

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

People: Lord God Heavenly Father, we repent of our sins and our unfaithfulness to you. We acknowledge that we have violated your good and perfect will. We often stand in judgment of others but fail to see our own brokenness. Forgive us when we are apathetic and complacent. Forgive us when we fail to act in grace, even though you have shown grace to us abundantly and repeatedly. Renew our spirit and strengthen our faith that we might walk in your ways. For the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Scripture Readings August 15, 2010

#### **Amos 5:18-27**    *The Day of the LORD*

Woe to you who long for the day of the LORD!

Why do you long for the day of the LORD?

That day will be darkness, not light.

It will be as though a man fled from a lion only to meet a bear,  
as though he entered his house and rested his hand on the wall  
only to have a snake bite him.

Will not the day of the LORD be darkness, not light—  
pitch-dark, without a ray of brightness?

"I hate, I despise your religious feasts;

I cannot stand your assemblies.

Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings,  
I will not accept them.

Though you bring choice fellowship offerings,

I will have no regard for them.

Away with the noise of your songs!

I will not listen to the music of your harps.

But let justice roll on like a river,  
righteousness like a never-failing stream!

"Did you bring me sacrifices and offerings  
forty years in the desert, O house of Israel?

You have lifted up the shrine of your king, the pedestal of your idols,  
the star of your god — which you made for yourselves.

Therefore I will send you into exile beyond Damascus,"  
says the LORD, whose name is God Almighty.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God!**

#### **Romans 3:21-26**    *Righteousness Through Faith*

But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God!**

#### **Matthew 18:23-33**    *The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant*

"Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

"The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants

who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened.

"Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' "

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord  
People: Thanks be to God!

#### APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. 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

#### Sermon Outline • August 15, 2010 "Minor Prophets; Major Issues" Amos

Introduction: "With liberty and justice for all..."

#### 1. Judgment on the \_\_\_\_\_!

*This is what the Lord says: "For three sins of Damascus, even for four, I will not turn back my wrath." Amos 1:3*

#### 2. Judgment on \_\_\_\_\_ (!)

*This is what the Lord says: "For three sins of Israel (!!), even for four, I will not turn back my wrath." Amos 2:6*

#### 3. \_\_\_\_\_ are accountable to God...

*Hear this word the Lord has spoken against you, O people of Israel--against the whole family I brought up out of Egypt: "You only have I chosen of all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you for all your sins." Amos 3:1-2*

#### 4. And there is \_\_\_\_\_ because we are.

*"I will bring back my exiled people Israel; they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them. They will plant vineyards and drink their wine; they will make gardens and eat their fruit. I will plant Israel in their own land, never again to be uprooted from the land*

*I have given them," says the Lord your God. Amos 9:14-15*

Answers to Sermon Outline: evildoers!, us, All, hope

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen

#### THE BENEDICTION

Leader: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

People: And the people took the blessing and held it in their hearts.

Leader: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!