

July 18, 2021

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOMING WORD *Mark's gospel makes clear how great is the press of the crowd, with its countless needs to be met, on Jesus and his disciples. Yet in today's gospel Jesus advises his disciples to get away and rest, to take care of themselves. Sometimes we think that when others are in great need we shouldn't think of ourselves at all; but Jesus also honors the caregivers' need. We are sent from Christ's table to care for others and for ourselves.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

C: The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

L: You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

C: Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

L: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

C: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

OPENING HYMN: #481 (Green hymnal) *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need your tender care.
In your pleasant pastures feed us, for our use your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us: we are yours.

We are yours; in love befriend us. Be the guardian of our way.
Keep your flock; from sin defend us. Seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear us children when we pray.

You have promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;
You have mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse and pow'r to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Early let us turn to you.

Early let us seek your favor; early let us do your will.
Blessed Lord and only Savior, with your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us; love us still.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

C: Amen.

L: Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: God, our provider

C: help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

L: Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, ✠ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

C: Amen.

INVOCATION

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: O God,

C: powerful and compassionate, you shepherd your people, faithfully feeding and protecting us. Heal each of us, and make us a whole people, that we may embody the justice and peace of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Jeremiah 23:1-6 ¹Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. ²Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. ³Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

⁵The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

SECOND LESSON Ephesians 2:11-22 ¹¹Remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called "the uncircumcision" by those who are called "the circumcision"—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—¹²remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. ¹⁵He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. ¹⁷So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; ¹⁸for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, ²⁰built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. ²¹In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; ²²in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

GOSPEL: Mark 6:30-34, 53-56 ³⁰The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. ³¹He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. ³²And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. ³³Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. ³⁴As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

⁵³When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. ⁵⁴When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, ⁵⁵and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. ⁵⁶And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

MESSAGE Pastor John Twiton

SERMON HYMN: # 716 (Blue hymnal) *Word of God, Come Down to Earth*

Word of God, come down on earth, living rain from heav'n descending.
Touch our hearts and bring to birth faith and hope and love unending.
Word almighty, we revere you; word made flesh, we long to hear you.

Word eternal, throned on high; word that brought to life creation,
Word that came from heav'n to die, crucified for our salvation,
Saving word, the world restoring, speak to us, your love outpouring.

Word that caused blind eyes to see, speak and heal our mortal blindness;
Deaf we are; our healer be; loose our tongues to tell your kindness.
Be our word in pity spoken, heal the world, by our sin broken.

Word that speaks God's tender love, one with God beyond all telling
Word that sends us from above, God the Spirit, with us dwelling,
Word of truth, to all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER - Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Tend your church, O God. Encourage bishops, pastors, and deacons in their proclamation of the gospel. Raise up new leaders and encourage those pursuing a call to ministry. Embolden all the baptized to embody your love and justice. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Restore your creation, O God. Sustain croplands and pastures and safeguard all farm animals and livestock. Preserve lakes, rivers, and streams that offer refreshment. Revive lands recovering from natural disasters and protect coastlands threatened by rising oceans. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Reconcile the nations, O God. Break down the dividing walls that make us strangers to one another and unite us as one human family. Equip leaders to deal wisely with conflict and guide diplomats who seek peaceful solutions. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Heal your people, O God. Look with compassion on immigrants, exiles, and all who are afraid or feel lost. Give rest to those who are weary, comfort to those who are grieving, and recovery to those who are ill (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Nourish this congregation, O God. Prepare a table where we receive food for our hungering spirits. Renew our commitment to provide for one another and revitalize our ministries of feeding and nurturing hungry neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: You lead us home, O God. We give thanks for all who have died, now citizens with the saints (*especially*). As you have received them into your heavenly home, so welcome all of us to dwell in your house forever. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever, Amen.

BENEDICTION *May the blessing of God our creator, the love of Jesus Christ our redeemer, and the presence of the Holy Spirit the comforter, surround you and sustain you until we gather again. Amen.*

CLOSING HYMN: #315 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling


Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heav'n, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art.
Visit us with thy salvation; enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast.
Let us all in thee inherit, let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be.
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver, let us all thy life receive.
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore they temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

 Kyle Fargo, Mary Jane Ellis, Kristin Swedlund-Twiton, Mike Mackler (friend of Char Smith), Connie Peterson, Bonnie Bender, Ginger Quaderer (Diane Mueller's cousin), Norbert Haag (brother of Virgil Haag), Richard Schuhler (friend of Ron & Bonny Kellogg), Agnes Robertson (friend of Holly Thompson), Delores Bryant, Makenzee Smith, Shirley Thompson, Brock Howe, Dianne Haskins (friend of Char Smith), Brian Marshall (friend of Kim Kelliher), Jeannie U'Ren, Ruth Ann Nemet, Mike Olson (Wendy Rasmussen's brother), Irene Bruflat, Connie Fausett (sister of Diane Twiton & Jean Bower), Bill Steinhauer, Harlan Oimoen, Peter Toniazzo, Grace Aavang, Carol Johnson,

Our partner congregation IGLESIA EVANGÉLICA LUTERANA DIVINO SALVADOR (Divine Savior Lutheran Church) in Cataño, P.R

PLEASE WELCOME Hanna Rose Bickford into our church family. Hanna was baptized on July 11. She is the daughter of Becky & Brant Bickford and the granddaughter of Kris & Joe Muehlenkamp.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ELC 'COFFEE TIME' - Coffee Time meets on Wednesdays at 10 am AND we meet 'in person'. Join us at ELC for time to gather and catch up with our church family.

ELC T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE - We have new ELC t-shirts available for purchase. They are a dark green t-shirt with our ELC logo. \$5.00 per shirt, payable to ELC.

ELC FAITH CONNECTION- Our ELC Group on Facebook, *ELC Faith Connection*, is for everyone of all ages. This summer, keep your eyes open for 'hearts' you notice in nature. Share your photos on our Facebook group and we will draw names for gift cards to our local community before school begins. #heartsinthewild. Contact Brenda, if you need help connecting.

SPECIAL OUTDOOR WORSHIP AND PICNIC Farewell and Sending Service for Intern Tamara For this celebration we will have outdoor worship at 10:00am to be followed by a picnic, with food provided through our Spiritual Growth and Fellowship Ministry. This will be Tamara's last Sunday with us before she returns to Wartburg for her final year. Please come and wish her well!

OFFICE MANAGER JOB POSTING Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mt Horeb is seeking an office manager to perform day-to-day administrative activities in the operation of the church and be the first-line contact for congregation members as well as the public. This person should understand the mission of the church (but does not need to be a member), have excellent interpersonal skills and should be proficient in word processing, bookkeeping, data base, web maintenance and working with spreadsheet programs. They should have strong organizational skills with the ability to multi-task and ideally have a minimum of 2 years of office management, administrative support, or secretarial experience, but not required. The position includes PTO days and is somewhat flexible up to 30 hours a week. Pay will be partially determined by experience. Training will be available.



EXPLORER DAY AT SUGAR CREEK July 26th, 9 am - 3 pm (Children entering 1st - 5th grade in fall 2021) Come for an exciting one-day adventure at Sugar Creek. Explore what camp has to offer - games, nature, crafts, swimming, pony rides, Bible Study, singing and more! \$35 per camper, and \$10 per adult. Please contact Brenda for registration information.

GIVE/LOVE/SERVE (Thriving on Thursdays) - Middle - High school youth may join us on **Thursdays**, throughout the summer, to help in various local service opportunities, such as helping at Second Harvest, River Food Pantry, Stewart Park, and a car wash for SABA International. **Our next Thursdays: JULY 22nd, 29th and AUG 19th REGISTER online:** (watch times and locations for each day on sign up)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4daea929a5ffc70-giveloveservice>

THANK YOU: Thank you to everyone who helped support our brat stand on Saturday. Our funds that were raised will go toward our summer trips in 2022, ELCA Youth Gathering and Youthworks Mission trip to St Louis.

CAR WASH - Bring your car, truck, or even a golf cart on July 22nd, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM at ELC in our back parking lot. Youth will be raising funds for SABA International, as a part of our GIVE/LOVE/SERVE days.

DONATIONS NEEDED - For our youth mission days, "Thriving on Thursdays", we are planning on making some tied fleece blankets for St. Vincent de Paul's housing program, and assembling meals for the Little Food Pantries in Mt Horeb. **Two ways to donate by July 25th:**

- **Blankets** - need to be a twin size (60 in x 90 in); measure 2 ½ yds of fleece. Each blanket needs two pieces to be tied.
- **Food donations** - Check on our signup link below to see the food items needed to complete two different recipes. If you have trouble connecting, please contact Brenda.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4daea929a5ffc70-meal>

FUSE NIGHTS (in person) - 9th - 12th graders are welcome to join our high school group on **Tuesday, July 20 at 7 pm**. We will meet at Icki Sticki for a treat!

DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 18, 2021

SHARE: What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

READ: Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding

Monday, Psalm 100, All Lands are to Praise God

Tuesday, Zechariah 9:14-10:2, God's Deliverance of the People

Wednesday, Luke 15:1-7, The Parable of the Lost Sheep

Thursday, John 20:1-2; 11-18, Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

Friday, Colossians 3:12-17, The New Life in Christ

Saturday, 2 Kings 4:38-41, Elijah Purifies the Pot of Stew

TALK: Consider some of these ideas: "As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things." Mark 6:34 *When Jesus sends his disciples out to teach and heal, they minister among large numbers of people. Their work is motivated by Christ's desire to be among those in need.*

- Despite the needs of so many, notice that Jesus first invites the disciples to take some time apart to rest. How do you balance the need for rest, and the demands to work?
- The crowds follow Jesus, and he reacts with compassion. How does your life reflect Jesus' compassion.
- Do you feel empowered to share in Jesus' ministry?

PRAY: O God, powerful and compassionate, you shepherd your people, faithfully feeding and protecting us. Heal each of us, and make us a whole people, that we may embody the justice and peace of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

BLESS: The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, be upon you now and forever.