

# Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit

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## Eighth Sunday after Pentecost Sunday, July 18, 2021

*The Holy Spirit Empowers Us for Ministry in Daily Life*



# GATHERING

**Gathering Music:** *Open the Eyes of My Heart*

*Step by Step*

Words and Music by Paul Baloche

Arranged by Carol Tornquist

Words and Music by BEAKER

Arranged by Carol Tornquist

## Welcome and Announcements

### Gathering Dialogue – adapted from today’s First Reading and Gospel, and Psalm 23

Jesus said to his friends, “Come away to a deserted place and rest a while.”

Like the disciples that busy day,

**many of us, busier than we need to be in our comings and going,  
don’t find enough quality time for God.**

We have too often followed false shepherds,  
leaders who have proven untrustworthy.

**Jesus Christ is our Good Shepherd**

who, in his ministry, spoke truth, cared for all without distinction,  
and who, loving to the end, laid down his life for his sheep.

Like every good shepherd, Jesus knows us, his flock,  
**and we belong to him.**

We are kept safe as we journey,  
**even through the valley of the shadow of death.**

Lord Jesus, we thank you, praise you, and worship you:  
for even as you guide us day by day  
**you follow us with goodness and mercy,  
and promise that we will dwell in your house forever.**

Dear friends, this is the day that the Lord has made.  
**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**Gathering Song:** *Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us*

## **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 Bible readings, preaching and song.*

**First Reading:** Jeremiah 23:1-6

Contemporary English Version

*A reading from Jeremiah, the 23<sup>rd</sup> chapter.*

*The Lord said:*

“You leaders of my people are like shepherds that kill and scatter the sheep.  
You were supposed to take care of my people, but instead you chased them away.  
So now I’ll really take care of you, and believe me, you will pay for your crimes!

“I will bring the rest of my people home from the lands where I have scattered them,  
and they will grow into a mighty nation.

I promise to choose leaders who will care for them like real shepherds.  
All of my people will be there, and they will never again be frightened.

“Someday I will appoint an honest king from the family of David,  
a king who will be wise and rule with justice.  
As long as he is king, Israel will have peace, and Judah will be safe.  
The name of this king will be ‘The Lord Gives Justice.’”

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

**Second Reading:** Ephesians 2:11-22

New Revised Standard Version

*A reading from Paul's letter to the Ephesians, the second chapter.*

So then, 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 –  
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.

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off  
have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

**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.**

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,  
and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross,  
thus putting to death that hostility through it.

**So Christ Jesus came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off  
and peace to those who were near;  
for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father.**

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens,  
but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God,  
built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets,  
with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.

**In Christ the whole structure is joined together  
and grows into a holy temple in the Lord;  
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:** Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

New Revised Standard Version

The Good News from Mark, the sixth chapter.

**Open our hearts, Lord.**

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught.  
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.

And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves.  
Now many saw them going and recognized them,  
and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them.

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.

When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat.  
When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him,  
and rushed about that whole region  
and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was.

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.

This is the Good News! **Thanks be to God!**

**Word in Song:** *Come to the Table*

**Affirmation**

Let us profess our faith,  
in this contemporary affirmation from the Iona community.

We believe  
**that God is present in the darkness before dawn,  
in the waiting and uncertainty where fear and courage join hands,  
conflict and caring link arms, and the sun rises over barbed wire.**

We believe  
**in a with-us God, a here-and-now God,  
who, in Jesus, sits down in our midst to share our humanity.**

We affirm  
**a faith that takes us beyond the safe place:  
into action, into vulnerability, and into the streets.**

We commit ourselves  
**to work for change and put ourselves on the line:  
to bear responsibility, take risks, live powerfully and generously,  
and, in Jesus' name,  
face criticism in search of justice for all,**

We will  
**stand with those on the edge,  
choose life,  
and be used by the Spirit  
for God's new community of hope. Amen.**

## Prayers of the People

*Invitation to prayer:*

Let us offer our prayers to God, responding to each petition with an echo from Ephesians, "Grant us your peace."

*After each petition:*

Show mercy to \_\_\_\_\_, O God: **Grant us your peace.**

*Pastor's closing collect:*

Into your hands, mighty and merciful God,  
we commend all for whom we pray,  
trusting in your gift of life,  
through Jesus Christ, who is our peace.

**Amen.**

## Offering

*The assembly responds to the Word of God by gathering an offering for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. **Please join in supporting our church's ministries using your preferred method of giving:** Enroll in our on-line giving program, Simply Giving (recommended); Mail your offering check to the church; Text your offering to 610-981-1312; Download our mobile app for recurring or one-time gifts; Establish automatic contributions to the church using your bank's bill pay service. Additional information is located in the Stewardship section of the church's website at: [lchsemmaus.org](http://lchsemmaus.org).*

*The table is set.*

# MEAL

*In word and meal, God's grace feeds us.*

## **Word in Meal**

Blessed are you, O God,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
You rescued your covenant people,  
led them on all their journeys,  
and taught them by the prophets.  
**You so loved the world  
that you gave your only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him  
may not perish but may have eternal life.**

## **Words of Institution**

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit in this meal,  
and make us one in this community of faith  
and with your people throughout the world.

Glory and praise to you, O God,  
Author of life, Word made flesh,  
Power of the Most High,  
now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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

*Taste and see that the Lord is good.*

*The presiding minister will say the words first.  
While inspirational communion music is played,  
you may share in communion.*

The body of Christ given for you.  
The blood of Christ shed for you.

+ + +

A Blessing, "You are a loved child of God."

**Communion Song:** *Lamb of God*

# SENDING

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

## **Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray.

Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O God,  
and unite the wills of those whom you have fed  
with one heavenly food;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Blessing**

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

**Amen.**

**Sending Song:** *The Church's One Foundation*

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**Thanks be to God!**

## **Postlude**

## **MUSIC PERMISSIONS**

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