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**8th Sunday after Pentecost July 14, 2024 Video**

*Good morning. This is Richfield Lutheran Church’s video worship service for July 14. I’m Pastor Brian, with me today are Paul on the organ and Mary as our vocalist. The printed bulletin for this service can be found on our website, Richfield-Lutheran.org.*

*Our gospel is Mark 6:14-29*. *John the Baptist speaks truth to power, and King Herod has him killed. In Herod’s fear that Jesus is John returned from the dead, we may hear hope for the oppressed: all the prophets killed through the ages are alive in Jesus. We are called to witness to justice in company with them, and to proclaim God’s saving love.*

1. **GATHERING**

**Prelude**

**Call to Worship** Psalm 118:24

This is the day that the Lord has made;

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**Gathering Hymn** *Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing* **# 807, vv 1-2**

1 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,

 tune my heart to sing thy grace;

 streams of mercy, never ceasing,

 call for songs of loudest praise.

 While the hope of endless glory

 fills my heart with joy and love,

 teach me ever to adore thee;

 may I still thy goodness prove.

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer:

 "Hither by thy help I've come";

 and I hope, by thy good pleasure,

 safely to arrive at home.

 Jesus sought me when a stranger,

 wand'ring from the fold of God;

 he, to rescue me from danger,

 interposed his precious blood.

**Greeting & Prayer of the Day**

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

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

**O God, from you come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

1. **WORD**

**Gospel: Mark 6:14-29.** *(*As Jesus and his disciples begin to attract attention, Mark recalls the story of John the Baptist’s martyrdom. Like John, Jesus and his disciples will also suffer at the hands of those opposed to the gospel of salvation.*)*

The holy gospel according to Mark, the 6th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

14King Herod heard of the disciples’ preaching, 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.”  15But others said, “It is Elijah.” And others said, “It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.”  16But when Herod heard of it, he said, “John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.”

17For 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.  18For John had been telling Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.”  19And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, 20for 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.  21But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. 22When 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.”  23And he solemnly swore to her, “Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom.”  24She went out and said to her mother, “What should I ask for?” She replied, “The head of John the baptizer.” 25Immediately 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.”  26The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her.  27Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John’s head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, 28brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. 29When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon** *Something to Lose Your Head Over* Pr Brian

**Hymn of the Day** *Let Justice Flow like Streams* **# 717, vv 1 & 3**

1 Let justice flow like streams

 of sparkling water, pure,

 enabling growth, refreshing life,

 abundant, cleansing, sure.

3 So may God's plumb line, straight,

 define our measure true,

 and justice, right, and peace pervade

 this world our whole life through.

**Prayers of the People**

One in the communion of saints and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we join our voices in prayer.

*(A brief silence.)*

You gather your people into the body of Christ. Where your church is wounded, heal it. Where it is right, strengthen it. Where it is divided, reunite it. In your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

From before the foundation of the world, you are God. Revive ecosystems destroyed by human greed. Curb our desire to put wealth ahead of the health of all who call this planet home. In your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You establish equity and make justice. Within every nation, tribe, and land, cause laws to be written and customs to be observed that protect the most vulnerable. In your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

On the cross your beloved Son endured pain and death. Bring healing to those in need, hope to any in despair, and comfort to the dying. *We pray especially for the people of Ukraine, the people of Palestine and Israel, and those whom we now name in our hearts…* In your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You send your Spirit into this community of faith. Empower our ministries that serve and build up local communities…*.* Nurture our partnerships with other community organizations…*.* In your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You pioneer new paths in your world. Empower us, in this liminal space with discernment to see and courage to follow. In your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

*(A brief silence.)*

All peoples praise you, O God. We give you thanks and praise for the lives of our loved ones who now rest in you, *especially* *those whom we now name in our hearts….* In the fullness of time gather us with all your saints in light. In your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Holy God, holy and merciful: into your outstretched arms we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**III. THANKSGIVING**

**Offering**

*You can support this and other of God’s ministries through Richfield Lutheran Church today via our website: Richfield-Lutheran.org/give. Thank you for your faithful generosity.*

**Lord's Prayer**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**IV. SENDING**

*On July 14, in addition to this video recording and its phone-in option, we have in-person worship at 9:30. Afterwards we share fellowship. All are welcome.*

*Next Sunday, July 21, our gospel is Mark 6:30-34, 53-56.* When Jesus sends his disciples out to teach and heal, they minister among large numbers of people. Their work is motivated by Christ’s desire to be among those in need.

*Until then, go forth with God’s blessing.*

**Blessing**

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ☩ be upon you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Sending Hymn** *Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen* **# 548, vv 1 & 4**

1 Rise, O church, like Christ arisen,

 from this meal of love and grace;

 may we through such love envision

 whose we are, and whose, our praise.

 Alleluia, alleluia;

 God, the wonder of our days.

4 Service be our sure vocation;

 courage be our daily breath;

 mercy be our destination

 from this day and unto death.

 Alleluia, alleluia.

 Rise, O church, a living faith.

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

**This Week’s Daily Bible Readings:**

Monday, July 15. Psalm 142

Tuesday, July 16. Amos 9:1-4

Wednesday, July 17. Luke 7:31-35

Thursday, July 18. Psalm 23

Friday, July 19. Jeremiah 10:17-25

Saturday, July 20. Luke 18:35-43

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