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*Worship At Home*  
July 18, 2021

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE – “Many and One”**  
**GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

Erin/Kristan

**Call to Worship**

*Pastor: Come, People of God, and let us worship Jesus the Christ.*

*Reader: Let us worship the eternal God, the Source of love and life, who created us. Let us worship Jesus the Christ, the risen one who lives among us. Let us worship the Spirit, the Holy Fire, who renews us. Let us worship the one true God who is to be praised in all times and places.*

**Opening Hymn – “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”**

**Greeting**

*P The peace of the Lord be with you.*

*C And also with you.*

*P May the risen Christ fill us with life, light, and hope.*

*C Thanks be to God. The Spirit teaches us, inspires us, and give us the voice of the Gospel. Amen.*

**Hymn of Praise – “The Lord Has Done Great Things”**

**THE WORD**

**First Reading**

**Jeremiah 23:1-6**

**Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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.’**

*Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to us.*

**Response: Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

### *Psalm 23*

A Psalm of David.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;

he leads me beside still waters;

he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths

for his name's sake.

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.

You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD

my whole life long.

*Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to us.*

Response: Thanks be to God.

Psalm Response - *"The Lord Is My Shepherd"*

Gospel Reading

### **Mark 6:30-34;53-56**

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 market-places, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

*Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to us.*

Response: Thanks be to God.

## Sermon

9<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost, July 18, 2021. "He Had Compassion"

This is one of the lessons from Mark that tell us a great deal about Jesus and His concern for the people who came to hear him or were hoping for a healing from some affection.

This lesson also speaks about Jesus's relationship with His disciples. Two weeks ago, we remember that Jesus sent the 12 off two by two to teach, preach, and heal the ill. Now the disciples have returned and telling Jesus about all that had taken place on their mission journey. Clearly all are in need of rest, but the crowd keeps coming. People in need: in need of hope, in need of compassion in their suffering and pain. So, there was no time for needed rest.

As Jesus looked out across the gathering crowd, there was no doubt in His mind as to what was missing for the people: a shepherd. A shepherd to give the people a sense of hope; a shepherd who would give directions to stay safe in the desert—for even there in the wilderness God's shepherd is. The People of God know that they are not alone, for the Good Shepherd is there with them—and that shepherd is here also with us.

So, Jesus here shows us what it means to be a shepherd: rather than giving into his exhaustion reaches out to the sick, the lost, the hungry, and had compassion on them. There in that desolate place, Jesus extended his hands and healed the sick; He extended his hands and shared the Word with the people. There in the desert, Jesus gave the crowd direction that would lead them the light and life of God—the light and life of Christ.

And just as the crowd hung on every word of Jesus out there in the desert, we do also. Are there not times when in the most difficult, painful times in our lives, we need to lend on those words of Mark: "He had compassion on them." Compassion that lets us know that we are not alone, even in the darkest times; even in the most painful times; even in the most fearful times, those words of Christ give us strength and hope. Indeed, in those moments when we feel far from God; in those times of personal desolation, Mark tells us, that it is at those moments that Jesus reaches out to us and reminds us that good shepherds will "lead us beside still waters; He restores my soul."

And so, it will be so, even in the midst of chaos, weakness; fear; it is God's words that will give us hope and that even in the ever-growing darkness that is gathering around the world, we are reminded that we are called to be compassionate in a world that shows little compassion to so many. It is you and I, who are the Body of Christ, who are called to be as Christ in the world, and to be that light of caring; that light of compassion and understanding in this world that seems to have less and less care for people period.

Luther really hammers this idea of the Body of Christ home in both the Large and Small Catechisms. He understands that we are to see Christ in all of our neighbors—hard as that sometimes is. Why should we act so? Because Christ demands it of us. Paul reminds that Christ first reached out to us while we were still in sin. Christ didn't wait until we were perfect—but came to us while we still in our personal wilderness—while we were separated from God, Christ came to us. None of this Christian living, seeing Christ in our neighbor and all the rest, is easy. It is Hard. For it seems doing the right thing is always hard, but it is the direction that we are to go in the name of Christ, the Compassionate Shepherd. Amen.

Hymn of the Day - *"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"*

### **Affirmation of Faith**

**We believe that God has established the Church, and will preserve and protect it, and will provide us with a foretaste of our greatest hope.**

**We believe that Jesus Christ is the head of the church and died and rose again in His resurrection, to give eternal life through our baptism into Christ.**

**We believe that the Holy Spirit breathed fire and life into the Church at Pentecost and still provides power for its preservation and ministry.**

**We believe the Church is the community of disciples, using their gifts freely and wisely for the common good of the body and to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ until He comes again. Amen.**

### **Prayers of the People**

*P. As we are rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the Church, the World, and all of Creation.*

**(A Brief Silence)**

*P. In these days of conflict and lack of trust among peoples, we pray for the people of Israel and Gaza, that their leaders will find peace and hope, so that their people may live without fear once more. Indeed, Lord, we pray for all peoples who are enduring conflict that soon peace will come. Hear us O God.*

**C. Your mercy is great.**

*P. Lord, you draw near to these who cry out for help. Enable us to be your hands that feed the hungry; to those who are in darkness and are looking for hope; let us be your arms to those who are mourning the death of loved ones; let us be your comfort to those who are ill of body mind or spirit, and enable us to bring your light and your hope who are searching for light and hope in their lives. Be especially with those for whom we pray on our prayer list, and those for whom we pray in this moment of silence.....Hear us O God.*

**C. Your mercy is great.**

*P. On this day Lord, we would pray for all those who serve our town and cities to keep us safe, and pray for their safety this day. We pray for those who serve us in far off places, that they will be able to return to their loved ones soon.*

**C. Your mercy is great.**

*P. Lord we here at Bethany would ask that your Spirit guide the search for a new pastor for your people here. Bless our Call Committee with the spirit of discernment as they examine those who believe that God is calling to a new congregation in Scottsdale, AZ Hear us O God.*

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

**All: Amen.**

**Offering**

**Offertory**

## Prayer of Blessing

*P Let us pray:*

**C. Gracious God, we give our best, lest in gaining the world we lose life itself. As a covenant people, we seek to witness to your will and way. Help us to know more clearly what you would have us do with the gifts entrusted to our care. Direct us according to your will O God. Amen.**

## MEAL

### A Brief Confession

*P. Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sins and hear again, Christ's words of forgiveness.*

### A brief silence

**C. Too often Lord, we question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn instead to our own understanding rather than trusting in You. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again Lord, to you. Where else can we turn? Enable us Lord to help to hear your words for us and to enable us to be light and life for our world. Lord we confess that we have not always lived up to the covenant that you have made with us, and we ask for your forgiveness. Amen.**

*P. Beloved People of God, through Jesus the bread of life, the light of the World, you are forgiven all of your sins, and you are loved into the life with Christ.*

*All: Amen.*

*P. The love of Christ has gathered us as one, to remember Christ, the Son of God, who loved his own until the end.*

**C. In His great, unselfish love, the Lord who calmed the storms and turned water into wine, stooped to a servant's duty and washed his disciples' feet.**

*P. When we are gathered here, let us be drawn together by His passion. Let no love be less than His.*

**C. Let us follow Christ's example and serve one another as He first served us. For by this, the world will know that we are Christ's followers, if we love one another.**

*P. On the night He was betrayed....*

### The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

**Communion Invitation**

*P: Come to God's table; be fed and satisfied.*

**C: We come to feed our spirit and be in the presence of God.**

**Communion Music – “A Place at Your Table”**

*Erin/Kristan*

**Communion Blessing**

*P. Let us pray:*

**C. 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**

**Benediction**

*Pastor: May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ fill you with every good blessing. Amen.*

**Closing Hymn – “Lead Me, Lord”**

**Dismissal**

*Paster: Go in Peace...to live and serve in the way of the cross.*

**Response: Thanks be to God.**