

CANON DAVIS MEMORIAL CHURCH

Anglican Church of Canada

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, July 14, 2024

9:00 a.m.



John telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife."

We come and worship God.

We go our way with souls nourished.

MINISTERS: The Congregation

Officiant: Rev'd Paul Woolley

Assistant: Tom Brown

Organist: Dorothy Miller

380 Russell St. North (at Maxwell St.), Sarnia, Ontario, N7T 6S6

Tel: (519) 344-9531 - Email: canondavis@gmail.com – <http://www.canondavis.com>

Rev'd Paul Woolley

519-464-2055 or

paul@woolley.com

HOLY EUCHARIST

Introit:

The word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.
Deuteronomy 30:14

Gathering Hymn # 380

O Worship the King

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Greeting:

BAS p. 185

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

And also with you.

Almighty God, **to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you, no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Act of Praise # 365

Glory to God on High

Collect:

Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you. May we find peace in your service, and in the world to come, see you face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. AMEN.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

1st Reading: II Samuel 6: 1-5, 12b-19

David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty-thousand. David and all the people with him set out and went from Baale-judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the Lord of hosts who is enthroned on the cherubim. They carried the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were driving the new cart with the ark of God; and Ahio went in front of the ark. David and all the house of Israel were dancing before the Lord with all their might, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals. So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obededom to the city of David with rejoicing; and when those who bore the ark of the Lord had gone six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fatling. David danced before the Lord with all his might; David was girded with a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet. As the ark of the Lord came into the city of David, Michal daughter of Saul looked out of the window, and saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart. They brought in the ark of the Lord, and set it in its place, inside the tent that David had pitched for it; and David offered burnt offerings and offerings of well-being before the Lord. When David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the offerings of well-being, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts, and distributed food among all the people, the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women, to each a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins. Then all the people went back to their homes.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PSALM 24

BAS p. 732

REFRAIN *The King of glory shall come in.*

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world and all who dwell therein. For it is he who founded it upon the seas and made it firm upon the rivers of the deep.

The King of glory shall come in.

"Who can ascend the hill of the Lord? and who can stand in his holy place?" "Those who have clean hands and a pure heart, who have not pledged themselves to falsehood, nor sworn by what is a fraud.

The King of glory shall come in.

They shall receive a blessing from the Lord and a just reward from the God of their salvation." Such is the generation of those who seek him, of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.

The King of glory shall come in.

Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. "Who is this King of glory?" "The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle."

The King of glory shall come in.

Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. "Who is he, this King of glory?" "The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory."

Creator and ruler of all, open our hearts that the King of glory may enter, and bring us rejoicing to your holy mountain, where you live and reign, now and for ever. Amen.

2nd Reading: Ephesians 1: 3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In 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, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In 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; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn # 606

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Gospel

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Mark **Glory to You Lord Jesus Christ**

King 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." But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised." For 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. For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for 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. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When 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." And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." Immediately 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." The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

MARK 6: 14-29

The Gospel of Christ

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Homily Paul+

The author David Heller wrote a delightful little book that was titled, *Dear God: Children's Letters to God*. It's a wonderful collection of heartwarming letters written by children from different backgrounds around the world. With great candour and sincerity the children ask questions, make suggestions and even offer advice.

The book is a charming antidote to cynicism. The letters are funny, touching, joyful and heartbreaking. The end result is a fascinating tour of the minds of young children. There are some wonderfully witty observations.

For example,

Dear God, What do you think about all those movies made about you around Easter time? I think they're kind of corny, myself. Your buddy, Charles (age 9)

Dear God, What do you do with families that don't have much faith? There's a family on the next block like that. I don't want to get them in trouble, so I can't say who. See you in church. Alexis (age 10)

Dear God, Want to hear a joke? What is red, very long, and you hear it right before you go to sleep? Give up? A sermon. Your friend, Frank (age 11)

Then there is this one from a youngster who sees all the misery in the world and wonders:

"Dear God, I have doubts about you sometimes. Sometimes I really believe. Like when I was four and I hurt my arm and you healed it up fast. But my question is, if you could do this why don't you stop all the bad in the world? Like war. Like diseases. Like famine. Like drugs. And there are problems in other people's neighbourhoods too. I'll try to believe more. Ian (age 10)"

Is there any of young Ian in you? If you are honest, probably. Undoubtedly, there was some Ian in John the Baptist. But more about that as we get into

this horrible story. And it IS a horrible story. The foolish murder of a good man whose only "crime" was speaking out about immorality in high places.

John the Baptist is a fascinating character. Scripture introduces him before he is even born. His father, Zechariah, a priest in the hill country of Judea, and his mother Elizabeth, also of a priestly family. They had prayed for years for a child. Now suddenly, after almost all hope was gone through the passing of time and the ticking of the biological clock, the angel Gabriel meets Zechariah as he is offering incense in the sanctuary: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord."

And he was. Unusual, to say the least. A man of the wilderness, dressed in homespun - camels' hair with a wide leather belt around his waist. A diet of locusts and wild honey. Hair and beard uncut, somewhat unkempt. Fierce, burning eyes.

His message was a call to repentance and righteous living before God. His was the voice that the prophet Isaiah said would be crying in the wilderness, saying "Prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." THE KING IS COMING.

It would be nice to say that the world responded unanimously to John's call, but we know better. John the Baptist spoke out once too often. His preaching was bold enough to breach the palace walls, falling on the ears of a government that did not want to hear, challenging a sinful king who refused to be confronted. Herod had him arrested.

A word here about this king. The New Testament speaks of several Herods. The man we meet in our lesson was NOT Herod the Great, the

one who was king when Jesus was born, the one responsible for the massacre of the baby boys in Bethlehem following the visit of the Wise Men. THIS man was Herod Antipas, one of Herod the Great's sons, one of the lucky ones as it turns out, because Herod the father was totally paranoid, insanely suspicious and, near the end of his life became well-known for murdering, not only the innocents in Bethlehem, but his own offspring as well. (Even Caesar in Rome is reported to have said it was safer to be Herod's pig than Herod's son.) Another who survived was Herod Philip, Antipas' half-brother. Another half-brother was Aristobulus. Aristobulus had a daughter named Herodias. She married Herod Philip. They, in turn, had a daughter whose name was Salome. OK can you follow this?

Now things get sticky and we find a near-eastern version of a soap opera. On a visit to Rome, Herod Antipas met brother Philip's wife, Herodias - Aristobulus' daughter, remember, which meant that Philip had married his own niece. Herodias was a deceitful and ambitious woman who saw in Antipas a ticket to power and influence. So the two of them deserted Philip and headed back to Galilee. This was OK as far as Roman law was concerned, but not with Jewish law, and Galilee was a Jewish territory.

Enter John the Baptist, who wasn't one to mince words - he was more than content to call his wilderness congregation a pack of snakes - he thundered against this incestuous relationship: "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." Herodias was incensed, angry enough to want this wild-eyed prophet dead. But, as much as Herod wanted to please his new wife, he begged off on this one. As the text says, "For 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."

Meanwhile, the ministry of John's cousin, Jesus of Nazareth, was becoming well-known. His fame was spreading - there were stories of incredible crowds and miraculous healings. But here was John sitting in a dungeon. If Jesus were the promised Messiah, as in many ways he appeared to be, why did he not get his relative out of jail? Why do YOU

think? John got word to some of those who had been faithful followers during the days before his arrest: "Go and ask Jesus, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?'". This sounds a bit like young Ian in that letter to God we read earlier.

Jesus sent word back. "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have good news brought to them." But John still sits in that cell.

Suddenly, Herodias had her chance. Birthday party. All the powerful people were at the palace. Wine, women and song, and plenty of each. Daughter Salome dances. >>

The story says, "she pleased Herod and his guests," and we are left to make of that phrase whatever our imaginations will make of it. Most likely in an intoxicated state, Herod says to her, "Ask me for whatever you wish and I will give you." The guests, hear the promise and start laughing and cheering. Salome does not know what to do. Herod ups the ante: "Whatever you ask me, I will give you; even half of my kingdom." Salome runs out of the room to find her mother. "What should I ask for?" Her mother says "The head of John the Baptizer." So Salome goes back to Herod. "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter."

Ever make a promise that you regret? As the text says, "The king was deeply grieved." But a promise is a promise, and in front of all the powerful guests, what could he do? We know the rest of the story, "When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb."

It seems like another victory for evil. There always seem to be too many of those evil victories. Not only then but day to day throughout history on down to the present moment. Countless millions have suffered horribly, violently and senselessly. In the name of religion, in the name of racial

purity, in the name of greed or lust or anger and often for no reason at all. It seems like Evil wins again and again.

Some would say this story of revenge -- a person who has access to government and policy decisions and misuses them for their own dark purpose - is one more reason to say with young Ian in his letter, and perhaps even John as his head was laid on that executioner's block, "Dear God, I have doubts about you sometimes."

What can we say when evil wins? Perhaps the answer is in the way Mark's gospel record is presented. Mark's first reference to John's arrest is right in the beginning of the book. We hear nothing more about it until we encounter it in today's gospel, and it is presented in retrospect. We get the sordid details only because Herod is worried about what he is hearing concerning Jesus. Something powerful is happening, and everyone is talking about it. No one quite understands it - some are saying Jesus is Elijah reincarnate. That would mean the Messiah was about to arrive, because Jewish legend said Elijah would come back to announce the coming conqueror. Others were saying it was John the Baptist come back to life, and Herod is convinced of it - his tormentor has returned.

Mark well may have inserted this story for precisely young Ian...and maybe you and me as well when we see so much wrong with this world and start wondering about God. We ask, are you there, God? Do you care, God?

If you want an answer to those questions, ask and answer a couple of other questions. First, Mark's gospel is all about Jesus. As Mark goes through Jesus' story, does he indicate any difficulties, any stumbling blocks, any apparent victories for the other side, any moments when it appears that evil wins? Certainly. The conflicts with the establishment, the arrest, the trial, the crucifixion, the miserable death. But that isn't the end of the story. Because it ends with the resurrection, and some dumbfounded disciples. Does evil finally win? Certainly not. Now ask those questions again. Are you there, God? Do you care, God?

Mark's message is that nothing in this world, not even the palaces of the powerful, are beyond the reach and impact of the gospel.

Yes, there are times with young Ian that we wonder about God. It is true there is horrible evil out there. There are evil people - the sociopaths, the mass murders, the vicious child and spouse abusers. There are evil systems in which we all participate - people going without food and shelter in a nation of abundance. There are even evils born of sheer stupidity, like the stupid promise Herod made to Salome. Yes, it often seems that the evil wins.

But the message of our faith says that evil does not have the last word. Listen, Ian, and all who ever wonder about God. Herod does not win. Herodias does not win. EVIL DOES NOT WIN! With joy we can shout out that God's world does not end with either the whimper of a starving child or the blast of a nuclear bomb; it ends with the Lamb upon the throne and the victorious song of a massive choir singing words taken from the Book of Revelation, which became the lyrics for Handel's Messiah:

“The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.” (*Revelation 11, v. 15*); “King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.” (*Revelation 19, v. 16*)
“Hallelujah!”

Amen!

Apostles Creed

BAS p. 189

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People:

Let us pray that all peoples will be filled with spiritual blessings which lead to praise of God's glorious grace.

Our response today is, *"May your favour rest on us!"*

Let us pray for the blessing of a strong faith and a joyful spirit that all peoples may be loud in God's praise. Rejoicing in God's goodness, we ask:

May your favour rest on us!

Let us pray for the blessing of creativity that through artistic talents and gifts peoples' hearts and minds may be raised to God. Rejoicing in God's goodness, we ask:

May your favour rest on us!

Let us pray for the blessing of good health and happiness that our days may be lived in the fullness of physical and emotional vitality. Rejoicing in God's goodness, we ask:

May your favour rest on us!

Let us pray for the blessing of secure employment that heads of household may be free of financial worries for themselves and their dependents.

Rejoicing in God's goodness, we ask:

May your favour rest on us!

Let us pray for the blessing of vocation to the ordained ministries, religious life, or lay ministry that the gospel's joy and consolation may reach all people. Rejoicing in God's goodness, we ask:

May your favour rest on us!

Let us pray for the blessing of a compassionate heart that we may respond to the cries of the poor and address the causes of human suffering. Today we pray for _____. Rejoicing in God's goodness, we ask:

May your favour rest on us!

Let us pray for the blessing of personal safety for our children and the elderly, for all travellers, and for any who work under hazardous conditions. Rejoicing in God's goodness, we ask:

May your favour rest on us!

Kind and loving God, help us to recognize your many blessings. Enable us to use your gifts to bring others to a recognition of their own blessedness. We pray in the name of the Blessed One, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Confession & Peace

BAS p. 191

Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Offertory Hymn # 70

Jesus, the Joy of Loving Hearts

Prayer over the Gifts:

Father, your word creates in us a yearning for your kingdom. Receive all we offer you this day, and keep us in your peace; for the sake of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT

Eucharistic Prayer #5

BAS p. 204

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks and praise, almighty God, for the gift of a world full of wonder, and for our life which comes from you. By your power you sustain the universe.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

You created us to love you with all our heart, and to love each other as ourselves, but we rebel against you by the evil that we do. In Jesus, your Son, you bring healing to our world and gather us into one great family. Therefore, with all who serve you on earth and in heaven, we praise your wonderful name, as we sing (say),

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

We give you thanks and praise, loving Father, because in sending Jesus, your Son, to us you showed us how much you love us. He cares for the poor and the hungry. He suffers with the sick and the rejected. Betrayed and forsaken, he did not strike back but overcame hatred with love. On the cross he defeated the power of sin and death. By raising him from the dead you show us the power of your love to bring new life to all your people.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

On the night before he gave up his life for us, Jesus, at supper with his friends, took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "Take this, all of you, and eat it: this is my body which is given for you."

After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and eternal covenant, which is shed for you and for many, so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me."

Glory to you for ever and ever.

Gracious God, with this bread and wine we celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus, and we offer ourselves to you in him. Send your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts, that we may know the presence of Jesus in the breaking of bread, and share in the life of the family of your children.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

Father, you call us to be your servants; fill us with the courage and love of Jesus, that all the world may gather in joy at the table of your kingdom. We sing your praise, almighty Father, through Jesus, our Lord, in the power of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

Glory to you for ever and ever. AMEN.

Lord's Prayer

BAS p. 211

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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. AMEN.

Breaking of the Bread # 3

BAS p. 212

Creator of all, you gave us golden fields of wheat, whose many grains we have gathered and made into this one bread.

So may your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.

Communion:

Prayer After Communion:

Living God, in this sacrament we have shared in your eternal kingdom.

May we who taste this mystery forever serve you in faith, hope, and love.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

Doxology & Blessing

Announcements

Mission Hymn # 432

Jesus Calls Us! O'er the Tumult

Sung Benediction

Go Now in Peace

(found in the back of the blue hymn book)

Dismissal:

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia

*The Flowers on the Altar today are given to the Glory of God,
in loving memory of my parents, Roy and Doreen Turner,
a gift from their daughter, Carol Mercurio.*

Please enter names in the **Intercessions Book** each week to be read in the service.

NEWS AND EVENTS

- Please send all announcements for the bulletin to Karen by 11:00 a.m. Tuesday of each week or call: 519-344-9531 or email: canondavis@gmail.com.
- If you would like to contact Rev'd Paul Woolley for any reason, he may be reached at 519-464-2055 or email paul@woolley.com.
- Please join us this Sunday for a time of fellowship at **Coffee Hour** after service in the parish hall.
- Once Again CDM is looking for volunteers to provide coffee and treats during the months of July and August. If you are willing to help out, please see the sign-up sheet at the back of the church. Thank you

Upcoming Events:

Reminders: