

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 18th, 2021

9:15am - Hybrid Worship



Lutheran Church of the Living Christ

2725 Concord Dr., Florissant, MO 63033

www.lc-livingchrist.org

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.

Notes about our worship service: Guidance and extra information is printed in *italics* throughout the bulletin. "P" indicates the speaking part of the presiding minister; "L" indicates a speaking part of a lay leader; "C" and parts in boldface indicate speaking parts of the whole congregation.

As we ease back into worship in the sanctuary please note the following: Masking is required. You will drop off your offering and pick up prepackaged communion supplies and bulletins on your way in. You may choose to sit where you like (no capacity limitations). Sharing of communion and peace will remain distanced. We will sing only the last song of the service. Finally, please be mindful of others' comfort with touch. Ask before giving a handshake or hug.

PRELUDE O Holy Spirit, Enter In by Jan Bender

WELCOME

The assembly is invited to stand as worship begins.

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: The Spirit of God is full of wisdom:

**C: She blesses our learning and our unlearning,
She is not overwhelmed by the work to be done.**

P: The Spirit of God overflows with compassion:

**C: She moves toward us when we are unwell.
She makes a way for us to rest.**

P: Come, Spirit of God, move among us,

C: May wisdom and compassion dwell in our hearts

P: Come, Spirit of God, live among us,

C: Grant us wholeness and rest.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister speaks.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,

the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: 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.

P: 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.

The assembly is seated.

OPENING MUSIC - O Holy Spirit, Enter In, ELW #786

You are invited to listen to the hymn tune and reflect on the lyrics below.

1. O Holy Spirit, enter in, and in our hearts your work begin,
and make our hearts your dwelling.
Sun of the soul, O Light divine, around and in us brightly shine,
your strength in us upwelling.
In your radiance life from heaven now is given
overflowing, gift of gifts beyond all knowing.
2. Left to ourselves, we surely stray; oh, lead us on the narrow way,
with wisest counsel guide us;
and give us steadfastness, that we may follow you forever free,
no matter who derides us.
Gently heal those hearts now broken; give some token
you are near us, whom we trust to light and cheer us.
3. O mighty Rock, O Source of life, let your good Word in doubt and strife
be strongly in us burning,
that we be faithful unto death and live in love and holy faith,
from you true wisdom learning.
Lord, your mercy on us shower; by your power
Christ confessing, we will cherish all your blessing.

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: Holy One, in you we find sacred and life-giving rest. Shore up our courage when we feel like we might surrender to life-draining patterns. Bolster our creativity when we feel stuck in old ways. 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.

C: Amen.

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.

Woe 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."

L: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 89:20-37

L: "I have found David my servant;
with my holy oil have I anointed him.

**C: My hand will hold him fast
and my arm will make him strong.**

L: No enemy shall deceive him,
nor shall the wicked bring him down.

**C: I will crush his foes before him
and strike down those who hate him.**

L: My faithfulness and steadfast love are with him,
and he shall be victorious through my name.

**C: I will set his hand on the sea,
and his right hand on the rivers.**

L: He will say to me, 'You are my father,
my God, and the rock of my salvation.'

**C: I will make him my firstborn
and higher than the kings of the earth.**

L: I will keep my love for him forever,
and my covenant will stand firm for him.

**C: I will establish his line forever
and his throne as the days of heaven."**

L: If his children forsake my teaching
and do not walk according to my judgments;

**C: if they break my statutes
and do not keep my commandments;**

L: I will punish their transgressions with a rod
and their iniquities with the lash;

**C: but I will not take my love from him,
nor let my faithfulness prove false.**

L: I will not break my covenant,
nor change what has gone out of my lips.

**C: Once for all I have sworn by my holiness:
I will not lie to David.**

L: His line shall endure forever
and his throne as the sun before me;

**C: it shall stand fast forevermore like the moon,
the abiding witness in the sky."**

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.

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 – 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.

L: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands for the reading of the gospel.

GOSPEL READING - 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.

The 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.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Following the reading the assembly is seated.

SERMON - Pastor Melissa Woepfel

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION - Thy Holy Wings, ELW #613

You are invited to listen to the hymn tune and reflect on the lyrics below.

1. Thy holy wings, O Savior, spread gently over me,
and let me rest securely through good and ill in thee.
Oh, be my strength and portion, my rock and hiding place,
and let my ev'ry moment be lived within thy grace.
2. Oh, let me nestle near thee, within thy downy breast
where I will find sweet comfort and peace within thy nest.
Oh, close thy wings around me and keep me safely there,
for I am but a newborn and need thy tender care.
3. Oh, wash me in the waters of Noah's cleansing flood.
Give me a willing spirit, a heart both clean and good.
Oh, take into thy keeping thy children great and small,
and while we sweetly slumber, enfold us one and all.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The prayers reflect the wideness of God's mercy – for the church and its ministry; for the well-being of creation; for peace & justice; for the poor, oppressed, & sick; for all who suffer; for the congregation; & for special concerns/occasions.

Let us come before the triune God in prayer. *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. Grant rest to all the baptized, that they may be restored and prepared for your service. God of mercy, **hold us in love.**

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. God of mercy, **hold us in love.**

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 with wisdom and guide diplomats with peace. God of mercy, **hold us in love.**

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*). God of mercy, **hold us in love.**

Nourish this congregation, O God. Prepare a table where we receive food for our hungry spirits. Renew our commitment to provide for one another and revitalize our ministries of feeding and nurturing hungry neighbors. God of mercy, **hold us in love.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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. God of mercy, **hold us in love.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.
Amen.

The assembly is invited to stand.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the risen Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

*Please share a sign of peace by waving, flashing a peace sign, or other form of **distanced** greeting. If you are joining us online, type a message or share a brief word of peace.*

OFFERING AND PRAYER

We continue to be the church together during this time through prayer and financial support. Your giving ensures that the ministries of this congregation continue now and into the future.

P: Holy Imagination, you keep us from caving to forces that dull and discourage our hope. You enable dreams and visions and prophecies of what could become. Bless our offerings to building and creating and perceiving your reign among us. In small and extraordinary ways, may we be courageous in our efforts. In Jesus' name we pray,

C: Amen.

COMMUNION LITURGY

P: The Lord be with you

C: And also with you

P: Lift up your hearts

C: We lift them to the Lord

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God **C: It is right to give God thanks and praise**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the fullness of time, all things on earth and heaven will be gathered together in him. As we anticipate the fullness of your glory, we join the cosmos in everlasting words of praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Resurrecting and restoring God, from the beginning you have journeyed alongside your people. Through flood waters and dry desert you provided for the needs of our forebears. In Jesus, you showed compassion for the crowd, as they were like sheep without a shepherd. As he made the journey across the lake to be with your people in their distress, so you sent him to be incarnate among us and share in our human struggle.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Send your Spirit upon your people; sanctify this bread and cup we share; strengthen your servants who need to retreat and rest; empower your disciples to bear signs of hope and love in your name. To you be given all honor and praise, O God, blessed and Holy Trinity, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us.

C: 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 FOR COMMUNION

P: Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Eat and be fed. The body and blood of Christ given and shed for you.

C: Amen.

The assembly is seated. Time is given for the sharing of elements among households.

BLESSING

P: May this sign of God's presence, this shared bread between us, strengthen us and give us peace.

C: Amen.

PRAYER

P: 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.

C: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (see last page)

The assembly is invited to stand for the end of the service.

BENEDICTION

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

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN - Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us, ELW #789



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.



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.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace; you are the body of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE O Holy Spirit, Enter in by Michael Burkhardt

Announcements for the week of 7/18/21

1. God's Helping Hand ministry is requesting donations of cleaning and paper products for their pantry: paper towels, toilet paper, dish washing liquid, bar soap, hand sanitizer, etc. Copies of the complete list and donation boxes are in the coat room.
2. Tuesday Bible Study meets at 9am and 7pm via Zoom. We are exploring questions of faith, so come with your questions and be ready for lively discussion!
3. Book Study July 21st - we will continue our discussion of The Broken Heart of America by Walter Johnson, focusing on Ch. 5-8. Join us via Zoom at 7pm.
4. Join us for a special Christmas in July worship service NEXT SUNDAY at 9:15am. We will enjoy special musical offerings and dressing up is encouraged!! There will be some other surprises waiting for you, too...

Worship Leadership

July 18, 2021

Preaching/Presiding: Pastor Melissa
Assisting Minister: Angela Bennett
Lector: Kathy Carr
Zoom and Slides: Rod Wallace
Musician: David Eggers
Ushers: Glen Albers and Bill Billeau
Greeter: Marilyn Wiley

July 25, 2021

Preaching/Presiding: Pastor Melissa
Assisting Minister: Elizabeth Carr
Lector: Jeanne Calderwood
Zoom and Slides: Laurie/Gary Brown
Musician: David Eggers
Ushers: Cathie Lehr and Marilyn Wiley
Greeter: Mark Beins

August 1, 2021

Preaching/Presiding: Pastor Melissa
Assisting Minister: Randy Henning
Lector: Laurie Brown
Zoom and Slides: Erle Craig
Musician: David Eggers
Ushers: Ann Schultz and Cora Wallace
Greeter: Cathie Lehr

August 8, 2021

Preaching/Presiding: Pastor Melissa
Assisting Minister: Angela Bennett
Lector: Gary Brown
Zoom and Slides: Elizabeth Carr
Musician: David Eggers
Ushers: Glenn and Jann Mueller
Greeter: David Sebastian