

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—PROPER 10

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 ✠

HYMN "Where Two or Three Are Gathered"

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 85:1–13*

Pastor: 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.

Pastor: LORD, You were favorable to Your land;
People: **You restored the fortunes of Jacob.**

Pastor: You forgave the iniquity of Your people;
People: **You covered all their sin.**

Pastor: You withdrew all Your wrath;
People: **You turned from Your hot anger.**

Pastor: Restore us again, O God of our salvation,
People: **and put away Your indignation toward us!**

Pastor: Will You be angry with us forever?

People: Will You prolong Your anger to all generations?

Pastor: Will You not revive us again,
People: that Your people may rejoice in You?

Pastor: Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD,
People: 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.

Pastor: Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for He will speak peace to His people, to His saints;
People: but let them not turn back to folly.

Pastor: Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,
People: that glory may dwell in our land.

Pastor: Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;
People: righteousness and peace kiss each other.

Pastor: Faithfulness springs up from the ground,
People: and righteousness looks down from the sky.

Pastor: Yes, the LORD will give what is good,
People: and our land will yield its increase.

Pastor: Righteousness will go before Him
People: and make His footsteps a way.

Pastor: 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.
People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

KYRIE *Ephesians 1:4, 11; 13–14*

Pastor: In peace, "holy and blameless before Him," let us pray to the Lord.
People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: 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.
People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: 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.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: 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.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE “Seek Ye First” #712

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

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

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

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

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Amos 7:7–15* (Amos boldly speaks for the Lord against Amaziah and Jeroboam.)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Ephesians 1:3–14* (God made our salvation certain before the creation of the world.)

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Matthew 5:10*

Pastor: Alleluia. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
People: **for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 6:14–29* (Herodias gets John the Baptist's head.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the sixth chapter.
People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY “In Moments Like These”

SERMON

Pastor Pete

CREED *Apostles' Creed* *found in back of hymnal*

OFFERING & PRAYER

(Members and Visitors: We would appreciate it if you would please take this time to fill out and pass the “Who’s In The Pew” folders, located at the center aisle end of each pew.)

Leader: Gracious God, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us –
 ourselves, our time, and our possessions, symbols of your gracious love.
People: **Receive them for the sake of Him who offered Himself for us, Jesus Christ, our
 brother and Lord.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: 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,
People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: 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,
People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: 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,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: 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,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

Leader: We sing our Lord's Prayer:

"Lord's Prayer"

HFG 440

**Our Father, which 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 debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil,
For Thine is the Kingdom,
and the Power and the Glory forever. Amen.**

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN "Go Therefore"

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 3. Copyright © 2021 Concordia Publishing House.
All rights reserved. Used by permission.