



## THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 18, 2021

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Mark's gospel makes clear how great was 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.*

### ✝ GATHERING ✝

OPENING HYMN

*O Holy Spirit, Enter In*

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.*

P. We are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen.

P. Trusting God's promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

P. Loving God,

C. we confess that we have not loved You with our whole hearts; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have failed to worship You with our whole being and to share the abundance of grace You give us. We have acted out of selfish ambition rather than the interests of others; we have nursed grudges rather than seeking reconciliation and peace. Forgive us and renew in us the mind of Christ Jesus, that we may live according to Your will. Amen.

P. Since we are justified by faith . . . the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen.

GREETING

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, powerful and compassionate, You shepherd Your people, faithfully feeding and protecting us. Heal each of us and give us the strength to live according to Your will, that we may embody the justice and peace of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C. Amen.

## ✠ WORD ✠

### FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:1–6

*Jeremiah prophesied before the exile in 587 B.C. In this passage, he uses the metaphor of a shepherd to describe the bad kings who have scattered the “flock” of Israel. God promises to gather the flock and to raise up a new king from David’s line to save Israel and Judah.*

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture! says the LORD.

<sup>2</sup>Therefore 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.

<sup>3</sup>Then 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. <sup>4</sup>I 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.

<sup>5</sup>The 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. <sup>6</sup>In 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.”

L. The Word of the Lord. C. Thanks be to God.

### PSALM 23

The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup>He makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.

<sup>3</sup>He revives my soul

and guides me along right pathways for His name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me;  
You have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup>Surely Your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

## SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:11–22

*The author of this letter is reminding his audience that originally they were not part of God's chosen people. Through Jesus' death, however, they are included in God's household of faith, whose cornerstone is Jesus Christ.*

Remember 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—<sup>12</sup>remember 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.

<sup>13</sup>But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup>For 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. <sup>15</sup>He 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, <sup>16</sup>and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. <sup>17</sup>So He came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; <sup>18</sup>for through Him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father.

<sup>19</sup>So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup>built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone. <sup>21</sup>In Him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; <sup>22</sup>in Whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

L. The Word of the Lord. C. Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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HOLY GOSPEL: St. Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

*When Jesus sent his disciples out to teach and heal, they ministered among large numbers of people. Their work was motivated by Christ's desire to be among those in need.*

C. Glory to You, O Lord.

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told Him all that they had done and taught. <sup>31</sup>He 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. <sup>32</sup>And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. <sup>33</sup>Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them.

<sup>34</sup>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.

<sup>53</sup>When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. <sup>54</sup>When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized Him, <sup>55</sup>and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard He was. <sup>56</sup>And

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.

P. The Gospel of the Lord.  
C. Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

*I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;  
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give  
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."  
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."  
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;  
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;  
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



I found in him a rest-ing-place, and he has made me glad.  
my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.  
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav-'ling days are done.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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SHARING THE PEACE OF THE LORD

ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ✠ PRAYER ✠

### OFFERING

### OFFERTORY



Re - mem - ber and re - jice, re - newed by floods of grace.  
God, bless us by your grace; re - mind us of your care.



We bear the sign of Je - sus Christ, that time can - not e - rase.  
Re - new - ing Spir - it, fill us now, in - spire our work, our prayer.

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

P. Blessed are you,

C. O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through Your goodness You have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to Your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that You have made, for the sake of Him Who gave Himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

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## ✠ SENDING ✠

### BENEDICTION

P. Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. May you be rooted and grounded in His love.  
Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C. Amen

CLOSING HYMN

*Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*



1 Sav-ior like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten - der care.  
2 We are yours; in love be - friend us, be the guard-ian of our way;  
3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;  
4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor, ear - ly let us do your will;



In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, for our use your fold pre-pare.  
keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.  
you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.  
bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.  
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.  
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.



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Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.

DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
C. Thanks be to God.

## THOSE WHO SERVE:

Ministers: All the People of God    Presider: Pastor Ellen Munter  
Musician: Terry Dybsetter    Reader: Sara Wollum  
Camera: Josh Sumption    Projection: James Kamrath/Kendon Knutson  
Sound Room: Ken Jeremiason and Jerome Bruns

### How to reach us:

Church Office: 507-296-4658    Pastor's House: 507-296-4558  
Pastor's Cell: 507-828-1000(call or text)    Pastor's email: pastormunter@gmail.com  
Bethel email: bethel@bethelofporter.com    Bethel web page: www.bethelofporter.com



Emily Morton, Angie Denelsbeck Anderson, Shirlee Gabbert,  
Bill and Karen Pohlen, Carol Moon, Gail Sumption,

## **It's almost time for Vacation Bible School.**

**This year our VBS is going to **Mars and Beyond!!** Our mission is July 26 to July 29, at Bethel, from 6:00 – 8:30 pm. All space cadets in preschool through 5th grade are welcome to sign up and travel with us this week. The link to register is on our webpage [www.bethelofporter.com](http://www.bethelofporter.com).**

**Don't miss out on the fun! It will be a trip to remember!**

**VBS still needs the following supplies.**

- 2 containers vanilla frosting**
- 1 box star shaped cereal**
- 1 sharable bag M&M's (this is the large bag)**
- 1 box cheese Its**
- 1 bag mini marshmallows**
- 12 oz clear plastic cups (200)**
- 1 box sandwich size ziploc baggies**
- Small dessert plates (200)**
- 1 container lemonade powder**

*Please deliver these items to the church kitchen by Sunday July 25.*

Thanks

## Upside-Down Expectations

The people were expecting a powerful king. In Jesus, they were given a shepherd. They were looking for the one who would conquer the empire with military might. In Jesus, they were shown the way of self-sacrifice. They were used to a kingdom that celebrated the wealthy and influential. In Jesus, they became witnesses to a kingdom that places the marginalized at the center.

Jesus arrives on the scene in today's gospel as a stark contrast to Herod, who is the focus of the verses immediately prior to today's text. Herod threw a private banquet for the big names of the day; Jesus offers healing for all on the grassy hillside. Herod perpetuated the division between the haves and the have-nots; Jesus gathers all people for the sake of God's merciful love. Herod seeks to appease the economic elite, while Jesus turns the marketplace into a place of healing for common people.

Jesus takes what we think we know about status, belonging, and leadership and turns it on its head, shepherding us into a new way of living. With Jesus as our shepherd, we gather in worship and prayer. We confess how we have been complacent about the old kingdom's ways and are freed by grace to begin again in God's kingdom. We remember our identities in the waters of baptism, reminded about whose we are and which king we serve. We hear God's promises and lift our voices in praise and take part in the banquet that is given for all. We practice generosity and raise our voices in prayer to remember the ones whom Jesus places at the center. We go forth to be citizens of God's kingdom—healed, fed, forgiven—following the one true Shepherd whose compassion knows no bounds.

### Upcoming Commemorations

**Thursday, July 22, 2021**

**Mary Magdalene, Apostle**

Sometimes called "the apostle to the apostles" because she told them of her encounter with the risen Lord, Mary was a woman of Galilee who followed Jesus throughout his ministry. She was present at Jesus' crucifixion and his burial.

**Friday, July 23, 2021**

**Birgitta of Sweden, renewer of the church, died 1373**

Birgitta married at age thirteen and had four daughters. Widowed at age thirty-eight, she gave all that she owned to the poor, and founded a community of monks and nuns led by a woman. Her work is continued today by the Society of St. Birgitta.

### Acknowledgements

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