

# EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—PROPER 11

A Righteous Shepherd-King

July 18, 2021



## AS WE GATHER

An old Jewish prayer begins, “Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe.” To call God “King” is to acknowledge Him as the highest ruler over all. Earthly kings never created the subjects of their rule out of nothing as has the one Creator God. So much higher and more exalted than any earthly sovereign king is God. In the Old Testament, God gave His people kings for their nation. But unlike the rulers of other nations, Israel’s kings were to rule in God’s name and after His heart and will and word. They were to rule God’s people like shepherds tending sheep, like David of old. Few, however, were faithful to their calling. Through a king named Zedekiah, God both condemned the former faithless kings and promised the future righteous Branch of the great King David. In today’s Gospel, we see Jesus, God’s Son, having compassion on people as a shepherd has compassion on the sheep. Because of Jesus’ blood and righteousness, you have a King that cannot fail. He cares for you and will deliver you safely to your eternal home. We enjoy lives of liberty and freedom—freedom especially from any oppressive or tyrannic political government. Spiritually, however, we are not free, but slaves to sin and death. Spiritually, we need a deliverer, a Savior, a benevolent king. Paul reminds us of how, because of sin, being apart from God we had no hope. But he points us to Christ Jesus, who came to bring us near to the one hope of salvation by His blood. Jesus is the saving King who takes away your sin and delivers you through death. The Shepherd’s compassion is for all and is for you. The title “King” was placed above His head on the cross. Now by His victory, all earthly sovereigns cast their crowns before Him. Receive His compassionate rule today as He brings us near to Himself by His Word and Sacraments and calls you blessed.

✘ PREPARATION ✘

### **PRAYERS OF PREPARATION:**

O Lord, our Shepherding King, you know our names; you care for us. When we face darkness and death, walk beside us. When we hunger for your love, fill us with your presence. When we are fearful, feed us at your table. Loving Shepherd, You prepare, you feed, you call, all of your sheep, even those of us who are lost, those of us who stray constantly, those of us who stay close to your comforting staff. We are grateful for the lush green pastures of our lives, and we pause now to offer our thanksgivings for the goodness's in our lives...There are so many who walk in the shadows of fear and suffering and despair, and we pause now, to offer our prayers for the broken and bleeding places in this world...We also offer our prayers for the sheep of our own flocks, in our families and friends, in this our church and our community. O Loving Shepherd, we have all we need, as we live in You. May we dwell in the house of goodness and mercy all the days of our lives. Amen.

### **HOLY COMMUNION IS CELEBRATED:**

Today we have the privilege of receiving Christ's true body and blood in, with and under the bread and wine of Holy Communion. Through this sacrament the Holy Spirit seals to us the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation for the strengthening of our faith. Scriptures also teach that as we commune together, we are publicly testifying to a complete unity of faith based on a confession of all of God's Word. If you confess the same belief, we invite you to our fellowship of the Lord's Supper.

### **WELCOME:**

**WELCOME TO GOD'S HOUSE....** We gather together in the name of Jesus Christ—members of God's family, and brothers and sisters to one another. There are no outsiders here among us, no one has any special standing or bragging rights. May our souls be nourished as we graze in the green pastures of God's Holy Word. May we see today as yet another wonderful opportunity to draw ever closer to the Good Shepherd, our Shepherd King, for we have been brought together by the redeeming love of Jesus. We pray that the words and love that you experience here today will continue to echo in your lives in the days and years that lie ahead. Let's join together in worship! Welcome!

**SOLO**

**Ms. Angela Henderson**

**INVOCATION**

**Pastor:** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**People:** Amen.

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**      *Ephesians 2:12–13, alt.*

Pastor: Remember that you were once separated from Christ, having no hope and without God in the world.

People: **But now in Christ Jesus we who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace.**

*Silence for reflection.*

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, for You have commanded us to confess our sins and yet have promised Your forgiveness. We therefore confess our sins, even those we are not aware of, those we have done and all that we have failed to do. By Your divine command, grant us Your forgiveness for the sake of the blood of our crucified and risen Shepherd, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, for You have commanded Your called ministers of Christ to absolve those who repent of their sins. Therefore, upon this, your confession, as a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

✠ **WORD** ✠

**HYMN OF PRAISE**      **“Beautiful Savior” TLH 657 Sts. 1 & 4**

**“Beautiful Savior” TLH 657 Sts. 1 & 4**

1 Beautiful Savior, King of Creation, Son of God and Son of Man! Truly I'd love Thee, truly I'd serve thee, Light of my soul, my Joy, my Crown.

4 Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be Thine! Amen.

## **SALUTATION**

Pastor:               The Lord be with you.

**People:           And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor:           Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, though we do not deserve Your goodness, still You provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may acknowledge Your gifts, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:           Amen.**

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING**     *Jeremiah 23:1–6*     (The righteous Branch)

Leader:           This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:           Thanks be to God.**

## **GRADUAL**     *Romans 11:33, 36*

Leader:           Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!

**People:           How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways!**

Leader:           For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.

**People:           To Him be glory forever. Amen.**

## **EPISTLE**     *Ephesians 2:11–22* (One in Christ)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE** *Psalm 78:25*

Leader: Alleluia. Man ate of the bread of the angels; He sent them food in abundance. Alleluia.

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Mark 6:30–44* (Jesus feeds the five thousand.)

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the sixth chapter.

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**SOLO** **Ms. Angela Henderson**

**SERMON**

**SOLO** **Ms. Angela Henderson**

**(We Bring Our Tithes & Offering To The Lord)**

**CREED Nicene Creed**

All: I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from  
heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin  
Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under  
Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the  
dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and  
glorified, who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Leader: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all  
people according to their needs.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has

sanctified us with Your Word—Your Holy Commandments, Your Holy Scriptures, but above all, with Your Holy Word made flesh, Your only-begotten Son to be our Good Shepherd, our Savior, our Lord, and our King. Receive our praise for the gift of Your salvation and life. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

Leader: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, for You have commanded us to pray. Grant Your Holy Church peace and strength to give witness to Your mercy for all people. Bless our nation with faithful leaders who will govern according to Your will in righteousness. Sustain all who protect and defend us from harm and danger both in the world and in Your gift of faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

Leader: Endow Your ministers with compassion and grace to reach the lost and to serve Your people faithfully with Your Word and Sacraments. Guard and protect them from the assaults of the devil and all enemies of Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

Leader: Deliver and heal all who are in trouble, danger, or illness, [*especially . . .*]. Like a shepherd, lead us all to the still waters and green pastures of Your grace. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

*Individual petitions may be added.*

Leader: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People:** **Amen.**

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

**PREFACE** 2 Timothy 4:22

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## **PROPER PREFACE**

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

**SANCTUS** Holy, Holy, Holy (TLH 246 St. 1)

1. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee; Holy holy, holy, merciful and mighty! God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD** *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

**PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST** *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**



**LORD'S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9–13*

**PAX DOMINI**

**Pastor:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People:** Amen.

**DISTRIBUTION**

**POST-COMMUNION COLLECT**

**Pastor:** Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

**BENEDICTION** *Numbers 6:24–26*

**Pastor:** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**People:** Amen.

**SOLO**

**Ms. Angela Henderson**