

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
July 18, 2021

*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.*

**GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

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**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God, our provider,

**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.**

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.

**Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*"The Church's One Foundation"* ELW

#654

(Vs. 1, 3 &

4)

**\*GREETING**

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

**And also with you**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us 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.**

**WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.*

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**FIRST READING — Jeremiah 23:1-6**

*Jeremiah prophesied before the exile in 587 BCE. 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.*

<sup>1</sup>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.”

Word of God. Word of Life  
**Thanks be to God!**

## **SECOND READING—Ephesians 2:11-22**

*The author of this letter reminds 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.*

<sup>11</sup>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.

Word of God, Word of Life.  
**Thanks be to God!**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**  
page#172

*“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”* ELW

The holy gospel according to the sixth chapter of Mark.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **GOSPEL—Mark 6:30-34, 53-56**

*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.*

<sup>30</sup>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.

The Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you, O Christ**

**MESSAGE**

Rev. Carl Bruihler

**HYMN OF THE DAY**  
ELW #676

*"Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak"*

(Vs. 1 &

2)

**\*THE APOSTLE'S CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**  
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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**

## **\*THE PRAYERS**

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.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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. We pray especially for the western states where extreme heat and wildfires are ravaging forests and livelihoods.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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. We pray this morning especially for Zoe Thomson, Charlie Schleeve, Fred Wentzlaff, Allan Krattley – brother-in-law of Rosalind Neal, Sophie Walker – mother of Marie Walker, Pr. Matt Larson, Pr. Dave Aaker, and those that we name silently in our hearts (*allow a brief silence*) grant them your comfort and healing.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

**Amen.**

## **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

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**WE OFFER OUR GIFTS AND TITHES**

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray:

**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.**

**DIAGLOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**\*WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**\*THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.  
Come!

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Jesus, Bread of life,  
we have received from your table  
more than we could ever ask.  
As you have nourished us in this meal,  
now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.  
In your name we pray.

**Amen.**

**SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

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**\*BLESSING**

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

**Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

#545

*“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”* ELW

(Vs. 1 &

2)

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**\*POSTLUDE**

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## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Worship services can be viewed through our website [www.firstlutheranlesueur.org](http://www.firstlutheranlesueur.org) or through You Tube at [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search First Lutheran Church Le Sueur MN.

*Christ In Our Home* devotional and *Living Lutheran* magazine are available at church. Please call and a copy can be mailed out to you.

Your offering to the church can be mail, dropped in the mailbox outside of church or through an upcoming link on our website.

Please call or email if you have pastoral care needs.

### **Wanted! Your Excess Produce for Hunger and Health:**

This summer on the last Sunday of July and all Sundays in the month of August, we are asking those with additional garden produce to bring their extras to First Lutheran Church. Those who are in need of produce may take what they like and could consider making a donation that will go toward funding supplies for our Global Health Ministries newborn kits that we plan to assemble for God's Work Our Hands day this fall. Any leftover produce will be brought as a donation to the Le Sueur Food Shelf. Let's work together to help eliminate food waste while helping alleviate local hunger and promote global health!

All FLC Youth through 12th grade and families are welcome to attend **“Pizza with Pastor Carl”**

on Wednesday, July 21 from 6-8pm for some pizza, games and time with Pastor. Please RSVP by July 20, either by calling Stacy in the office at 665-2615 or emailing her at [office@firstlutheranlesueur.org](mailto:office@firstlutheranlesueur.org).

First Lutheran Church

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Rev. Carl Bruihler

UNITED by Christ, God calls us to LOVE one another  
As we RECEIVE, DISCOVER and PROCLAIM God's Word.

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