

Worship Service ~

18th Sunday after Pentecost, Year B,

22nd September, 2024

Psalm 4 / Mark 6:14-29

Prelude

played by church musician Annie Center,

Gathering Together

Welcome

Please stand with me, if you're able, and hear the Lord call us into worship.

Call to Worship

One: Grace unto you and peace from God, who was and who is and who is to come,

All: and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the first born of the dead, ruler above all rulers of the earth.

One: In love Jesus Christ suffered death to free us from our sins,

All: making all who confess Christ a nation of priests set aside for God's service.

All: *To Jesus Christ be glory and power forever and ever!*

Invocation

We praise you for creating this world in all beauty, for redeeming the world through Christ, our Lord, and for sending us the gift of your Spirit to encourage, instruct, and sustain us. We long for your Spirit to work among us now, to inspire our praise, to challenge us with your truth, and to equip us for service in your world. Amen.

Opening Hymn

Great is Thy Faithfulness ~ 327

Engaging with God Together

Scripture Reading ~ Psalm 4

1 Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have given me relief when I was in distress. Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!

2 O men, how long shall my honor be turned into shame? How long will you love vain words and seek after lies?

3 But know that the LORD has set apart the godly for himself; the LORD hears when I call to him.

4 Be angry, and do not sin; ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent.

5 Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the LORD.

6 There are many who say, "Who will show us some good? Lift up the light of your face upon us, O LORD!"

7 You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound.

8 In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.

Let's greet one another with the peace of Christ as we pass the peace.

Pass the Peace

Sharing Announcements and Prayer Requests

In a moment we are going to pray together, but before we do, does anyone have any announcements to share about anything in the life of the church coming up?

Pastoral Prayer (responsive)

Prayer by pastor

Various times throughout the prayer the pastor and congregation will respond with the following:

One: Lord in your mercy...

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Hymn

~ I Need Thee Every Hour ~ 555

Hearing the Word Together

Sermon Passage ~ Mark 6:14-29

14 King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some said, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead. That is why these miraculous powers are at work in him." 15 But others said, "He is Elijah." And others said, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." 16 But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised." 17 For it was Herod who had sent and seized John and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because he had married her. 18 For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." 19 And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to put him to death. But she could not, 20 for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he kept him safe. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed, and yet he heard him gladly.

21 But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his nobles and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. 22 For when Herodias's daughter 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 to you." 23 And he vowed to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half of my kingdom." 24 And she went out and said to her mother, "For what should I ask?" And she said, "The head of John the Baptist." 25 And she came in immediately with haste to the king and asked, saying, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." 26 And the king was exceedingly sorry, but because of his oaths and his guests he did not want to break his word to her.

27 And immediately the king sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison 28 and brought his head on a platter and gave it to the girl, and the girl gave it to her mother. 29 When his disciples heard of it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

Sermon

Rev. Jonny Finlayson

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Responding to the Word Together

Call to Serve

A Time for Reflection

Played by church musician Annie Center,

Hymn

A Mighty Fortress is Our God ~ 165

Benediction

Short prayer by pastor

Postlude

played by church musician Annie Center,

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