

AS WE GATHER

In today's Old Testament Reading, the prophet Amos, though previously a herdsman and dresser of sycamore figs, must speak, for the Lord has called him. His word of judgment is only part of the message; in other places, he calls people to choose the Lord and live and also announces a great reversal. It is dangerous being a prophet, as John the Baptist learned in the Holy Gospel. But we know the end of the story: before creation, we were destined to salvation, as we read in the Epistle. Whatever we face, our faith tells us to listen to what the Lord has to say before paying attention to any other voice. "He will speak peace to His people" (Psalm 85:8).

INVOCATION

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Psalm 85:1-13

P Today's psalm begins with a plea to God and then announces God's promised salvation. We now use Psalm 85 as we confess our sins and hear God's forgiveness for Jesus' sake.

| | |
|--|--|
| P 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. |

C We confess we are sinners and ask for Your mercy, O Lord.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

| | |
|---|---|
| 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.

LORD, OPEN NOW MY HEART TO HEAR

LSB 908

1 Lord, o - pen now my heart to hear, And through Your
 2 Your Word in - spires my heart with - in; Your Word grants
 Δ 3 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, And God the
 Word to me draw near; Let me Your Word e'er pure re -
 heal - ing from my sin; Your Word has pow'r to guide and
 Spir - it, Three in One, Shall glo - ry, praise, and hon - or
 tain; Let me Your child and heir re - main.
 bless; Your Word brings peace and hap - pi - ness.
 be Now and through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. O Lord, You gave such faith to Your prophets that they listened and boldly spoke what they heard You say to them. Grant that we hear what You have to say now and, confident of Your promised salvation, that we speak words of comfort and peace in a world that desperately needs both; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT

Amos 7:7–15

⁷This 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. ⁸And 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; 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 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

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, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose,

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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, and eat 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 and said to Amaziah, “I was no prophet, nor a prophet’s son, but I was a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore figs. ¹⁵But the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’”

which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹In 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, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³In 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, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 6:14–29

¹⁴King 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.” ¹⁵But others said, “He is Elijah.” And others said, “He 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 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. ¹⁸For John had been saying to Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.” ¹⁹And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to put him to death. But she could

not, ²⁰for 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.

²¹But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his nobles and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. ²²For 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.” ²³And he vowed to her, “Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half of my kingdom.” ²⁴And she went out and said to her mother, “For what should I ask?” And she said, “The

head of John the Baptist.”²⁵ 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.”²⁶ And the king was exceedingly sorry, but because of his oaths and his guests he did not want to break his word to her.

²⁷And immediately the king sent an executioner with orders to bring John’s head. He went and beheaded him in the prison ²⁸and brought his head on a platter and gave it to the girl, and the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹When his disciples heard of it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

P This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLE'S CREED

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come 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.

JESUS, PRICELESS TREASURE

LSB 743



1 Je - sus, price-less trea - sure, Fount of pur - est plea - sure,
 2 In Thine arms I rest me; Foes who would mo - lest me
 4 Hence, all earth - ly trea - sure! Je - sus is my plea - sure,
 6 Hence, all fear and sad - ness! For the Lord of glad - ness,



Tru - est friend to me, Ah, how long in an - guish
 Can - not reach me here. Though the earth be shak - ing,
 Je - sus is my choice. Hence, all emp - ty glo - ry!
 Je - sus, en - ters in. Those who love the Fa - ther,



Shall my spir - it lan - guish, Yearn - ing, Lord, for Thee?
 Ev - 'ry heart be quak - ing, Je - sus calms my fear.
 Naught to me thy sto - ry Told with tempt - ing voice.
 Though the storms may gath - er, Still have peace with - in.



Thou art mine, O Lamb di - vine! I will suf - fer
 Light - nings flash And thun - ders crash; Yet, though sin and
 Pain or loss, Or shame or cross, Shall not from my
 Yea, what - e'er I here must bear, Thou art still my



naught to hide Thee; Naught I ask be - side Thee.
 hell as - sail me, Je - sus will not fail me.
 Sav - ior move me Since He deigns to love me.
 pur - est plea - sure, Je - sus, price - less trea - sure!

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TEACHING FROM GOD'S WORD

OFFERING

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.

Various petitions are prayed by the pastor, after each:

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

Conclusion of petitions:

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.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9–13

P Taught by our LORD and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

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.**

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.**

HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION

LSB 728



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
2 "Fear not! I am with you, O be not dis - mayed,
3 "The soul that on Je - sus has leaned for re - pose
4 "When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way will lie,
5 "Through - out all their life - time My peo - ple will prove



Is laid for your faith in His ex - cel - lent Word!
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I will not, I will not, de - sert to his foes;
My grace, all - suf - fi - cient, will be your sup - ply.
My sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can He say than to you He has said
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
That soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,
The flames will not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
And then, when gray hairs will their tem - ples a - dorn,



Who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
Up - held by My righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
I'll nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er, for - sake!
Your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine.
Like lambs they will still in My bos - om be borne."

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