

## **Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, July 4**

**The Collect:** O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **Track 1 Old Testament: 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 read from the Holman Christian Standard Bible**

5 All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, “Here we are, your own flesh and blood. 2 Even while Saul was king over us, you were the one who led us out to battle and brought us back. The Lord also said to you, ‘You will shepherd My people Israel and be ruler over Israel.’”

3 So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron. King David made a covenant with them at Hebron in the Lord’s presence, and they anointed David king over Israel.

4 David was 30 years old when he began his reign; he reigned 40 years. 5 In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned 33 years over all Israel and Judah.

9 David took up residence in the stronghold, which he named the city of David. He built it up all the way around from the supporting terraces inward. 10 David became more and more powerful, and the Lord God of Hosts was with him.

### **Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people**

### **Track 1 Psalm 48 read from The Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer**

1 Great is the Lord, and highly to be praised; \*

in the city of our God is his holy hill.

2 Beautiful and lofty, the joy of all the earth, is the hill of Zion, \*

the very center of the world and the city of the great King.

3 God is in her citadels; \*

he is known to be her sure refuge.

4 Behold, the kings of the earth assembled \*

and marched forward together.

5 They looked and were astounded; \*

they retreated and fled in terror.

6 Trembling seized them there; \*

they writhed like a woman in childbirth,

like ships of the sea when the east wind shatters them.

7 As we have heard, so have we seen,

in the city of the Lord of hosts, in the city of our God; \*

God has established her for ever.

8 We have waited in silence on your loving-kindness, O God, \*

in the midst of your temple.

9 Your praise, like your Name, O God, reaches to the world's end; \*

your right hand is full of justice.

10 Let Mount Zion be glad

and the cities of Judah rejoice, \*

because of your judgments.

11 Make the circuit of Zion;

walk round about her; \*

count the number of her towers.

12 Consider well her bulwarks;

examine her strongholds; \*

that you may tell those who come after.

13 This God is our God for ever and ever; \*

he shall be our guide for evermore.

**Track 2 Old Testament Ezekiel 2:1-5 read from the Holman Christian Standard Bible**

2 He said to me, "Son of man, stand up on your feet and I will speak with you." 2 As He

spoke to me, the Spirit entered me and set me on my feet, and I listened to the One who was speaking to me. 3 He said to me: “Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to the rebellious pagans who have rebelled against Me. The Israelites and their ancestors have transgressed against Me to this day. 4 The children are obstinate and hardhearted. I am sending you to them, and you must say to them, ‘This is what the Lord God says.’ 5 Whether they listen or refuse to listen—for they are a rebellious house—they will know that a prophet has been among them.

### **Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people**

### **Track 2 Psalm 123 read from The Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer**

1 To you I lift up my eyes, \*  
to you enthroned in the heavens.  
2 As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, \*  
and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,  
3 So our eyes look to the Lord our God, \*  
until he show us his mercy.  
4 Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy, \*  
for we have had more than enough of contempt,  
5 Too much of the scorn of the indolent rich, \*  
and of the derision of the proud.

### **Epistle: 2 Corinthians 12:2-10 read from the International Children's Bible**

2 I know a man in Christ who was taken up to the third heaven. This happened 14 years ago. I do not know whether the man was in his body or out of his body. But God knows. 3-4 And I know that this man was taken up to paradise. I don't know if he was in his body or away from his body. But he heard things he is not able to explain. He heard things that no man is allowed to tell. 5 I will brag about a man like that. But I will not brag about myself, except about my weaknesses. 6 But if I wanted to brag about myself, I would not be a fool. I would not be a fool, because I would be telling the truth. But I will not brag about myself. I do not want people to think more of me than what they see me do or hear me say.

7 But I must not become too proud of the wonderful things that were shown to me. So a painful problem was given to me. This problem is a messenger from Satan. It is sent to beat me and keep me from being too proud. 8 I begged the Lord three times to take this problem away from me. 9 But the Lord said to me, "My grace is enough for you. When you are weak, then my power is made perfect in you." So I am very happy to brag about my weaknesses. Then Christ's power can live in me. 10 So I am happy when I have weaknesses, insults, hard times, sufferings, and all kinds of troubles. All these things are for Christ. And I am happy, because when I am weak, then I am truly strong.

### **Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people**

#### **Gospel: Mark 6:1-13 read from the King James 21st Century Version Bible**

6 And He went out from thence and came into His own country, and His disciples followed Him.

2 And when the Sabbath day had come, He began to teach in the synagogue. And many hearing Him were astonished, saying, "From whence hath this man these things? And what wisdom is this which is given unto him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands?"

3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joses, and of Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?" And they were offended at Him.

4 But Jesus said unto them, "A prophet is not without honor, save in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house."

5 And He could do no mighty works there, except that He laid His hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them.

6 And He marveled because of their unbelief. And He went round about the villages teaching.

7 And He called unto Him the twelve, and began to send them forth two by two, and gave them power over unclean spirits,

8 and commanded them that they should take nothing for their journey, save a staff only — no wallet, no bread, and no money in their purse,

9 but be shod with sandals, and not put on two coats.

10 And He said unto them, "In whatever place ye enter into a house, there abide until ye

depart from that place.

11 And whosoever shall not receive you nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet as a testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, it shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the Day of Judgment than for that city.”

12 And they went out and preached that men should repent.

13 And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many who were sick, and healed them.

## **The Gospel of the Lord**

### **Closing Prayer: On July 6 we celebrate the life of John (Jan) Hus, Prophetic Witness and Martyr. Read from *A Great Cloud of Witnesses*.**

John Hus was born at Husinec in Bohemia c. 1369. He was a priest who, influenced by the writings of John Wyclif, became leader of the Bohemian reform movement, which called for a return to Scripture and living out of the word of God in one’s life. As preacher at Bethlehem Chapel in Prague, he talked to the people in their native language. Hundreds gathered every day to hear his call for personal and institutional reform.

Clerics he had offended had him exiled from Prague, but he continued his ministry through the written word. Hus took the radical step of appealing directly to Christ rather than to the hierarchy for the justification of his stance.

When the Council of Constance opened in 1414, Hus traveled there, hoping to clear his name of charges of heresy. Hus had been given a pledge of safe conduct from the Emperor, but his enemies persuaded council officials to imprison him on the grounds that “promises made to heretics need not be kept.” Although several leaders of the Council of Constance were in favor of moderate church reform, the council’s prime objective was the resolution of the Great Western Schism, which had produced three rival popes at the same time. The council therefore tried to secure a speedy recantation and submission from Hus. He maintained that the charges against him were false or twisted versions of his teachings, and he could not recant opinions he had never held. Faced with an ultimatum to recant or die, Hus chose the latter. As he approached the stake on July 6, 1415, he refused a last attempt

to get him to recant and said: “The principal intention of my preaching and of all my other acts or writings was solely that I might turn men from sin. And in that truth of the gospel that I wrote, taught, and preached in accordance with the sayings and expositions of the holy doctors, I am willing gladly to die today.”

His death did not end the movement, and the Bohemian reformation continued. Hus influenced Martin Luther’s reforming ideas. The Moravian Church traces its origins to Hus. Hus’ rousing assertion “Truth will conquer!” is the motto of the Czech Republic today.

**Let us pray:** Faithful God, you gave Jan Hus the courage to confess your truth and recall your Church to the image of Christ: Enable us, inspired by his example, to bear witness against corruption and never cease to pray for our enemies, that we may prove faithful followers of our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**