

**The Seventh Sunday After Pentecost -July 27**  
**(The Tears of Things Sermon Series: Week 3: Unfinished Prophets**  
**(Including Me)**

**FIRST READING 1 Kings 18:20-40**

**📖 A reading from 1 Kings**

<sup>20</sup> So Ahab sent to all the Israelites and assembled the prophets at Mount Carmel. <sup>21</sup> Elijah then came near to all the people and said, "How long will you go limping with two different opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him, but if Baal, then follow him." The people did not answer him a word. <sup>22</sup> Then Elijah said to the people, "I, even I only, am left a prophet of the LORD, but Baal's prophets number four hundred fifty. <sup>23</sup> Let two bulls be given to us; let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood but put no fire to it; I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood but put no fire to it. <sup>24</sup> Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD; the god who answers by fire is indeed God." All the people answered, "Well spoken!" <sup>25</sup> Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose for yourselves one bull and prepare it first, for you are many; then call on the name of your god, but put no fire to it." <sup>26</sup> So they took the bull that was given them, prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon, crying, "O Baal, answer us!" But there was no voice and no answer. They limped about the altar that they had made. <sup>27</sup> At noon Elijah mocked them, saying, "Cry aloud! Surely he is a god; either he is meditating, or he has wandered away, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened." <sup>28</sup> Then they cried aloud, and, as was their custom, they cut themselves

with swords and lances until the blood gushed out over them. <sup>29</sup>As midday passed, they raved on until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice, no answer, and no response.

<sup>30</sup>Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come closer to me," and all the people came closer to him. First he repaired the altar of the LORD that had been thrown down; <sup>31</sup>Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD came, saying, "Israel shall be your name"; <sup>32</sup>with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD. Then he made a trench around the altar, large enough to contain two measures of seed. <sup>33</sup>Next he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces, and laid it on the wood. He said, "Fill four jars with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood." <sup>34</sup>Then he said, "Do it a second time," and they did it a second time. Again he said, "Do it a third time," and they did it a third time, <sup>35</sup>so that the water ran all around the altar and filled the trench also with water.

<sup>36</sup>At the time of the offering of the oblation, the prophet Elijah came near and said, "O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your bidding. <sup>37</sup>Answer me, O LORD, answer me, so that this people may know that you, O LORD, are God and that you have turned their hearts back." <sup>38</sup>Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering, the wood, the stones, and the dust and even licked up the water that was in the trench. <sup>39</sup>When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, "The LORD indeed is God; the LORD indeed is God." <sup>40</sup>Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of

Baal; do not let one of them escape.” Then they seized them, and Elijah brought them down to the Wadi Kishon and killed them there.

*At the conclusion of the reading:*

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING Job 19:25-26**

### **A Reading from Job**

<sup>25</sup> For I know that my vindicator lives  
and that in the end he will stand upon the earth;  
<sup>26</sup> and after my skin has been destroyed,  
then in my flesh I shall see God,

*At the conclusion of the reading:*

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL READING Matthew 3:1-10**

The holy gospel according to Matthew

**Glory to you, O LORD**

<sup>1</sup> In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup> “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup> This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,  
“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord;

make his paths straight.' ”

<sup>4</sup> Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, <sup>9</sup> and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

*At the conclusion of the reading:*

**P** The gospel of the LORD

**G Praise to you, O Christ**