

**PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost  
Pastor Christian Magnell, Pastor John R. Hanson  
July 21, 2024, 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

Julie Hanson, Musician

*COMMON THREAD Proper feeding of the people, the sheep of God's pasture (Psalm 100:3), is a primary duty of a pastor or shepherd. The right food is central to that good feeding, so right doctrine is essential. Through correct preaching of the Word, the flock comes to understand that their righteousness comes from the Lord, the great Shepherd of the sheep (Hebrews 13:20). He is the provider, restorer, and deliverer, the one who has reconciled sheep and Shepherd through the cross. Knowledge of this truth brings the sheep to a satisfying table and to still waters where they may rest in the love of the Shepherd.*

THEME AND VERSE

**The “shepherds” of Israel, who were supposed to be caring for God’s people, sinned against God and ended up far from home, exiled in Babylon. God would bring his people home to Jerusalem even as he would also send a shepherd who would restore his people to a right relationship with him. This one is Jesus, God’s only son, who brought peace, reconciliation, and inclusion for all in God’s kingdom. And he said to them, “Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while.”**

HYMN

“Kum Ba Yah”

Burgundy # 43

Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah. Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah.  
Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah. O Lord, kum ba yah.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION      God is good.      **All the time.**

GOSPEL: Mark 6:30-44

*The work of the ministry, the work of the Church, is never done. There is always one more thing to accomplish. Sometimes those things need to be put on hold. One needs to entrust them to God and get away for a while. When once in retreat, even there the ministry of Jesus continues. No matter how far away you go, someone will need food. Someone else will need prayer. Still another will simply want to be near the fellowship of the Lord. At such times, it is good to remember that it is Christ, not we, who feed. It is the Spirit who intercedes. They do not want to be near us but instead, near the one with whom we have retreated.*

30The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. 31And he said to them, “Come away by yourselves to a desolate place 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 desolate place by themselves. 33Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. 34When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were

like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things. 35And when it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late. 36Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat." 37But he answered them, "You give them something to eat." And they said to him, "Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?" 38And he said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see." And when they had found out, they said,

"Five, and two fish." 39Then he commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass. 40So they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties. 41And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all. 42And they all ate and were satisfied. 43And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. 44And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION All the time.

**God is good!**

#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We gather together to worship

**in the name of the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

We have lost sight of our hope, we live as aliens, separated from God's faithful people.

**Lord, you give us gifts to lead your people in our families, among peers, at work, or in the church, but we fail to attend to the matters of leading. We forfeit justice and righteousness for our comfort. We withhold mercy for self-interest. We speak as leaders and live as a bad example. We claim exhaustion, inexperience, or lack of resources, when your sheep are scattered, hungry, lonely, and in need of what you give us abundantly. Forgive us, Lord. Save us.**

We who once were scattered and far off now are brought near by the blood of Jesus Christ. God will find us, the lost, and raise us up as leaders. For Christ's sake, our sins are forgiven. For the purpose of salvation, we are made members of the household of God.

**By the power of the Holy Spirit, we may all come together as one holy temple in the Lord. To the glory of the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM (8:00)

CO-MISSION OF GUATEMALA MISSIONARIES (8:00)

SHARING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S SERMON

HYMN

"Kum Ba Yah"

Burgundy # 43

Someone's praying, Lord, kum ba yah. Someone's praying, Lord, kum ba yah.  
Someone's praying, Lord, kum ba yah. O Lord, kum ba yah.

Someone's singing, Lord, kum ba yah. Someone's singing, Lord, kum ba yah.  
Someone's singing, Lord, kum ba yah. O Lord, kum ba yah.

Come by here, my Lord, kum ba yah. Come by here, my Lord, kum ba yah.  
Come by here, my Lord, kum ba yah. O Lord, kum ba yah.

CCLI Song # 5019232 CCLI License # 1713417

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants that you may hear our petitions. In all things, help us to ask for what will please you through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

READING: Jeremiah 23:1-6

*God loves his people and wants the best for them. So, when leaders of his people lead them astray, away from the Lord, he will do two things. First, he will deal with the evildoing shepherds, those who have neglected their pastoral duties. Then he will establish good shepherds who will bring God's flock back into his fold. His sheep will be cared for so that they have no more fear. This is fully realized when he sets over his people the messianic king who rules justly. All the people will then be judged according to his righteousness. As their good shepherd is righteous, the people become righteous through his being their shepherd.*

1“Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!” declares the Lord. 2Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who care for my people: “You have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for your evil deeds, declares the Lord. 3Then I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. 4I will set

shepherds over them who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be missing, declares the Lord. 5“Behold, the days are coming, declares 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 dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’”

READING: Ephesians 2:11-22

*Once we were not a people but now, we are the people of God. (1Pet 2:9) Once we were not the people of God but through the redeeming sacrifice of Christ, we have been brought near to God. As such, God becomes our peace instead of the keeping of religious laws. All people are reconciled to God through the cross and have access to him through faith. We are being built up upon the cornerstone who is Christ, and the foundation that is the apostles and prophets into a holy dwelling for God. The Spirit of God now dwells among us, and even within us.*

11Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands — 12remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated 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 himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility 15by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, 16and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. 17And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. 18For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. 19So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

HYMN

*“Have No Fear, Little Flock”*

Green # 476

Have no fear, little flock; have no fear, little flock,  
For the Father has chosen to give you the kingdom; have no fear, little flock!

Have good cheer, little flock; have good cheer, little flock,  
For the Father will keep you in his love forever; have good cheer, little flock!

Praise the Lord high above; praise the Lord high above,  
For he stoops down to heal you, uplift and restore you; praise the Lord high above!

CCLI Song #2514211

SERMON – No fear, He’s here! “A union which God does not want to have broken but it is greater than the sum of the parts and is not limited to a time or place. This kingdom rule defies our limited earthly understanding but is instead - LIMITLESS!”

HYMN

*“Lead Me, Guide Me”*

Burgundy # 70

***Lead me, guide me along the way; for if you lead me, I cannot stray;  
Lord, let me walk each day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.***

I am weak, and I need thy strength and pow’r to help me over my weakest hour.  
Let me through the darkness thy face to see. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Help me tread in the paths of righteousness, be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.  
I am putting all my trust in Thee, Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

I am lost if you take your hand from me, I am blind, without thy light to see.  
Lord, just always let me thy servant be. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PRAYER AT RECEIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

**God of love, you abide with us, you provide for all our needs and guide us in your ways. Out of gratitude for your care, we bring our gifts before you. Use them for your work of caring that all may eat at your table of abundance, walk without fear, and drink deeply from the cup of salvation. Amen.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

### BLESSING & PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Lord Jesus, you meet us at the crossroads of our lives. Your healing takes place in your time, in our place, in ways that we could not imagine. May this meal, which feeds us in this time, strengthen us in our faith so that we may go from here empowered, healed, and forgiven, ready to share your love and mercy with all of your people. Amen.**

## BENEDICTION & SENDING

Go now, proclaiming to all how much the Father has done for you. Be as one with each other in Christ Jesus. Wait for the Lord and be ready to respond in the power of his Spirit. And may God be your fortress, may Christ Jesus release you from all that troubles you, and may the Holy Spirit give you light and truth to sustain you day and night.

**Amen! We go in Christ's name!**

Let's go in peace, in love, and in service to the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

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### **Listening for the Promise Weekly Devotional Sola Worship Resource —**

*“18For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. 19So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone.” - Ephesians 2:18-20*

In 2003 I spent a semester studying abroad in Aalborg, Denmark. It was a life-long dream, and I was so excited to arrive at what would be my home for the next five months of my life. I did my best to wear clothing that helped me fit in. Danes would wear mostly neutral colors, especially gray and black. And for the most part, I could blend in pretty well... until... until I spoke Danish. I had a very limited knowledge of the language, and I could certainly get by, but my thick American accent gave me away every time. And while I did my best to blend in, it was obvious that I was a foreigner, a stranger in a strange land.

Danes have different customs and traditions from Americans. It first hit me hard when Thanksgiving rolled around. The other American students and I put on a traditional Thanksgiving meal for our Danish friends and other international students. It was a lot of fun, but it wasn't the same as celebrating in our homeland.

It can be hard, even scary, to feel out of place. We can feel as though there are barriers up, and it can be difficult to knock them down. Paul was writing this letter to brand new Christians in Ephesus. They were really struggling with barriers and cultural differences. These differences and divisions had existed between these two cultures (Jews and Gentiles) for centuries. And it led to hostility and being at odds with one another. That, in turn, led to division with God. Their sinfulness put up barriers between themselves and God. So how does one knock down those barriers? Well, we can't do it on our own. We

must rely on God to knock them down for us. And God isn't going to do it with hostility the way we sinful humans might do.

We are reconciled to God through Christ. Last week we heard how we are marked with the cross of Christ and sealed with the promise of his Holy Spirit. Through Christ, our differences can be knocked down and laid aside. We are united in Christ. We are a part of his family. God's grace is enough for us, and he freely gives us his grace no matter what kind of barriers we may have with others. Because God forgives us through suffering, death, and resurrection of Christ Jesus, we are called to forgive one another.

*Written by Theresa Jacobson*