

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, August 3

The Collect and Psalms will be read from The Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer
The Old Testament, Epistle and Gospel will be read from the New Revised Standard Version Bible

The Collect: Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; 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: Hosea 11:1-11

11 When Israel was a child, I loved him,
and out of Egypt I called my son.

2 The more I called them,
the more they went from me;
they kept sacrificing to the Baals
and offering incense to idols.

3 Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk;
I took them up in my arms,
but they did not know that I healed them.

4 I led them with cords of human kindness,
with bands of love.

I was to them like those
who lift infants to their cheeks.

I bent down to them and fed them.

5 They shall return to the land of Egypt,
and Assyria shall be their king,
because they have refused to return to me.

6 The sword rages in their cities;
it consumes their oracle priests

and devours because of their schemes.

7 My people are bent on turning away from me.

To the Most High they call,

but he does not raise them up at all.

8 How can I give you up, Ephraim?

How can I hand you over, O Israel?

How can I make you like Admah?

How can I treat you like Zeboiim?

My heart recoils within me;

my compassion grows warm and tender.

9 I will not execute my fierce anger;

I will not again destroy Ephraim,

for I am God and no mortal,

the Holy One in your midst,

and I will not come in wrath.

10 They shall go after the Lord,

who roars like a lion;

when he roars,

his children shall come trembling from the west.

11 They shall come trembling like birds from Egypt

and like doves from the land of Assyria,

and I will return them to their homes, says the Lord.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

Track 1 Psalm: Psalm 107:1-9, 43

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, *

and his mercy endures for ever.

2 Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim *

that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.

3 He gathered them out of the lands; *

from the east and from the west,

from the north and from the south.

4 Some wandered in desert wastes; *

they found no way to a city where they might dwell.

5 They were hungry and thirsty; *

their spirits languished within them.

6 Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, *

and he delivered them from their distress.

7 He put their feet on a straight path *

to go to a city where they might dwell.

8 Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy *

and the wonders he does for his children.

9 For he satisfies the thirsty *

and fills the hungry with good things.

43 Whoever is wise will ponder these things, *

and consider well the mercies of the Lord.

Track 2 Old Testament: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher,

vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

12 I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. 13 I applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to humans to be busy with. 14 I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun, and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

18 I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to my successor, 19 and who knows whether he will be wise or foolish? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. 20 So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, 21 because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. 22 What do

mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? 23 For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

Track 2 Psalm: Psalm 49:1-11

- 1 Hear this, all you peoples;
hearken, all you who dwell in the world, *
you of high degree and low, rich and poor together.
- 2 My mouth shall speak of wisdom, *
and my heart shall meditate on understanding.
- 3 I will incline my ear to a proverb *
and set forth my riddle upon the harp.
- 4 Why should I be afraid in evil days, *
when the wickedness of those at my heels surrounds me,
- 5 The wickedness of those who put their trust in their goods, *
and boast of their great riches?
- 6 We can never ransom ourselves, *
or deliver to God the price of our life;
- 7 For the ransom of our life is so great, *
that we should never have enough to pay it,
- 8 In order to live for ever and ever, *
and never see the grave.
- 9 For we see that the wise die also;
like the dull and stupid they perish *
and leave their wealth to those who come after them.
- 10 Their graves shall be their homes for ever,
their dwelling places from generation to generation, *
though they call the lands after their own names.
- 11 Even though honored, they cannot live for ever; *
they are like the beasts that perish.

Epistle: Colossians 3:1-11

3 So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, 3 for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. 5 Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). 6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. 7 These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. 8 But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices 10 and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. 11 In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

Gospel: Luke 12:13-21

13 Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." 14 But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" 15 And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." 16 Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. 17 And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' 18 Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' 20 But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' 21 So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

The Word of the Lord

On August 9 we celebrate the life of Herman of Alaska, Missionary to the Aleut. Read from A Great Cloud of Witnesses.

Herman of Alaska, known in the Russian Orthodox Church as “St. Herman: Wonderworker of All America,” was the first saint to be canonized by the Orthodox Church in America.

Herman was born in Russia, near Moscow, in 1756. His baptismal and family names are unknown. He is known by his monastic name. Naturally pious from an early age, Herman entered the Trinity-St. Sergius Hermitage near St. Petersburg at 16 and, drawn to the spiritual charism of Abbot Nasarios, eventually transferred to the Valaam Monastery. He was never ordained. For many years he secured permission to live as a hermit, attending the liturgies of the monastery only on holy days.

In 1793, with a small group of colleagues, Herman set out to do missionary work in Alaska. They settled on Spruce Island, near Kodiak, and named their community “New Valaam” in honor of their home monastery. Herman lived and worked in the area for the remainder of his life.

He advocated for and defended the native Aleut against sometimes oppressive authorities, particular Russian and European colonists with commercial interests. He cared lovingly and sacrificially for all who came to him, counseling and teaching them, and tirelessly nursing the sick. He especially loved children, for whom he often baked biscuits and cookies.

Even though Herman had minimal education outside of the monastic life, he was regarded among the native Alaskans as a great and compelling teacher. Over time he also developed a reputation as a teacher and sage among the Russian and European settlers in the area. He so captivated his listeners that many would listen to him through the long hours of the night and not leave his company until morning. The people he served often referred to Herman as their North Star.

Herman died at Spruce Island on December 25, 1837, according to the Gregorian calendar then still in use in Alaska. In the spring of 1969, the Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church

in America proclaimed Herman a saint. He was glorified in a solemn liturgy on August 9, 1970, at Holy Resurrection Orthodox Cathedral on Kodiak Island, Alaska, with simultaneous rites taking place at other Orthodox centers.

Let us pray: Holy God, we bless your Name for Herman, joyful North Star of Christ's Church, who brought the Good News of Christ's love to your people in Alaska; and we pray that, following his example and admonition, we may love you, God, above all; through Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, throughout all ages. **Amen.**