**Saginaw First Free Methodist Church**

**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

**July 11, 2021**



*“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.’”*

 *(Mark 6:17-18)*

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**PROPER 10 (15)**

**July 11, 2021**

**Prelude**

**\*\*Greeting/Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship** (*spoken responsively*)

L: Let me hear what God the LORD will speak

**P: For God will speak peace to the people**

L: God’s salvation is at hand for those who stand in awe

**P: That God’s glory may dwell in our land**

L: Faithfulness will spring up from the ground

**P: And righteousness will look down from the sky**

L: The LORD will give what is good

**P: Righteousness will go before him**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “God of Grace and God of Glory” #720 (vv. 1-4)

**God of grace and God of glory**

**On Thy people pour Thy power**

**Crown Thine ancient church's story**

**Bring her bud to glorious flower**

**Grant us wisdom, Grant us courage**

**For the facing of this hour**

**For the facing of this hour**

**Lo! the hosts of evil round us**

**Scorn Thy Christ, assail His ways!**

**Fears and doubts too long have bound us**

**Free our hearts to work and praise**

**Grant us wisdom, Grant us courage**

**For the living of these days**

**For the living of these days**

**Heal Thy people's warring madness**

**Bend our pride to Thy control**

**Shame our wanton, selfish gladness**

**Rich in things and poor in soul**

**Grant us wisdom, Grant us courage**

**Lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal**

**Lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal**

**Set our feet on lofty places**

**Gird our lives that they may be**

**Armoured with all Christlike graces**

**In the fight to set men free**

**Grant us wisdom, Grant us courage**

**That we fail not man nor Thee**

**That we fail not man nor Thee**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: God, whose glory is always unfolding before us and in us, touch our eyes, as Christ did in those who were blind, that we shall see in visible things those which are invisible. May our eyes be open to gaze, not on present realities, but on the blessings to come. Open the eyes of our heart to contemplate God in Spirit. Direct all our actions by your holy inspiration, as we pray the prayer that Jesus taught His disciples…

**P: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come; your will be done in 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 Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**\*Gloria Patri**

**Glory be to the Father​**

**And to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.**

**As it was in the beginning​**

**Is now and ever shall be**

**World without end**

**Amen. Amen**

**Old Testament Scripture Lesson:** 2 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 Obed-edom 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.

**Prayer of Confession**

L: We have been redeemed and adopted as children of the living God. Reflect on our life and make corrections that we may be blameless. May our hope be in Christ so our spirits may grow calm, our vision be clear, and our purpose be unified…

**P:** **I offer You, Lord, my thoughts to be fixed on You. For my words to have you for their theme. My actions to reflect my love for you. My sufferings to be endured for your greater glory. Almighty God, enlighten my understanding, strengthen my will, purify my heart, and make me whole. Help me to repent of my past sins and to resist temptation in the future. Help me to rise above my human weakness and grow stronger in the Holy Spirit. Let me conquer anger with gentleness, greed by generosity, apathy by fervor. Help me to forget myself and reach towards others. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 24

**P: The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers. Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place? Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully. They will receive blessing from the LORD, and vindication from the God of their salvation. Such is the company of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob. Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in.**

**Hymn of Affirmation:** “Wonderful Grace of Jesus” #360 (vv.1-2)

**Wonderful grace of Jesus,**

**Greater than all my sin;**

**How shall my tongue describe it,**

**Where shall its praise begin?**

**Taking away my burden,**

**Setting my spirit free;**

**For the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me.**

**Wonderful the matchless grace of Jesus,**

**Deeper than the mighty rolling sea;**

**Higher than the mountain, sparkling like a fountain,**

**All-sufficient grace for even me!**

**Broader than the scope of my transgressions,**

**Greater far than all my sin and shame;**

**Oh, magnify the precious Name of Jesus,**

**Praise His Name!**

**Wonderful grace of Jesus,**

**Reaching to all the lost,**

**By it I have been pardoned,**

**Saved to the uttermost;**

**Chains have been torn asunder,**

**Giving me liberty;**

**For the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me.**

**Wonderful the matchless grace of Jesus,**

**Deeper than the mighty rolling sea;**

**Higher than the mountain, sparkling like a fountain,**

**All-sufficient grace for even me!**

**Broader than the scope of my transgressions,**

**Greater far than all my sin and shame;**

**Oh, magnify the precious Name of Jesus,**

**Praise His Name!**

**New Testament Scripture Lesson:** 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.

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson**: Mark 6:14-29

 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.

**Sermon**

**Prayer of Response**

**Hymn of Response:** “Spirit Song” #311 (vv.1-2)

**Oh, let the Son of God enfold you with his Spirit and his love**

**Let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul**

**Oh, let him have the things that hold you, and his Spirit, like a dove**

**Will descend upon your life and make you whole**

**Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs**

**Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs**

**Oh, come and sing the song with gladness as your hearts are filled with joy**

**Lift your hands in sweet surrender to his name**

**Oh, give him all your tears and sadness, give him all your years of pain**

**And you'll enter into life in Jesus' name**

**Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs**

**Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:The Lord is gracious and righteous; full of compassion. How can we repay the Lord for God’s goodness to us? Sacrifice a thank offering to show God’s love to this world. Praise God, as we collect this morning’s tithes and offerings.

**\*Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow**

**Praise Him, all creatures here below**

**Praise Him above, ye heavenly host**

**Praise Father Son, and Holy Ghost.**

**Amen.**

**\*Prayer**

**\*Closing Hymn**: “How Great Thou Art” #33 (vv.1,3-4)

**O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder**

**Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made**

**I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder**

**Thy power throughout the universe displayed**

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee**

**How great Thou art, how great Thou art**

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee**

**How great Thou art, how great Thou art**

**And when I think of God, His Son not sparing**

**Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in**

**That on the Cross, my burden gladly bearing**

**He bled and died to take away my sin**

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee**

**How great Thou art, how great Thou art**

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee**

**How great Thou art, how great Thou art**

**When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation**

**And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart**

**Then I shall bow with humble adoration**

**And then proclaim, my God, how great Thou art**

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee**

**How great Thou art, how great Thou art**

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee**

**How great Thou art, how great Thou art**

**\*Benediction**

L: The same Holy Spirit is in all of us, but we are each equipped differently. God’s plan is to gather all things into the kingdom. Share these spiritual blessings, as you go in peace to love and serve. Amen.