

An Order of Worship That Can Be Used in the Home for **July 18, 2021**

~ *The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost* ~



If multiple people are participating, one may serve as leader, reading the light faced type, the rest reading the bold faced type.

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

SONG OF PRAISE (to be read or sung)

"Brothers and Sisters in Christ"

Sing alleluia! Amen!
Let your prayers and your praises ascend.
Lift up your voices and sing
To our Lord God, our Savior and King!
Here brought together by grace,
We are gathered as friends in this place.

Refrain:

And assembled as one,
In the name of the Son,
Lifting hearts, lifting hands,
Celebrating as friends,
And proclaiming the Lord, all our praises afford.
We are brothers and sisters in Christ.

We walked alone and in need.
Without faith, hope or promise or creed;
Wandering, aimlessly lost,
Unaware of the staggering cost;
That God in His mercy would save
All His people from death and the grave.

(Refrain)

Lord, teach us how to proclaim
All your goodness, your love and your name!
Lord, teach us how to forgive

*And in love, teach us, Lord, how to live.
Raising our voices in song,
Help us tell all the world we belong.
(Refrain)*

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: 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 (ESV)
(The righteous Branch)

23 “Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!” declares the LORD.
² Therefore 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. ³ Then 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. ⁴ I 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. ⁶ In 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.’”

Some thoughts to consider from this reading...

Shepherds – these are kings and priests, political and spiritual leaders God set over His people who were to be acting for the good of His people. Were they doing their job (verses 1-2)? What’s God going to do to them (verse 2)? What might this have to say to pastors today?

God’s suddenly shepherdless people – what is God going to do for them (verses 3-4)?

This all leads up to a great promise God makes in verses 5-6. This righteous off-shoot (Branch) of David – Who is it? What will He do?

Notice the spiritual Judah (people of God – believers) will be saved. What is meant by the name “The Lord is our righteousness?”

Notice the tie-in with the Gospel, Jesus assisting a people who were like sheep without a shepherd.

EPISTLE READING

Ephesians 2:11–22 (ESV)
(One in Christ)

¹¹ Therefore 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— ¹² remember 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. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you

who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵ by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. ¹⁷ And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²² In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Some thoughts to consider from this reading...

In the early church there was a Jew/non-Jew division. The Jews had grown up feeling only they were worthy of God and that all the other nations were cursed – a carry-over from the Old Testament. What does Paul say about this to the non-Jews (Gentiles) (verse 12)?

How has their status been changed in Christ (verse 13)? How did He do it?

God and man are reconciled; what other 2 parties are reconciled (verses 14-15)?

What wonderful status do we have through Jesus (verse 19)? What does that mean for you?

GOSPEL READING

Mark 6:30–44 (ESV)

(Jesus feeds the five thousand.)

³⁰ The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. ³¹ And 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. ³² And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves. ³³ Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. ³⁴ When 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. ³⁵ And when it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, “This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late. ³⁶ Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.”

³⁷ But 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?” ³⁸ And 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.”

³⁹ Then he commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰ So they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties. ⁴¹ And 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. ⁴² And they all ate and were satisfied. ⁴³ And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. ⁴⁴ And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men.

Some thoughts to consider from this reading...

The apostles' return: Jesus had sent them out earlier to cast out demons, preach and heal. Can you imagine how excited they must have been and anxious to talk with Jesus about their experiences?

Did they have opportunity for such discussion (verse 31)? What did Jesus suggest?

When they went on their “vacation,” what happened upon their arrival (verses 33-34)? Did Jesus react with disgust, or what? Why?

Jesus took care of their spiritual needs. Then He took care of their physical needs. What did He do? What should we learn from this for ourselves?

Jesus does not act without something from the disciples. What surprising thing does He ask of them (verse 37)?

You offer what little bit you can to Jesus. He can do great things with it, filling in Himself what you don't have!

THE NICENE CREED

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.

PRAYERS

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.

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.

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.

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.

Deliver and sustain according to your gracious will.

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

Amen.

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.

LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Leader: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Leader: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit bless and preserve us.

People: Amen.



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