

LORD'S PRAYER: Please recite what version is comfortable for you.

(Please be seated)

The Old Roman Creed *(early form of the Apostles' Creed)*

ALL: I believe in God the Father almighty; and in Christ Jesus His only Son, our Lord. Who was born from the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, Who under Pontius Pilate was crucified, and buried, on the third day rose again from the dead, ascended to the heaven, sits at the right hand of the Father, whence he will come to judge the living and the dead; and in the Holy Spirit, the holy Church, the remission of sins, the resurrection of the flesh. Amen

Prayer for Spiritual Formation

Leader: Dear Lord Jesus,

The Way has been prepared for us

May the Holy Spirit guide our hearts in service to You and neighbor

Help us to continue to proclaim our witness in the world to Your Gospel

May we be faithful stewards to all that has been graciously given to us

May we truly know that we are blessed and be and become

A blessing to others.

For Your Name's sake—

(Please observe a moment of Silence)

ALL: AMEN

BENEDICTION

Scattering Proclamation *(Inspired from Luther's prayer #126—For a More Charitable Feeling Toward Neighbors)*

Leader: O Dear God, change me by Your Grace... In the name of the

Father, † Son & Holy Spirit

ALL AMEN *(Please make the sign of the Cross)*

† Thank you for worshiping with us! †

Reverend Nicole Collins † Pastor & Founder

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A LEPC Chartered Ministry



DISCIPLESHIP CENTER

The Grace Hub

† Sunday Morning Worship †

July 12th 2015

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PRELUDE MUSIC

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING WE CONFESS

(Inspired by Psalm 123; Collect from 'We Believe' #6 The New Obedience; #14—Praise to God for Blessings through Jesus Christ & #31—That God's Will, Not Ours, Be Done & Setting 3 from the LCMS hymnal)

(Please stand if able)

Leader: John the Baptist was that soon to be martyred voice crying in the wilderness to prepare the Way of the Lord. His voice would soon become the voice of conscience to those who did not want to hear... However, his death did not silence those words and they continue to shape our hearts to confess to the Lord—

ALL: ²You forgave the iniquity of Your people; You pardoned all their sin. ³You withdrew all Your wrath; You turned from Your hot anger. ⁴Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away Your indignation toward us. ⁶Will You not revive us again, so that Your people may rejoice in You? ⁷Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us Your salvation.

Leader: Gracious & Loving God,

Help us to hear that voice in our hearts to repent

And live by Your Words of Grace

May we realize how blessed we are as children of promise, children of Grace

Help us to share this blessing with others as we express our gratitude—

ALL: “O Lord, I do not deserve a glimpse of heaven, and I am unable with my works to redeem myself from sin, death and the devil, and hell. Nevertheless, you have given me your Son, Jesus Christ, who is far more precious and dear than heaven, and much stronger than sin, death, the devil and hell. For this I rejoice, praise and thank you, O God. Without cost and out of pure Grace you have given me this boundless blessing in your dear Son. Through him you take sin, death and hell from me, and do grant me all that belongs to Him. Amen.”

Silence is kept for reflection.

Leader: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a servant of the Word, announce the Grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the

name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit. **ALL: AMEN**

(Please make the sign of the Cross) †

Scripture Lessons for the Morning *(please be seated)*

A Reading from The Prophet Amos *(Don't read this aloud: Amos 7:7-15)*

⁷This is what he 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.'

Leader: The Word of the Lord **ALL: Thanks Be to God**

A Reading from St. Paul's to the Ephesians

(Don't read this aloud: 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. **Leader: The Word of the Lord** **ALL: Thanks Be to God**

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark

(Don't read this aloud: Mark 6:14-29) Please Stand

ALL: Glory to You, O Lord

¹⁴King 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." 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.

Leader: The Word of the Lord **ALL: Praise to You, O Christ**

Sermon by Pastor Nicole

PEACE

PRAYER CIRCLE

HYMN OF THE DAY

HOLY COMMUNION

Please take this opportunity to reflect in your heart how this Means of Grace—Christ actual presence feeds and restores your soul. As St. Paul would say: Listen with your heart wide open. Then, TASTE, SEE & DELIGHT that the Lord is Good!