WELCOME!

We are glad to welcome you today as we gather together to worship God! Please be sure you complete the salmon insert inside your bulletin and turn it in to the usher at the time of communion.

This bulletin will assist you in participating in worship. All parts spoken by the congregation are listed in **bold print and preceded by "C:"**

There are also instructions printed in *italics* that will indicate other helpful descriptions of the service. Large Print Hymns are available. Please see an usher.

Thank you for turning off your cell phones or putting them on "silent" during the service.

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
3220 Columbus Street
Grove City, OH 43123
614-875-2314
www.stjohnsgc.org

*We are committed to **invite** and **welcome** all to Jesus Christ, to **equip** all with an active faith that works in real life, and together go into the world to **serve** in Jesus' name.*

ORGAN PRELUDE "Suite in G, The Rejoicing" Charles Callahan

Please stand

HYMN 848 "Give to Our God Immortal Praise"

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

P: Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.
Most merciful God,

C: 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.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

APOSTOLIC 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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.

Q: **C: Amen.**

FIRST READING: Amos 7:7-15

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. 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; 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 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. 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, earn your 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 Amaziah, "I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'

R: The Word of our Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14

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, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and

blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. 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, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. 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; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

R: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P: The Holy Gospel according to the sixth chapter of Mark.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 6:14-29

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

P: The Gospel of our Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN 812 "Faith of Our Fathers"

SERMON Pastor Seth Jersild

APOSTLES' 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 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 catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response:

P: ...Lord in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P. The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

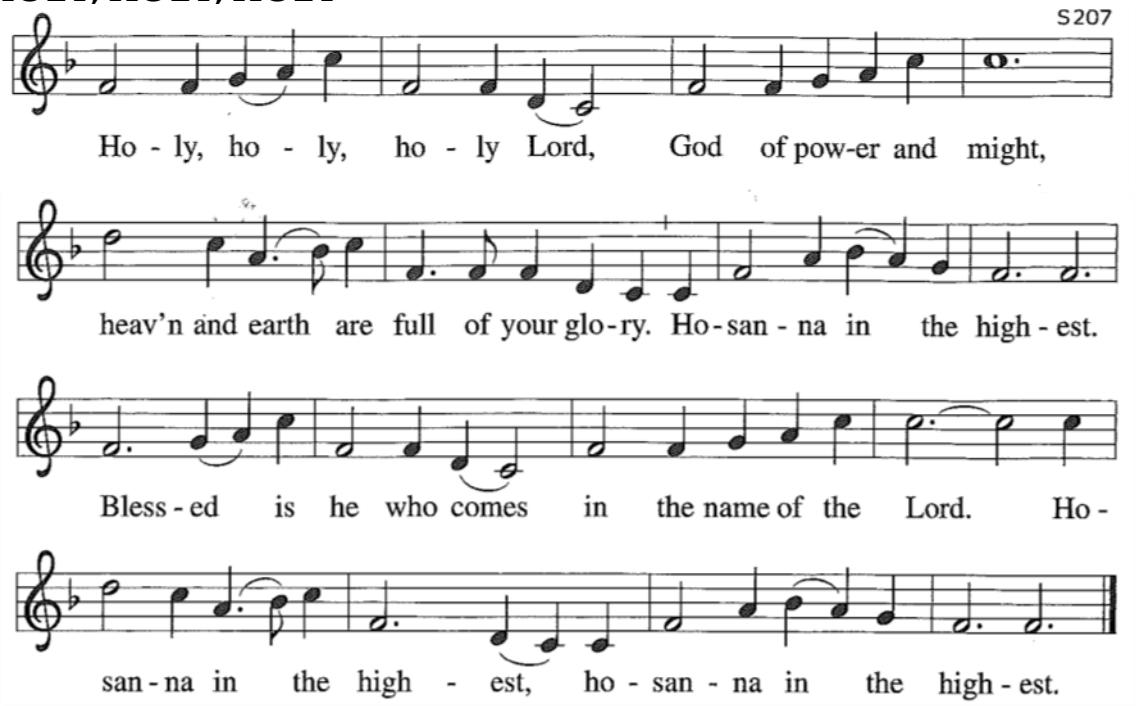
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

P: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy.....…
...and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE 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.

DISTRIBUTION

Please follow the instructions from the pastor for distribution.

Believing in the real presence of Christ's body and blood in the bread and wine of the Holy Communion for the forgiveness of sin, we practice Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are welcomed to the Lord's Table.

BLESSING, PRAYER and BENEDICTION

HYMN 545 "Lord Dismiss Us With Your Blessing"

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

ORGAN POSTLUDE "Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling" Michael Burkhardt
[IN BABILONE]

FINISHING COMMUNION AT HOME AFTER CHURCH
St. John's Lutheran Church, Grove City OH

For your safety and comfort, we are distributing pre-packaged communion kits to members during worship for everyone to take home, rather than eating and drinking in the church building.

The bread and wine will be consecrated with the Words of Jesus during worship, and will be ready to consume afterwards. However, since it is important to have the words of Jesus fresh in our ears before taking the sacrament, we strongly encourage you to use the following order of service once you get home.

First, unpeel the wafer(s) from the top of the package. Next, unseal the juice and place the wafer and juice before you on a table, so they are ready to be consumed.

Then, say the following aloud (or have someone in your group say it for everyone): *In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."*

Now, partake of the wine and bread, trusting that the resurrected Lord Jesus is truly present in the sacrament **for you**, giving you the fullness of his forgiveness, life, and salvation.

After eating and drinking, we suggest saying the following prayer aloud (or have someone in your group say it for everyone): *We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy, you would strengthen us through this gift, in faith towards you and in fervent love for one another. In Jesus' name.* ***Amen****.*

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JULY 11, 2021
SEVENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking faith home

God's steadfast love and faithfulness.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	**Mark 6:14-29**	**The death of John the Baptist**
Monday	**Amos 7:7-15**	**Vision of setting a plumb line**
Tuesday	**Ephesians 1:3-14**	**Thanksgiving for blessings**
Wednesday	**Psalm 86:1-17**	**Save me, Lord**
Thursday	**Deuteronomy 7:7-11**	**A chosen people**
Friday	**Leviticus 26:1-13**	**Rewards for obedience**
Saturday	**Psalm 85:8-13**	**God speaks peace to the people**
Sunday	**Mark 6:30-34, 53-56**	**Jesus teaches and heals**

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. **Psalm 85:10 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:
God of glory and might, guide the rulers of the earth toward justice and mercy for the sake of peace in your world through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:
Dear God, may we see in this food a banquet filled with your love that brings justice and peace to all the earth. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:
May our God and the Lord Jesus Christ bless you with love and faithfulness. (Psalm 85:10)

MILESTONES MINISTRY

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JULY 11, 2021

taking faith home

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Goodness Is Stronger than Evil

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- If you had a magic wand, what would you want to do or have happen?
- We like to have power, but power can be misused and be insensitive to others. Give an example of someone misusing their power.
- Jesus brings a power full of love and faithfulness. Where do you see that power in action?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 6:14-29.

This story of the beheading of John the Baptist at a banquet hosted by King Herod presents an image of contrasts. This story comes between last week's Gospel reading about Jesus' disciples traveling without riches or power of their own and staying with others as guests. The Gospel reading two weeks from now is about Jesus' own banquet of feeding hungry souls on a hillside. Jesus treated the people with compassion like a shepherd caring for the sheep. Earthly powers represented by Herod bend toward corruption, greed, violence, and impulsive actions without thought of consequences. Jesus' rule brings people together in peace, feeds the multitudes out of love, and brings healing and an end to demonic powers. We are reminded that earthly powers and governments are not the rule that wins the day in God's universe. We are called to an ordering of life where *"love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other"* (Psalm 85:10). How does Jesus' power in your life influence your thoughts and actions?

Pray: **Shepherding God, in a world that seeks to dominate and humiliate others, we thank you for your reign of love and faithfulness that will never let us go through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

In our forms of government, local, regional, and national representatives need to hear from us, especially about issues that relate to our moral resolve. How have you voiced your views on current issues?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalm 85 talks about peace. Verse 8 states, *"Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts."* Make a list or draw a picture of what brings peace to you. Then, read the verse slowly three times. Pause after each reading and wonder what God may be saying to you today. Close by praying the Lord's Prayer.

Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost – July 11, 2021

"…had a grudge against him and wanted to put him to death." (Mark 6:19)

Though we don't like to admit this, the Christian life is not always an easy life. Unfortunately, the Christian life can be difficult as it is not all comfort, blessing, reward, and joy. The world resists Jesus and silences Christians because they tell the truth to power. In a country of religious freedom like ours, today's disciples of Jesus should expect to receive some resistance from those who hold authority and power because Jesus' people tell the truth.

What a challenging reading this is! At a time when most people are enjoying the lazy days of summer, the church talks about politics, power, and violence. The story of John the Baptist, is about a violent, senseless murder by government order. Senseless? John was executed because he told the truth to a powerful couple. He wasn't murdered because Herod didn't enjoy John's preaching but because John spoke the words that nobody else dared to speak.

What are we to make of this tragic story placed right in the center of Mark's Gospel? It is a violent, horrible event that casts a shadow over Jesus. Some scholars agree the story of the death of John is a prefigurement of the death of Jesus. Is Mark trying to tell us that John's death is a preview of Jesus's death? Remember Jesus sending out the disciples? Mark places the death of John right after the disciples' sending and their report of success against demons. Is this story meant as a warning to the disciples who were sent out on mission? Or perhaps we should ask ourselves, "When's the last time I've been threatened because I told God's truth?"

Let us pray: Lord Jesus, help us to be more courageous in following you. Help us when we run from the conflict that sometimes shows up when you move in our world. Give us the strength to stand up to the world's criticism, opposition, and resistance. Help us to be bold in speaking and living out the truth as you give it to us. In a world where the powerful maintain their power through lies and deception, where we love our security and comfort and run from sometimes painful truths, help us to be people who tell the truth because we trust you, the Lord who is not only the way and the life, but also the truth. Amen.

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