf we are: our heal - er be;  
yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove,



Faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,  
Cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, Sav - ing Word, the  
Loose our tongues to tell Your kind - ness. Be our Word in  
God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to



we re - vere You; Word made flesh, we long to hear You.  
world re - stor - ing, Speak to us, Your love out - pour - ing.  
pit - y spo - ken, Heal the world, by sin now bro - ken.  
all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.





Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you; You are My own. In My  
I the Lord will smile up - on you And give you peace: I the



love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you Mine for - ev - er.  
Lord will be your Fa - ther, Sav - ior, Com - fort - er, and Broth - er.



Go, My chil - dren, with My bless - ing— You are My own.  
Go, My chil - dren; I will keep you And give you peace.

Text: © 1983 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110006139.  
Tune: Public domain

## Dismissal

- P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.**

## Acknowledgments

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 3. Copyright © 2021 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2021 Concordia Publishing House.