

Sunday, July 22, 2018
9th Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

“My Shepherd Will Supply My Need”

Dale Wood

***GATHERING SONG**

“Give to Our God Immortal Praise!”

ELW 848

Give to our God immortal praise!
Mercy and truth are all his ways.
Wonders of grace to God belong;
repeat his mercies in your song.

God sent his Son with pow'r to save
from guilt and darkness and the grave.
Wonders of grace to God belong;
repeat his mercies in your song.

Give to the Lord of lords renown;
the King of kings with glory crown.
His mercies ever shall endure
when lords and kings are known no more!

***GREETING**

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

G And also with you.

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

“Praise the Lord! O Heavens”

ELW 823

Praise the Lord! O heav'ns, adore him;
praise him, angels, in the height;
sun and moon, rejoice before him;
praise him, gleaming stars and light.
Praise the God of our salvation;
hosts on high, his pow'r proclaim;
heav'n and earth, and all creation,
laud and magnify his name!

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P *O God, powerful and compassionate,*

G 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!

ANTHEM

“Amazing Grace”

Shelby Guffey

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.

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.”

Reflection

What does “Woe!” mean? It’s not the same as whoa! or wow! or whatever that sound we make when we’re responding to something surprising. In Luke’s version of the Beatitudes Luke 6:20-26, “Woe!” is the opposite of “Blessed.” So when Jeremiah speaks for the Lord in saying “Woe to the shepherds,” he’s saying something like a curse. (verse 1) Who are the shepherds that Jeremiah is cursing, in the Lord’s name? (Notes in the Lutheran Bible remind us that Babylonian and Assyrian kings often called themselves shepherds.) Why are they accursed? (verse 2) Who were they supposed to be shepherding? What does the Lord promise to them (the evil shepherds)? What does the Lord promise to the sheep who have been scattered? (verse 3-4) When have you heard God’s promise and command to “be fruitful and multiply”? (See Genesis 1:28) Who will carry out this promise? (verse 5) Who is this “righteous Branch” in our understanding as Christians? Do you think this promise has been fulfilled? I think this is a good example of the gospel’s promise in history of already/not yet. The Good News is at hand, and we are still waiting for its fullness! What do you think?

PSALM 23

¹The LORD | is my shepherd;

I shall not | be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down | in green pastures
and leads me be- | side still waters.**

³You restore my | soul, O LORD,

and guide me along right pathways | for your name’s sake.

⁴**Though 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 prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

**“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the | LORD forever.**

Reflection

As you reflect on Jeremiah 6, what meaning does this familiar and beloved psalm take on for you? What is the promise of the Lord, our shepherd? (verses 1-3) Will our shepherd direct us away from any possible danger and harm? (verse 4) What will keep us and comfort us in “darkest valleys”? The psalmist does not assume that the Lord will do away with our enemies (verse 5); in fact, the enemies are present even as we eat at the table of the Lord. Perhaps, in the feast of the hospitality of God, our enemies will become our table mates! How do we know that God’s table is a good and hospitable one? (verses 5b-6) I invite you to pray this psalm each day this week, and reflect on what it means to you in your life and faith that “the Lord is my shepherd.”

SECOND READING

Ephesians 2:11-22

The author of this letter is reminding 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.

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.

Reflection

This is a reminder to us Gentiles of where we fit in the whole story of God’s love for Israel. (If some of you reading this are Jews, you will have to bear with me here.) What were we Gentiles without Christ? (verses 11-12—perhaps we are the enemies referred to in Psalm 23!) How have we been treated in Christ Jesus? (verse 13) How has Christ accomplished this? (verses 14-16) To whom does Christ’s peace come? (verses 17-18) Who are we now. who were once strangers and aliens? (verse 19) The writer switches metaphors at the end of this passage. We are members of the household of God in verse 19; in verses 20-22 we are God’s holy temple. What

do these metaphors mean about who belongs? I encourage you to think about those who do NOT belong—in our nation right now, some people are called aliens; some people have the police called on them by others; some people are seen by others as haters. If this text is true, what is true about those who don't belong? I invite you to be specific in your reflection!

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**With a voice of singing
declare ye this,
and let it be heard,
Alleluia.**

***GOSPEL**

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

When Jesus sent his disciples out to teach and heal, they ministered among large numbers of people. Their work was motivated by Christ's desire to be among those in need.

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.

Reflection

After the interruption of the narrative with the story of the murder of John the Baptist, we are brought back to the story when the disciples return from their mission of preaching the good news and healing. What does Jesus invite them to do after their work? (verses 31-32) Were they able to get any time away? (verse 33) What did Jesus do? (verse 34) (The part of the narrative that isn't in the text is the story we know as the Feeding of the Five Thousand, and then the disciples leaving in the boat across the Sea of Galilee and the story at sea. We'll leave those for another day.) If the disciples thought they were getting away from it all, they were mistaken! What happened? (verses 53-55) What did Jesus do? (verse 56) What do you think this means? I hope it doesn't mean that we don't get any time away from those who need us—it is important to remember Jesus' instructions to the disciples in verse 31, and also to remember that we are not Jesus! What do you think?

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kris Langdon

SERMON

The Prophet's Voice: Speaking Truth to a Broken City

Jeremiah: In the Hands of God

Rev. Roger Lenander

SONG OF THE DAY

"Christ Be All Around Me"

As I rise
Strength of God go before lift me up
As I wake
Eyes of God look upon be my sight

As I wait
Heart of God satisfy and sustain
As I hear
Voice of God lead me on be my guide be my guide

Chorus

Above and below me
Before and behind me
In ev'ry eye that sees me
Christ be all around me
Above and below me
Before and behind me
In ev'ry eye that sees me
Christ be all around me yeah

As I go
Hand of God my defense by my side
As I rest
Breath of God fall upon bring me peace
Bring me peace *Chorus*

Christ be all around me yeah
Christ be all around me yeah

Your life Your death Your blood
Was shed for ev'ry moment ev'ry moment *(repeat 4x)*

Chorus

Christ be all around me yeah
Christ be all around me yeah

***APOSTLES' 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.

***PRAYER SONG**

“Lord, Listen To Your Children Praying”

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Growing in faith and discipleship, we give thanks for God’s merciful compassion as we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

God, you are our cornerstone, giving your people a strong foundation of faith. Help us to seek meaningful change in the world, and lead us to places of rest where you renew us for mission.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God, you are our shepherd, leading us to green pastures and still waters for our use and pleasure. Renew the face of the earth. Guard the land and seas, the mountains and valleys, cultivated farmland and untamed wilderness. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God, you are our righteousness, proclaiming peace to those who are far off and to those who are near. Remove hostility that divides nations. Make us no longer strangers or aliens but fellow citizens with all your saints. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God, you are our compassion, bringing rest to all who seek treatments and diagnoses and are left without answers or energy. Restore the aching souls and bodies of those who seek comfort *especially Randy, Linda, Lisa and her baby Lara, Fran and Bob, Klaire, and Kay*, and for those we name before you aloud or silently in our hearts (pause for 10 seconds). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God, you are our creativity, creating joy and purpose through all artists in the church: composers, writers, visual artists, musicians, poets, and dancers. Open our hearts to experience your truth in new and beautiful ways through their work. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God, you are our future, leading us through the valley of the shadow of death and preparing a table for us with all of your saints. Let your goodness and mercy follow us until we dwell in your house forever. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Gracious God, we lift to you these prayers and the prayers of our hearts, trusting in your everlasting love and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen!

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

- P** *The peace of Christ be with you always.*
- C** **And also with you!**

OFFERTORY SPECIAL MUSIC

“Open the Eyes of My Heart”
Shelby Guffey

Paul Baloche

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

“Only By Grace”

**Only by grace can we enter,
only by grace can we stand;
not by our human endeavor,
but by the blood of the Lamb.
Into your presence you call us,
you call us to come.
Into your presence you draw us,
and now by your grace we come,
now by your grace we come.**

***OFFERING PRAYER**

- P** *Merciful God,*
- C** **you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing. You have set this feast before us. Open our hands to receive it. Open our hearts to embrace it. Open our lives to live it. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen!**

***DIALOGUE**

- 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 our thanks and praise.**

***PREFACE**

P *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;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**Holy, holy, holy, holy,
holy, holy is our God,
God, the Lord of earth and heaven.
Holy, holy is our God.
Holy, holy, holy, holy,
holy, holy is our God,
God, the Lord of all of hist'ry.
Holy, holy is our God.**

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P *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.*

***LORD'S PRAYER**

P *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**

☞ *Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.*

***BLESSING**

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

☞ Amen!

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

☞ *Jesus Christ, host of this meal,*

☞ **you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on
your great love. Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign
of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord forevermore. Amen!**

***BENEDICTION**

☞ *May God, whose power working in us
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine,
grant you the gifts of faith and hope.
Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.*

☞ Amen!

***SENDING SONG**

"I Will Follow Him"

**I will follow him,
follow him wherever he may go.
And near him I always will be,**

for nothing can keep me away.
He is my destiny.

I will follow him.
Ever since he touched my heart I knew.
There isn't an ocean too deep,
a mountain so high it can keep,
keep me away,
away from his love.
I love him, I love him, I love him.
And where he goes
I'll follow, I'll follow, I'll follow.

I will follow him,
follow him wherever he may go.
There isn't an ocean too deep,
a mountain so high it can keep,
keep me away.

We will follow him,
follow him wherever he may go.
There isn't an ocean too deep,
a mountain so high it can keep
keep us away,
away from his love.

I love him, I love him, I love him.
And where he goes
I'll follow, I'll follow, I'll follow.
He'll always be my true love,
my true love, my true love
from now until
forever, forever, forever.
There isn't an ocean too deep,
a mountain so high it can keep,
keep us away,
away from his love.