

that town. ¹¹ And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave, as a testimony against them.”

¹² They went out and preached that people should repent. ¹³ They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

Sermon Hymn: 525 The Son of God, Our Christ

Sermon: We are his fruit-bearing branches.

1. He assures it.
2. The word empowers it.

John 15:1-8

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

Offering: *(Please remember to sign the Friendship Register.)*

3rd Hymn: 511 O Lord, Our God, Your Gracious Hand

Benediction

Closing Hymn: 293 God’s Word Is Our Great Heritage

Ushers: This Week –Dan Stern & Brady Broedlow
Next Week – Jeese Horta & Jake Horta

Greeters: This Week – Larry & Patti Zastrow
Next Week – Richard & Shirley Pfeifer

A special thank you to Kenneth Reschke for being our guest preacher this week.

St. Peter’s Ev. Lutheran Church

8th Sunday after Pentecost – July 15th & 16th, 2018



P.O. Box 86, Helenville, Wisconsin

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Principal: Craig Winkler School Tel: 262-582-3010

Organist: Wendy Winkler

We Welcome You!

Order of Worship: Pg 15

Opening Hymn: 291 We Have a Sure Prophetic Word

Prayer of the Day:

M: Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your Word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy and to bring forth fruits in faith and hope and love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

First Lesson - Amos 7:10-15

False or hypocritical prophets always assume that true prophets have the same motive that they do: To earn a living by their work. But the true prophet depends on God to keep his Word, i.e., to send opposition and to send success when and where it pleases him. Notice, however, the love and patience and mercy of God; even when he knows that his Word will be rejected, he sends his beloved messengers to proclaim it. The unbelieving Jeroboam and Amaziah are without excuse. The faithful Amos has this as his reward, that he was faithful to God and his Word, whether they would hear or not; faithfulness is its own reward.

¹⁰ Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent a message to Jeroboam king of Israel: "Amos is raising a conspiracy against you in the very heart of Israel. The land cannot bear all his words. ¹¹ For this is what Amos is saying: 'Jeroboam will die by the sword, and Israel will surely go into exile, away from their native land.'"

¹² Then Amaziah said to Amos, "Get out, you seer! Go back to the land of Judah. Earn your bread there and do your prophesying there. ¹³ Don't prophesy anymore at Bethel, because this is the king's sanctuary and the temple of the kingdom."

¹⁴ Amos answered Amaziah, "I was neither a prophet nor a prophet's son, but I was a shepherd, and I also took care of sycamore-fig trees. ¹⁵ But the LORD took me from tending the flock and said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'

Psalm of the Day - Psalm 78, p. 95

Second Lesson - Ephesians 1:3-14

This begins an 8 week lectio continua through Ephesians. What is the impetus and inspiration to do what Jesus sent his disciples to do and what Amos did? The grand impulse is in the gifts of the gospel received by those thus sent. They have been predestined in God's providence. And they will not despair as they share the gospel. For its success does not depend on them; their work is but to announce and proclaim this great grace of God in Christ so that by it those predestined will hear and be gathered into the family of God. Just as our salvation does not depend on us, so the salvation of our hearers does not depend on us either. Those who are predestined have God to praise and thank for it. Those who reject the news we proclaim to all have only

themselves to blame for it. We do not try to square that circle; we rejoice in the mystery and are comforted by it both personally and in our labors with the gospel.

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸ that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. ⁹ And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

¹¹ In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹² in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. The Word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it. Alleluia. (Deuteronomy 30:14 cf. NIV)

Gospel - Mark 6:7-13

In the forefront of those sharing the Savior by sharing his Word are those that he has specifically called into that office. What should we expect of them? We should expect that they are ready for some to receive and some to reject that word. Notice that he sends them to share only what they have received; he does not give them permission to fudge the message when many or most reject it. For Jesus does not come through false doctrine to create or strengthen faith. It is in faithfulness to the message and reliance on his promise that repentance is worked which both confesses sin and rejoices in absolution. He will keep his promise when and how it pleases him without the "help" of our opinions, our compromises of the truth, our eagerness to be popular and always successful.

⁷ Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits.

⁸ These were his instructions: "Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. ⁹ Wear sandals but not an extra tunic. ¹⁰ Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave