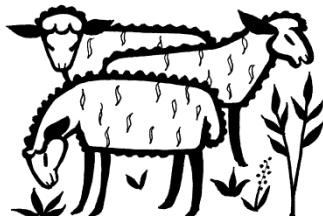

9:00 A.M., SUNDAY, JULY 18, 2021

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.



Welcome to guests and visitors! This pamphlet will guide your worship today. The assembly's parts are indicated by **C** and **bold font**. The vertical line in the left margin indicates when the assembly stands as each is able.

About Holy Communion with Saint John Lutheran Church: "It is taught that the true body and blood of Christ are truly present under the form of bread and wine in the Lord's Supper and are distributed and received there" (Augsburg Confession, Article X). "A person who has faith in these words, 'given for you' and 'shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,' is really worthy and well prepared." "Forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation are given to us in the sacrament" (The Small Catechism, Part VI). "This church practices Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are welcomed to Communion" (The Use of the Means of Grace, Principle 50).

Following the introductory verses, a welcome and introduction to the day are made.

CONFESSiON AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.
In the name of the Father, and of the \pm Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

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God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

¶ Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

¶ we confess

**that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**

We have sinned against you

in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done

and by what we have left undone.

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,

have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,

so that we may delight in your will

and walk in your ways,

to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☧ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

¶ Amen.

GATHERING PSALM (54)

Save me, O God, by your name;

¶ in your might, defend my cause.

Hear my prayer, O God;

¶ give ear to the words of my mouth.

For the arrogant have risen up against me,
¶ and the ruthless have sought my life,
those who have no regard for God.

Behold, God is my helper;
¶ it is the Lord who sustains my life.

I will offer you a freewill sacrifice
¶ and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
¶ as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

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.

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
¶ Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord.

¶ Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of
God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

¶ Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.

¶ Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
¶ Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

¶ And also with you.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

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.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:1-6

¹Woe 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.”

The word of the Lord.

¶ Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY: Psalm 23

¹The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

**¶ ²He makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³He revives my soul
and guides me along right pathways for his name's sake.

**¶ ⁴Though 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.**

⁵You 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.

**¶ ⁶Surely 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

¹¹Remember 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.

The word of the Lord.

¶ Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures;

¶ he leads me beside still waters;

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;

¶ for you are with me; your rod and your staff — they comfort me.

Alleluia. My sheep hear my voice.

¶ I know them, and they follow me. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

The holy gospel according to Mark.

¶ Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁰The 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.

The gospel of the Lord.

¶ Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Silence for reflection may follow the sermon.

MUSICAL OFFERING

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

¶ And also with you.

The assembly remains in place, as the service continues.

APOSTLES' CREED

God has made us God's people through our baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**¶ 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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition ends: Let us pray.

¶ Have mercy, O God.

The prayers conclude: All these things and whatever else You see that we need, grant us, O God . . . one God, now and forever.

¶ Amen.

OFFERING PRESENTATION

Offerings are received at the door as one enters. The offering is presented for the work of Christ's Church, here and throughout the world.

OFFERTORY

I wash my hands in innocence,
¶ and go around your altar, O Lord,
singing aloud a song of thanksgiving,
¶ and telling all your wondrous deeds.

O Lord, I love the house in which you dwell,
¶ and the place where your glory abides.

OFFERING PRAYER

At the conclusion, the assembly responds:

¶ Amen.

The table is set.

DIALOGUE

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.

PREFACE

The minister continues, concluding: ... and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (SANCTUS)

**¶ Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. . . .

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

¶ Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, 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.

¶ Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION SONG (AGNUS DEI)

¶ Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Please remain seated where you are. The communion elements will be brought to you. The host is received in your open hand. The wine will be taken by you from an individual glass. Carefully place your empty glass on the pew until end of worship.

BLESSING & POST-COMMUNION PSALM (51)

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

¶ Amen.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your lovingkindness;
¶ in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

Make me hear of joy and gladness,
¶ that the body you have broken may rejoice.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
¶ and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence,
¶ and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Give me the joy of your saving help again
¶ and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

I shall teach your ways to the wicked,
¶ and sinners shall return to you.

Open my lips, O Lord,
¶ and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
¶ a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Be favorable and gracious to Zion,
¶ and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
¶ as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

At the conclusion, the assembly responds:

¶ Amen.

BLESSING

Response after the blessing:

Ⓐ Amen.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please check web-sites and printed materials for further information.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Ⓒ Thanks be to God.

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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.

