

# SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—PROPER 10

Appearances Are Deceiving

What the Lord Has to Say

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! 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).

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

### **PRAYERS OF PREPARATION:**

**O God from whom every gift derives, we gather to worship You this day. May this worship reflect your goodness, as we respond to you with our heart, soul, and mind. You are an awesome God, greater than our comprehension or our imagination. You are beyond any word we could ever use to describe You. And yet, through Jesus, we know the intimacy of Your vast love. We have come to You in thanksgiving and praise, to know that You are God and to place our lives anew**

into Your perspective. Enlarge our vision this hour with Your Word. Instill in us, again, Your hope in place of our despair, Your peace where our hatred threatens, Your joy amidst our depression, Your love overwhelming our apathy. Make a path in the middle of this congregation today, and walk among us through your Holy Spirit. May Your Holy Spirit surround and indwell this congregation now, and forevermore. This we pray in the name of the One who is your peace, your salvation—Jesus Christ. Amen.

### **WELCOME:**

**WELCOME TO GOD'S HOUSE....** Welcome in the name of Jesus, our Savior, as our Lord invites us to persevere in our Christian faith and life until the Last Day, as He promises to persevere in helping us through His Words, bringing us the Good News of His love and salvation. The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it! From the east to the west, from the north to the south, God's Spirit moves across the face of the earth. We gather together, united by God's Spirit, to celebrate God's glory and proclaim His praise! Let's worship God together!

**SOLO**

**Ms. Angela Henderson**

### **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: 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:** 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 ✠**

**HYMN OF PRAISE            "Bless The Lord" TFBF 273**

**Refrain:**

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

He has done great things, he has done great things, he has done great things, bless his holy name! [Refrain]

**SALUTATION**

**Pastor:**        The Lord be with you.

**People:**        **And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Pastor:**        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.

**People:** 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;

**Pastor:** through 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.)

**Leader:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**SOLO**

**Ms. Angela Henderson**

**GRADUAL** *Romans 11:33, 36*

**Leader:** Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!

**People:** How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways!

**Leader:** For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.

**People:** To Him be glory forever. Amen.

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

**Leader:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**VERSE** *Matthew 5:10*

**Leader:** Alleluia. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,



**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.**

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**Leader:** 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.**

**Leader:** 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.**

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

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

Leader: 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.**

Leader: 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.**

**LORD'S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9–13*

**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.**

**SOLO**

**Ms. Angela Henderson**

## **DISMISSAL**

**Pastor:** Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**



I listen carefully  
to what the Lord is saying,  
for He speaks  
to His faithful people.

But let them not return  
to their foolish ways.

Psalm 85:8



**LISTEN TO THE MESSAGE FROM GOD'S WORD.  
USE THIS SHEET TO MAKE SOME PERSONAL NOTES.  
GO BACK OVER THEM THROUGH THE WEEK.  
THINK AND LET GOD CRYSTALIZE TRUTHS IN YOUR LIFE.**

SERMON TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

BIBLICAL TEXT: \_\_\_\_\_

INTRODUCTION: \_\_\_\_\_

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MAJOR POINTS: \_\_\_\_\_

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WHAT I WILL DO AS A RESULT OF THIS MESSAGE:

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“...They received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures everyday.” Acts 17:11 (NIV)