



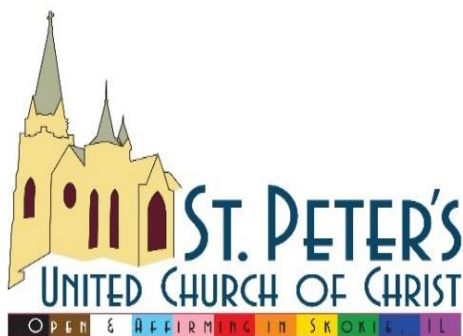
# Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,  
July 14, 2024  
10:00 AM**

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**Eighth Sunday  
after  
Pentecost**





# Welcome to Worship!

**SUNDAYS @ 10:00AM**

**In-person Worship.** Masks and distance recommended, not required

**Livestream on YouTube.** Live at 10am then available on our channel

**"The Redheaded Preacher" Podcast.** Available wherever you get your podcasts, includes sermon and scriptures only, posted weekly by Tuesday



## Ways to Give

**Text Your Gift.** Text your gift to **844-977-2346**

After a short set-up the first time, simply text your gift amount

**Use PayPal.** [PayPal.me/stpeteruccskokie](https://www.paypal.com/merchot/display?host=stpeteruccskokie)

**Send a Check.** Mail to the address below ... this way still works fine

**Set up Vanco.** Contact the church office to enroll in regular giving



## Open Communion

**All Christians** and seekers after God are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper with us the **first Sunday of every month** and special Holy Days (Christmas, Maundy Thursday, and Easter). **At-home Communion** participants are invited to provide their own elements and join when Pastor bids you, "take, eat, and drink."



## About St. Peter's UCC

We've been in the heart of downtown Skokie since 1867. We are a part of the United Church of Christ, which means we are passionate about our faith and open in our thinking. We believe in a Triune God who **loves everyone**, regardless of gender identity, orientation, race, status, or physical or mental ability, and we **joyously welcome all people** to share worship, membership, marriage, baptism, funeral, and fellowship with us.



## Contact, Follow, or Talk to Us

**Rev. Richard Lanford (Pastor):** [revlanford@gmail.com](mailto:revlanford@gmail.com)

In the office Wed-Sat (times vary) and Sundays

**Laura Olson (Office Manager):** [office@stpeteruccskokie.org](mailto:office@stpeteruccskokie.org)

Office hours Mon-Fri 9am to 2pm

**Ben Westphal (Music Director):** [bcwestphal@gmail.com](mailto:bcwestphal@gmail.com)

**Facebook/Instagram/YouTube:** [stpeteruccskokie](https://www.facebook.com/stpeteruccskokie)

**Website:** [www.stpeteruccskokie.org](http://www.stpeteruccskokie.org)

*Like, follow, or join our email list for up-to-date info about events and activities!*



**8013 Laramie Avenue, Skokie, IL 60077 | 847-673-8166**

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**St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie**  
**Order of Worship for**  
**Sunday, July 14, 2024 at 10:00am**  
**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

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*Welcome to worship. The music before the service is intended as a time of silent prayer and preparation.*

**PRELUDE**      “Voluntary for a Festival”      by John Marsh

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Peggy Reins

*Will those who are able please stand up*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *from Psalm 24*

P: Lift up your heads, O gates! Be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

**C: Who is this King of glory?**

P: The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle!

**C: Lift up your heads, O gates! Be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.**

P: Who is this King of glory?

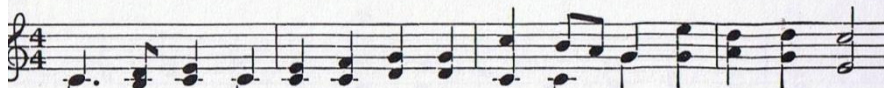
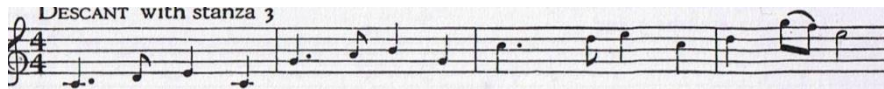
**C: The Lord of hosts, the Lord is the King of glory!**

**All: Come, let us worship the Lord, the King of glory!**

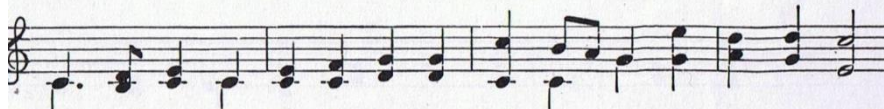
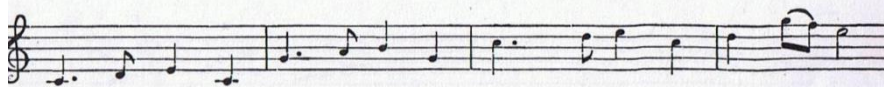
**RESPONSE "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty"**

No. 23 (vv. 1)

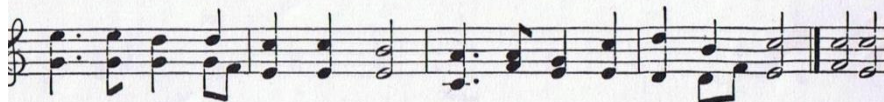
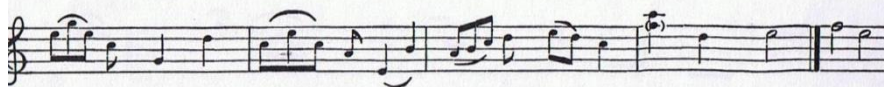
DESCANT with stanza 3



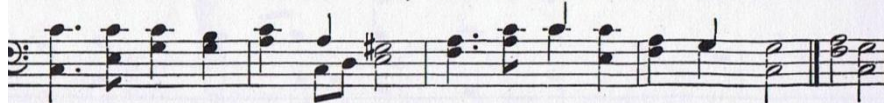
1. O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,
2. Gra - cious God I come be - fore Thee, Come Thou al - so down to me;
3. Speak, O Lord, and I will hear Thee, Let Thy will be done in - deed;



Where my soul in joy - ful du - ty Waits for Him who an - swers prayer  
Where we find Thee and a - dore Thee, There a heaven on earth must be:  
May I un - dis - turbed draw near Thee While Thou dost Thy peo - ple feed.



O how bless - ed is this place, Filled with sol - ace, light, and grace!  
To my heart O en - ter Thou, Let it be Thy tem - ple now.  
Here of life the foun - tain flows, Here is balm for all our woes. A-MEN



**CALL TO CONFESSION**

P: The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. We are stewards of God's creation, called to live with clean hands and pure hearts. Yet, we recognize the ways we fall short of this calling. Let us come before God in a spirit of humility and confession.

*(pause for silent reflection)*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

P: Who may ascend the hill of the Lord? Who may stand in God's holy place? Those who have clean hands and pure hearts. Yet, we acknowledge that our hands are not always clean, our hearts not always pure.

**C: Forgive us, O God.**

P: We confess that we have not always acted with integrity and truth. We have lifted our souls to falsehood and been deceitful in our words and actions.

**C: Forgive us, O God.**

P: We have failed to honor your creation, neglecting our responsibility to care for the earth and all its inhabitants.

**C: Forgive us, O God.**

**P:** We have not always sought justice for the oppressed or shown compassion to those in need. We have turned away from the cries of the marginalized.

**C: Forgive us, O God.**

**P:** Cleanse our hands, purify our hearts, and renew our spirits. Grant us the courage to seek your face and to live in ways that reflect your love and justice.

**C: Amen.**

**A: Lift up your heads and open your hearts, for the King of glory desires to come in and transform us. Let us receive God's mercy and walk in the light of divine grace.**

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**P:** Hear the good news: The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. God, who created us and sustains us, is also merciful and just. Though we have confessed our sins, let us now hear God's promise: In Christ, our hands are cleansed, and our hearts are made pure. We receive blessing from the Lord and vindication from God our Savior. Know that in Christ, we are forgiven and made new. Will you join me in proclaiming this Good News?

**A: We will! Alleluia! Amen!**

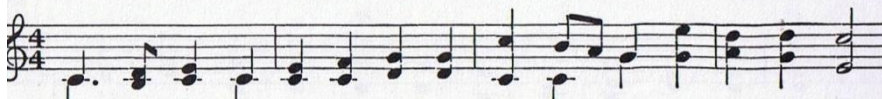
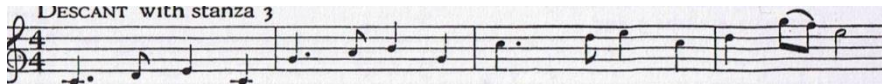


## HYMN

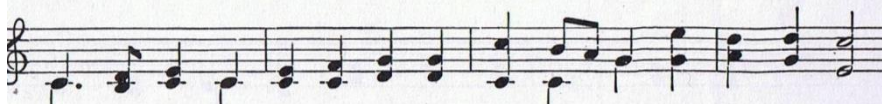
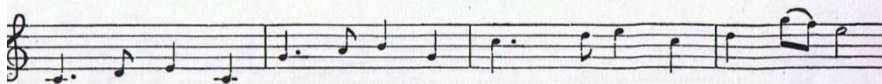
## "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty"

No. 23 (vv.2-3)

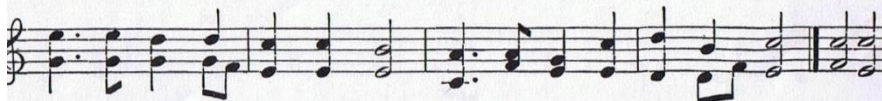
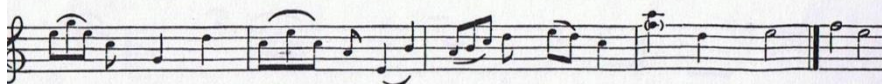
DESCANT with stanza 3



1. O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,
2. Gra - cious God I come be - fore Thee, Come Thou al - so down to me;
3. Speak, O Lord, and I will hear Thee, Let Thy will be done in - deed;



Where my soul in joy - ful du - ty Waits for Him who an - swers prayer  
Where we find Thee and a - dore Thee, There a heaven on earth must be:  
May I un - dis - turbed draw near Thee While Thou dost Thy peo - ple feed.



O how bless - ed is this place, Filled with sol - ace, light, and grace!  
To my heart O en - ter Thou, Let it be Thy tem - ple now.  
Here of life the foun - tain flows, Here is balm for all our woes. A-MEN



*The congregation may be seated*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Annie Noorts

L: Almighty God, in you are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Open our eyes that we may see the wonders of your Word; and give us grace that we may clearly understand and freely choose the way of your wisdom; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Old Testament:

II Samuel 6:1-5; 12b-19

Epistle:

Ephesians 1:3-14

**MUSICAL MEDITATION** “Siyahamba” arr. Mark Sedio

*Will those who are able please stand up*

**THE GOSPEL**

Mark 6: 14-29

L: This ends our reading of the Scriptures for this morning's service. May God grant us a wise and generous understanding of this God's Holy Word.



**RESPONSE****“Glory be to the Creator”****No. 493***With spirit*

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in B-flat major, 2/2 time. It consists of three systems of staves. The lyrics are: 'Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men, A - men.' The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final double bar line and repeat dots at the end.

**PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYERS****THE LORD'S PRAYER****A: 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.****And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil;****For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the  
glory forever. Amen.**

## CALL TO OFFERING

### OFFERTORY

*If you donate electronically, feel free to place a yellow "Electronic Giving" card into the plate as it comes around so you can enjoy participating in the physical act of giving.*

### RESPONSE

"The Doxology"

#551

**A: Praise God from whom all blessings flow!**

**Praise God all creatures here below!**

**Praise God above, you heavenly host!**

**Praise God in wonder, joy, and love! Amen.**

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*The congregation may be seated*

### SERMON

"Dancing with the Spirit"

Will those who are able please stand up

# HYMN "We Are Marching in the Light of God" SSB 26



Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -  
We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the



nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',  
light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God.



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.  
we are march - ing in the light of God.



Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) OO  
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) OO



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.  
we are march - ing in the light of God.



Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) OO  
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) OO



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.  
we are march - ing in the light of God.

*Additional stanzas ad lib.:*

We are dancing ...

We are praying ...

We are singing ...

**CHARGE**

P: Dance in the light of God! Let the divine light guide your steps, illuminate your path, and fill your hearts with joy. Embrace the rhythm of grace in your everyday lives, allowing God's love to shine through your actions, your words, and your spirit. Be beacons of hope, channels of peace, and vessels of compassion, reflecting the boundless light that is within each of us.!

**BENEDICTION**

P: Go forth, beloved of God, dancing in the radiance of divine light. As you dance through the days ahead, may you bring light to the shadows, hope to the weary, and joy to the sorrowful. May the love of God surround you, the grace of Christ sustain you, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit unite you, now and always, and may your life be a beautiful dance in the everlasting light of God's love. Amen.

POSTLUDE

“Postlude in C”

by Eugene Thayer

*The music after the service is intended as a time of reflection. Pastor will be pleased to greet you at the Sanctuary doors as soon as the postlude has concluded, and our livestream has stopped.*

FOR WORSHIP TODAY	
GUEST MINISTER	Rev. Wayne MacPherson
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Beth Sterba
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Jenn Schneider
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Laurie Mitchell

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# News in the Pews

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**Welcome to worship. “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ ... according to the riches of his grace” (Ephesians 1:3, 7, NRSV). Amen.**

**Please welcome back the Rev. Wayne MacPherson as our Pulpit Pastor today!** Pastor Wayne is has served four congregations in the Chicago Metropolitan Association, two as Pastor and two as Interim Pastor. In addition, he worked nine years as a member of the staff of the Chicago Metropolitan Association and the Illinois Conference. Pastor Wayne will be back again on August 25th at our outdoor service in Lorel Park.

**Thank you again to Katrina Sudman our guest organist. Katrina is from the Chicago area, and currently lives part time in Chicago and in Rome.** She earned her Master of Music in Piano Performance from the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University and her Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance, summa cum laude, from Azusa Pacific University in California. She now continues her studies privately with internationally acclaimed pianist Carlo Maria Dominici in Rome. In 2018, she took 2nd place in the International Piano Competition at the Festival of the Gulf in Salerno. She has performed in venues across the Chicago area, including the Grant Park Music Festival and the Chicago Botanic Gardens.

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**Laura Olson** will be back in the office tomorrow.

**We are now “officially” collecting rummage!** You can bring your items to the office during office hours, please call ahead to let us know you are coming.

**Rummage Sorting continues!** Please join us Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:30PM and Friday from 10AM to 2PM. No experience necessary to help, just take things out of boxes and put them places. Stay for as long as you are able, newcomers welcome!

**Keep Our Sunday School Mission Project Going!** On the last Sunday of every month our Sunday school families have been donating food items for St. Peter's mini food pantry. Please help us to continue our collection during the summer months by making the last Sunday of the month a focus for your mini pantry donations. We will have bins conveniently placed to receive your donations. Thank you for your generous support!

**Church Council** will meet after worship next Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup>.

**The Church Council has a Zoom meeting with Rev. Shernell Edney Stilley** at 6:30pm, Tuesday, July 16th. Please contact Peggy Reins with any questions and for the Zoom link if you have not received it by the meeting time.

**The August Announcer deadline** will be July 22<sup>nd</sup> this month.

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## Our People

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**As of this writing, Jane Abramchik remains at the McGaw Care Center / Frank Murdough Pavilion, 3200 Grant Street, Room 333, Evanston, IL, 60201. Dorene Schurman remains in hospice care in Ohio. Please keep them in your prayers.**

**Having birthdays this week are** Jeremy Steegmueller, Shari Meggs, Mary Taylor and Sydney Kerbel. **Happy Anniversary** to Beth and Paul Brzozowski, Gail and John Balling and Lisa and Eric Martinek. God's blessings to you on your special days!

**According to the schedule,** barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector will be Jen S. and the Nursery Attendant will be Carolyn V.

**Our guest minister next week** is Minister Renita Ward. The title of her message is "Choosing Better". Your Announcer has more details about this month's guest pastors. Please join us in worship and give them a warm welcome!

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### CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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PRESIDENT	Peggy Reins
VICE-PRESIDENT	Ann Herren
TREASURER	Chad McCoy
SECRETARY	Annie Noorts
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Maria Altmayer

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## Regular Reminders!

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**Let us know you were here!** Please sign the attendance sheet in the black pew pads and when you think your pew is ready, please pass the pad towards the center aisle of the church.

**Pantry Donations** – our generous donation from Jewel Foods is starting to dwindle - we can always use more donations! You may choose to make the last Sunday of the month a focus of your giving or bring in your donations anytime and add them to the shelves near the staircase inside the Laramie Avenue entrance.

**We are always grateful for any and all offerings to the church.** No amount is too small! So many thanks to everyone who's been keeping us going with your donations! See inside the bulletin's front cover for details on how to donate.

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## **MISSION MOMENTS**

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**July 14, 2024**

**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

**“God-inspired Joy”**

**2 Samuel 6:1–5, 12b–19**

A prayer of confession based on 2 Samuel 6:5

Reader One: 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.

Reader Two: In those days, the people were so delighted in God that they whirled and spun, sang and shouted, and played their instruments as loudly as they could.

Reader One: Why is it that we cannot remember the last time that we whirled our bodies in grateful amazement? Why do our songs fall tuneless from our mouths? Why is our praise so constrained, our rejoicing so quiet?

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Reader Two: And when was the last time we did anything at all before our God with “all of our might?” Our prayers are half-hearted, our rejoicing is lukewarm, and our commitment to be fully present to the presence of God is flagging.

Reader One: But it is not too late, for us, sluggish though we have been. Sound the trumpet! Strike up the tambourines and castanets and cymbals! Play the instruments with all your might! Sing aloud and LOUD! Let God know of your gratitude and delight!

(Congregational dance break.)

Reader Two (a bit breathless, from dancing): Friends, by the grace of God, we are here! By the glory of God, we are a grateful and joyful people!

Reader One: By the sweat on our brows, by the breath that moves within and through us, by the bodies that awoke this day ready to sing and dance and move, we give thanks for God’s presence with us, even when we forget to be present with God.

Congregation: We are God’s people and so we sing! We are God’s beloved people and so we dance! We are God’s beloved, forgiven people and so we shout, AMEN!

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2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19 and Psalm 24 • Amos 7:7-15 and Psalm 85:8-13 • Ephesians 1:3-14 • Mark 6:14-29

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**2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19**

6:1 David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand.

6:2 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.

6:3 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

6:4 with the ark of God; and Ahio went in front of the ark.

6:5 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.

6:12b So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing;

6:13 and when those who bore the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fatling.

6:14 David danced before the LORD with all his might; David was girded with a linen ephod.

6:15 So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.

6:16 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.

6:17 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.

6:18 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,

6:19 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.

### **Ephesians 1:3-14**

1:3 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,

1:4 just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love.

1:5 He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will,

1:6 to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

1:7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace

1:8 that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight

1:9 he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ,

1:10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

1:11 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,

1:12 so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory.

1:13 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;

1:14 this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

**Mark 6:14-29**

6:14 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."

6:15 But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old."

6:16 But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

6:17 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.

6:18 For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife."

6:19 And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not,

6:20 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.

6:21 But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee.

6:22 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."

6:23 And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom."

6:24 She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer."

6:25 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."

6:26 The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her.

6:27 Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison,

6:28 brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother.

6:29 When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

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2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19 and Psalm 24 • Amos 7:7-15 and Psalm 85:8-13 • Ephesians 1:3-14 • Mark 6:14-29

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VANDERBILT  
Divinity School

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**Jodie McCauley Gambill**  
Librarian for Digital Projects  
Architect of the Revised Common Lectionary  
2007 – 2024