

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

A Righteous Shepherd-King

July 14, 17, 18, 2021

AS WE GATHER

An old Jewish prayer begins, "Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe." To call God "King" is to acknowledge Him as the highest ruler over all. Earthly kings never created the subjects of their rule out of nothing as has the one Creator God. So much higher and more exalted than any earthly sovereign king is God. In the Old Testament, God gave His people kings for their nation. But unlike the rulers of other nations, Israel's kings were to rule in God's name and after His heart and will and word. They were to rule God's people like shepherds tending sheep, like David of old. Few, however, were faithful to their calling. Through a king named Zedekiah, God both condemned the former faithless kings and promised the future righteous Branch of the great King David. In today's Gospel, we see Jesus, God's Son, having compassion on people as a shepherd has compassion on the sheep. Because of Jesus' blood and righteousness, you have a King that cannot fail. He cares for you and will deliver you safely to your eternal home.

Reception of Holy Communion: If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

WELCOME

"For you were called to freedom, brothers.
Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh,
but through love serve one another." (Galatians 5:13)

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #710 "The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want"

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me
The quiet waters by.

1 continued

My soul He doth restore again
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
E'en for His own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
Yet, will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod
And staff me comfort still.

My table Thou hast furnished
In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house forevermore
My dwelling place shall be.

(Rise)

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Remember that you were once separated from Christ, having no hope and without God in the world.

People: **But now in Christ Jesus we who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace.**

Silence for reflection.

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe, for you have commanded us to confess our sins and yet have promised your forgiveness. We therefore confess our sins, even those we are not aware of, those we have done and all that we have failed to do. By your divine command, grant us your forgiveness for the sake of the blood of our crucified and risen Shepherd, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Pastor: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe, for you have commanded your called ministers of Christ to absolve those who repent of their sins. Therefore, upon this, your confession, as a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

2

HYMN OF PRAISE #806 “Give Thanks With a Grateful Heart” Sing Twice

Give thanks with a grateful heart, Give thanks to the Holy one,
Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ His Son.
Give thanks with a grateful heart, Give thanks to the Holy one,
Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ His Son.
And now let the weak say “I am strong.” Let the poor say “I am rich,”
Because of what the Lord has done for us.
And now let the weak say “I am strong,” Let the poor say “I am rich,”
Because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks, give thanks.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe, for you have not abandoned your creation but have sent your Son to be our Shepherd and our righteousness. Give us the strength of faith to follow Him who calls us by name that we may dwell in safety as your redeemed people now and forever; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, and our eternal King, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Jeremiah 23:1–6* (The righteous Branch)

“Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!” declares the LORD. ²Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who care for my people: “You have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for your evil deeds, declares the LORD. ³Then I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴I will set shepherds over them who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be missing, declares the LORD. ⁵“Behold, the days are coming, declares 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.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Ephesians 2:11–22* (One in Christ)

¹¹Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— ¹²remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated 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 himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. ¹⁷And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²²In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 6:30–44* (Jesus feeds the five thousand.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the sixth chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁰The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. ³¹And he said to them, “Come away by yourselves to a desolate place 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 desolate place by themselves. ³³Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. ³⁴When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things. ³⁵And when it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, “This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late. ³⁶Send them away to go into the surrounding

countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.”³⁷ But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.” And they said to him, “Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?”³⁸ And he said to them, “How many loaves do you have? Go and see.” And when they had found out, they said, “Five, and two fish.”³⁹ Then he commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass.⁴⁰ So they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties.⁴¹ And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all.⁴² And they all ate and were satisfied.⁴³ And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish.⁴⁴ And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN’S SONG

“ABCDEFG” Hubert Mitchell

A B C D E F G, Jesus died for you and me
H I J K L M N, Jesus died for sinful men, AMEN!
O P Q R S T U, I believe God’s Word is true.
U V W, God has promised you,
X Y Z, a home eternally! (repeat song)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE (Saturday & Sunday)

SERMON HYMN #644 “The Church’s One Foundation”

The Church’s one foundation Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new creation By water and the Word.
From heav’n He came and sought her To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.

Elect from every nation, Yet one o’er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses With every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder The world sees her oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder, By heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping; Their cry goes up, “How long?”
And soon the night of weeping Shall be the morn of song.

Through toil and tribulation And tumult of her war
She waits the consummation Of peace forevermore
Till with the vision glorious Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious Shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth has union With God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion With those whose rest is won.
O blessed heav’nly chorus! Lord, save us by Your grace
That we, like saints before us, May see You face to face.

SERMON

(Rise)

NICENE CREED

People: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

(Be seated)

OFFERING As your offering is collected, **please sign our attendance book** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with your Word—your Holy Commandments, your Holy Scriptures, but above all, with your Holy Word made flesh, your only-begotten Son to be our Good Shepherd, our Savior, our Lord, and our King. Receive our praise for the gift of your salvation and life. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe, for you have commanded us to pray. Grant your Holy Church peace and strength to give witness to your mercy for all people. Bless our nation with faithful leaders who will govern according to your will in righteousness. Sustain all who protect and defend us from harm and danger both in the world and in your gift of faith. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Endow your ministers with compassion and grace to reach the lost and to serve your people faithfully with your Word and Sacraments. Guard and protect them from the assaults of the devil and all enemies of your Word. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Deliver and heal all who are in trouble, danger, or illness, especially Kathy, Steve, Ray, Russell, Versa, Don, Judy, Nancy, Dorothy, Steve, Marilyn, Cindy, Jan, Louis, Dawn, Carol, Debbie, Mary, Dennis, Diane, June, Jerry, Shirley, Sarah, Gladys, Shirley and Sarah. Like a shepherd, lead us all to the still waters and green pastures of your grace. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

People: 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; and 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.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

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O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
grant us Thy peace. Amen.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION Wait for the ushers to direct you to come forward. Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

HYMN #642 "O Living Bread from Heaven"

O living Bread from heaven, How well you feed your guest!
The gifts that you have given Have filled my heart with rest.
Oh, wondrous food of blessing, Oh, cup that heals our woes!
My heart, this gift possessing, With praises overflows.

My Lord, you here have led me To this most holy place
And with yourself have fed me The treasures of your grace;
For you have freely given What earth could never buy,
The bread of life from heaven, That now I shall not die.

You gave me all I wanted; This food can death destroy.
And you have freely granted The cup of endless joy.
My Lord, I do not merit The favor you have shown,
And all my soul and spirit Bow down before your throne.

Lord, grant me then, thus strengthened With heav'nly food, while here
My course on earth is lengthened, To serve with holy fear.
And when you call my spirit To leave this world below,
I enter, through your merit, Where joys unmingled flow.

HYMN #647 "Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's Head"

Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's head, You are her one foundation;
In You she trusts, before You bows, And waits for Your salvation.
Built on this rock secure, Your Church shall endure
Though all the world decay And all things pass away. O hear, O hear us, Jesus!

O Lord, let this Your little flock, Your name alone confessing,
Continue in Your loving care, True unity possessing.
Your sacraments, O Lord, And Your saving Word To us, Lord, pure retain.
Great that they may remain Our only strength and comfort.

Help us to serve You evermore With hearts both pure and lowly;
And may Your Word, that light divine, Shine on in splendor holy
That we repentance show, In faith ever grow:
The pow'r of sin destroy And evils that annoy. O make us faithful Christians.

And for Your Gospel let us dare To sacrifice all treasure;
Teach us to bear Your blessed cross, To find in You all pleasure.
O grant us steadfastness In joy and distress, Lest we, Lord, You forsake.
Let us by grace partake Of endless joy and gladness.

HYMN #625 "Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread"

Lord Jesus Christ, life giving bread, May I in grace possess You.
Let me with holy food be fed. In hunger I address You.
Prepare me well for You, O Lord, And, humbly by my prayer implored,
Give me Your grace and mercy.

To pastures green, Lord, safely guide, To restful waters lead me;
Your table well for me provide, Your wounded hand now feed me.
Though weary, sinful, sick, and weak, Refuge in You alone I seek,
To share Your cup of healing.

O bread of heav'n, my soul's delight, For full and free remission
I come with prayer before Your sight In sorrow and contrition.
Your righteousness, Lord, cover me That I receive You worthily,
Assured of Your full pardon.

I do not merit favor, Lord, My weight of sin would break me;
In all my guilty heart's discord, O Lord, do not forsake me.
In my distress this comforts me That You receive me graciously,
O Christ, my Lord of mercy!

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, you have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN #801 “How Great Thou Art”

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hands hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy pow’r throughout the universe displayed;

**Refrain: Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!**

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; **Refrain**

But when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in-
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin; **Refrain**

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim: “My God, how great Thou art!” **Refrain**

Preacher & Liturgist
Lectors
Director of Parish Music

Pastor Roland Ehlke, CUW
Marc Stefanic, Debra Nier
Michelle Prince

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