

Holy Eucharist

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 11B

July 18, 2021

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85887946777?pwd=eig4MEdsMUh6clV6b2dUblFOQ3I2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 858 8794 6777

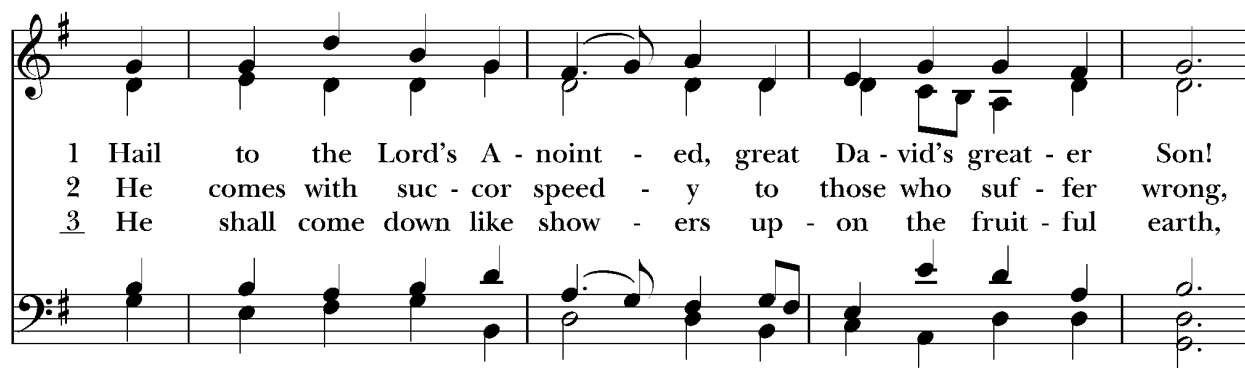
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Prelude

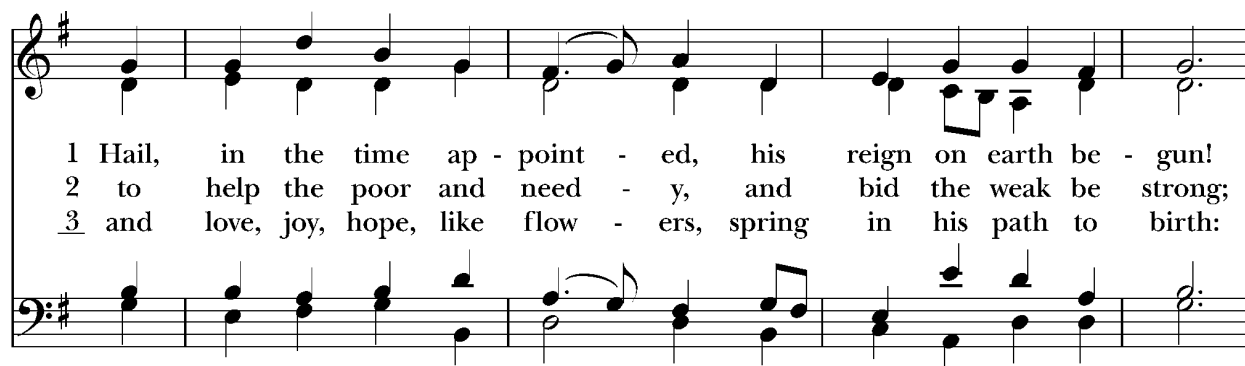
Opening Hymn

Hymnal 616

Hail to the Lord's anointed



1 Hail to the Lord's A - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!
2 He comes with suc - cor speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,
3 He shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth,



1 Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, his reign on earth be - gun!
2 to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;
3 and love, joy, hope, like flow - ers, spring in his path to birth:



1 He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free;
2 to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark-ness turn to light,
3 be - fore him on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald, go;

1 to take a - way trans - gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.
 2 whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, were pre - cious in his sight.
 3 and right - eous - ness in foun - tains from hill to val - ley flow.

All standing as they are able, the Officiant says

People Blessed be God: Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Officiant begins the Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The following is sung, all standing as they are able

Glory to God

Gloria in excelsis

Glo-ry to God in the high - estand
 14 peace to God's peo - ple, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth. Lord God, heavenly
 19 King, Al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we

25 praise you for your glo-ry. Lord, Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the

31 Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God. You take a-way all the sin of the

36 world. Have mer-cy on us. You are seat-ed at the right hand of the

43 Fa-ther. Re-ceive our prayer. For you a-lone are the

48 Ho-ly One. You a-lone are the Lord. You a-lone are the Most High

51 Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it, in the

glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men, A-men.

Collect of the Day

Officiant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Officiant Let us pray.

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All sit.

A Reading from the Second book of Samuel.

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹²When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ^{14a}I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 89:20-37

²⁰I have found David my servant; *
with my holy oil have I anointed him.

²¹My hand will hold him fast *
and my arm will make him strong.

²²**No enemy shall deceive him, ***
nor any wicked man bring him down.

²³**I will crush his foes before him ***
and strike down those who hate him.

²⁴My faithfulness and steadfast love are with him, *
and he shall be victorious through my Name.

²⁵I shall make his dominion extend *
from the Great Sea to the River.

²⁶**He will say to me, “You are my Father, *
 my God, and the rock of my salvation.”**
²⁷**I will make him my firstborn *
 and higher than the kings of the earth.**
²⁸I will keep my love for him for ever, *
 and my covenant will stand firm for him.
²⁹I will establish his line for ever *
 and his throne as the days of heaven.
³⁰**If his children forsake my law *
 and do not walk according to my judgments;**
³¹**If they break my statutes *
 and do not keep my commandments;**
³²I will punish their transgressions with a rod *
 and their iniquities with the lash;
³³But I will not take my love from him, *
 nor let my faithfulness prove false.
³⁴**I will not break my covenant, *
 nor change what has gone out of my lips.**
³⁵**Once for all I have sworn by my holiness: *
 “I will not lie to David.**
³⁶His line shall endure for ever *
 and his throne as the sun before me;
³⁷**It shall stand fast for evermore like the moon, *
 the abiding witness in the sky.”**

Second Reading

Ephesians 2:11-22

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Ephesus.

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.

Reader The word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

All stand as they are able.

Sequence Hymn

Heal me, hands of Jesus

1 Heal me, hands of Je - sus, and search out all my pain;
2 Cleanse me, blood of Je - sus, take bit - ter - ness a - way;
3 Know me, mind of Je - sus, and show me all my sin;
4 Fill me, joy of Je - sus: anx - i - e - ty shall cease

re - store my hope, re - move my fear and bring me peace a - gain.
let me for - give as one for - given and bring me peace to - day.
dis - pel the mem - o - ries of guilt, and bring me peace with - in.
and heaven's se - ren - i - ty be mine, for Je - sus brings me peace!

Holy Gospel

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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.



Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

All stand as they are able.

Nicene Creed

Officiant Let us affirm the faith of the Church using the words of the Nicene Creed:

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father [and the Son],
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

All remain standing as they are able.

Prayers of the People

Officiant: You have made us in your image. Open our eyes to see your image in those with whom we worship, work, and live. Increase our desire for you and your ways.
In your mercy, O God, draw each of us closer to your heart.

Intercessor: We lift before you the Body of Christ: we lift before you our bishops Bonnie, Michael, Justin, Moises, Elizabeth, Donald and Craig, all ministers, priests, deacons, ministry teams, those in formation; and our sisters and brothers worshipping at St John's, Royal Oak, St Michael's, Lansing; and Jesus the Pilgrim, Barahona, in the Dominican Republic. Grant that we all may be led faithfully in our calling to be a light to the world. In your mercy, O God, **draw each of us closer to your heart.**

Silence is kept.

We lift before you the leaders of our nation: the president, the Congress, courts, and local authorities as well as those who govern around the globe. May they always reflect your justice and strive for peace among nations and neighbors. In your mercy, O God, **draw each of us closer to your heart.**

Silence is kept.

We lift before you all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, and those who struggle with themselves or with difficult situations. We pray for _____. Infuse them with your healing power, and move us to reach out to them with compassion. In your mercy, O God, **draw each of us closer to your heart.**

Silence is kept.

We lift up to you our glad thanks and gratefulness for all the blessings of this life [especially _____].

We lift before you those who are dying and those who mourn. Receive those who have died into your eternal embrace, [especially _____]. May they be accompanied by choirs of angels and greeted by the host of heaven. In your mercy, O God, **draw each of us closer to your heart.**

Silence is kept.

Officiant: Lord Jesus Christ, who gave your life for the life of all, we commit our lives to following you. Continually guide us in your way, and draw us into life as your Beloved Community, in this age, and in the age to come. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

All kneel as they are able.

A Minister then says

Let us confess our sins to God.

A period of silence is observed.

Minister and People together say

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

A Priest stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, + forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

All stand as they are able.

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Announcements

Holy Communion

Officiant

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

The People then are seated.

How the Holy Communion is prepared

The Officiant, other Eucharistic Ministers, and any participating Acolytes must use hand sanitizer, before celebrating and before distribution. Gloves will not be used.

All of the elements for Holy Communion will be placed on the Altar for the Eucharistic Prayer. The Officiant alone stands at the altar, with others 6 feet or more away.

The **priest's wafer and chalice** will be uncovered in front of the Officiant during the Eucharistic Prayer. They **are for the Officiant alone**. They are consumed entirely by the Officiant, or appropriately disposed of after the service. The priest's wafer and the people's wafers will be kept separate at all times. The **people's wafers will be a container** on the Altar, which will remain covered throughout the Eucharistic Prayer. During consecration, the Officiant will touch the container, not the wafers.

The **distribution** of consecrated wine is not permitted at this time (as of June 14, 2021 Diocese of Michigan directive).

How the Holy Communion will be distributed

Everyone distributing communion will use hand sanitizer before they begin distribution. Gloves will not be used.

Communicants will be encouraged to use hand sanitizer before receiving. Hand sanitizer will be available at the service.

The bread will be distributed by a minister to the people where they are standing, while maintaining six feet of distance between households. (If this service is indoors, the people will come to the Altar rail in household groups one at a time.)

The Minister will place the bread in the hand. The distribution will happen without directly touching the hand of the person receiving. Hand-to-mouth distribution is not permitted. If hand-to-hand contact happens, the minister will re-sanitize.

If a blessing is preferred, the blessing will be given without touch.

The people stand as they are able as a minister brings forward the alms basin.

Offertory Hymn

Doxology

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

The people remain standing.

Great Thanksgiving

<i>Officiant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.
<i>Officiant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	We lift them to the Lord.
<i>Officiant</i>	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
<i>People</i>	It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Officiant proceeds

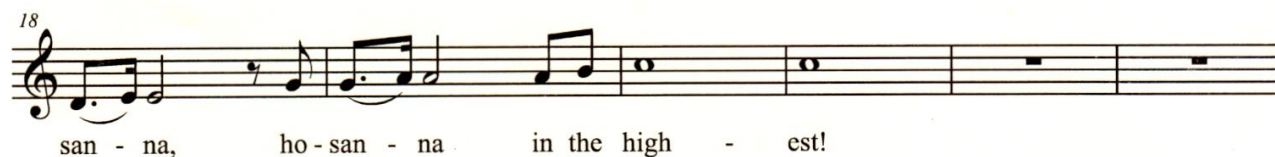
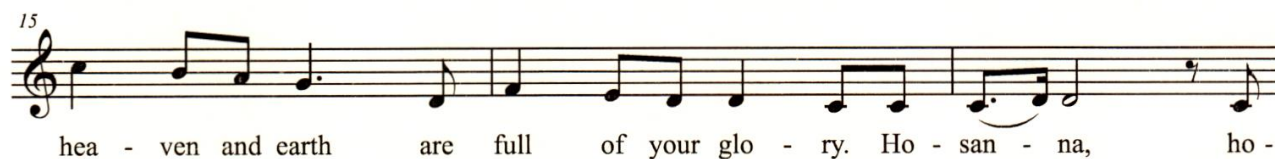
Father of mercy, we give you thanks and praise
because we who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

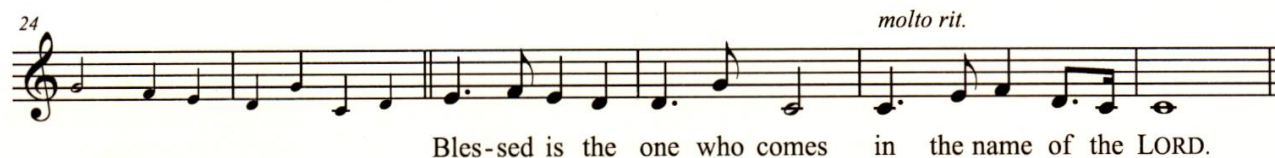
He is our peace; in his flesh he has broken down
the dividing wall of hostility between Jew and Gentile and between you and us.

He has created in himself one new humanity
and reconciled us to you in one body through the cross.

So we gladly thank you, no longer as strangers and aliens,
but as citizens with the saints and members of your household,
singing with the company of heaven the praise of your glory.

Sanctus





The Officiant continues

God of peace, you brought again from the dead your Son Jesus Christ,
and made in him a holy temple, where we could be one with you.

Send your Spirit + upon your people that we may be built together into your dwelling place.

As you promised your children that you would build a house to abide with them,
sanctify this bread and this cup, that they may be for us
a dwelling place for your Son, the body and blood of Christ Jesus our Lord;

who, at supper with his disciples, took bread,
gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying,

"Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup.

Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying,

"Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Officiant continues

Resurrecting and restoring God, your Son had compassion on the crowd,
for they were like sheep without a shepherd.

As he made the journey across the lake to be with your people in their distress,
so you sent him to be incarnate among us, and share our human struggle.

Bless all who long to touch the fringe of his cloak today.
Comfort any who are at sea in body, mind, or spirit.
Visit those who rely on others to bring them to you.

Strengthen your servants who need to retreat to a deserted place
all by themselves, and rest a while.

Cherish your children who have crossed over the lake to be with and give hope
to those who stand fearfully on the shore; until the day when healing becomes salvation,
and salvation becomes your company, and your company is the fullness of joy,
ever one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Officiant then continues

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

**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 for ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

The Officiant says

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Officiant says

Officiant God's holy gifts, for God's holy people.

The table of Christ's body and blood is now made ready.

It is the table of company with Jesus.

It is the table of sharing with the poor and lowly of the world,
with whom Jesus identified.

So come to this table, you who have much faith

or you who would like more;

you who have been here often,

and you who have not been here in a long time, or ever before.

Come. It is Christ who invites you to meet him here.

People **Amen. As the bread and wine we now eat are transformed, may we be changed into the likeness of Christ; bone of his bone, flesh of his flesh, loving and caring for the world.**

The Officiant continues

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, those who are not physically present here join us in offering you praise and thanksgiving. We remember your death, Lord Christ; we proclaim your resurrection; we await your coming in glory. And since they cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we beseech you to come spiritually into their hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us all with your grace, Lord Jesus, and never let us be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. **Amen.**

All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

After Communion, the Officiant says

Let us pray.

**Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out**

to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Blessing

A priest blesses the people, saying

Live without fear: your creator has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you with a power and a presence that is stronger than death. Go in peace to follow the good road, and may the blessing of God + Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit, be with you always. **Amen**

Closing Hymn

Grace alone

Chorus Book 93

Chords: C, D_m, C, C/E, F_M7, F⁶, G, C, D_m, C, C/E, F, G

1. Ev - 'ry prom - ise we can make, Ev - 'ry prayer and step of faith,
2. Ev - 'ry soul we long to reach, Ev - 'ry heart we hope to teach,

Chords: A_m, E_m/G, F, C/G, E/G[#], A_m, D_m7

Ev - 'ry dif - f'rence we will make, is on - ly by His
Ev - 'ry - where we share His peace, is on - ly by His

Chords: G^{sus}, G, C, D_m, C, C/E, F_M7, F⁶, G, C, D_m, C, C/E

grace. Ev - 'ry moun - tain we will climb, Ev - 'ry ray of
grace. Ev - 'ry lov - ing word we say, Ev - 'ry tear we

F G Am E_m / B F C / G E / $\text{G}^\#$ Am D_m^7

hope we shine, Ev - 'ry bless - ing left be - hind, is on - ly
wipe a - way, Ev - 'ry sor - row turned to praise, is on - ly

G_{sus} G F / G C C / E F G / B C

by His grace. Grace a - lone, which God sup - plies,
by His grace.

C / E F G^2 / B C C / E F

Strength un - known He will pro - vide. Christ in us,

F E^7 Am A_m / G F^2 E_m / G G^7 C

- our cor - ner - stone, We will go forth in grace a - lone.

Dismissal

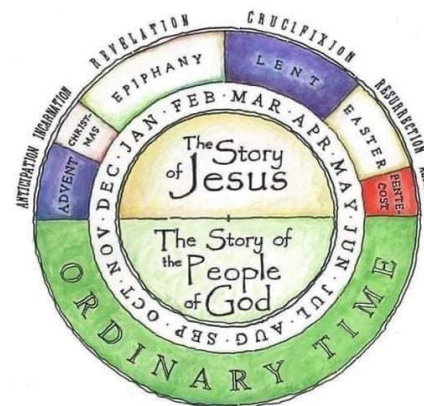
Minister
People

Let us go forth rejoicing in the power of the Spirit!
Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Upcoming Commemorations

- July 18 Bartolomé de las Casas, Priest and Missionary, 1566
- 19 Macrina of Caesarea, Monastic and Teacher, 379
- 20 Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Amelia Bloomer, Sojourner Truth, and Harriet Ross Tubman: Social Reformers. 1883-1902
- 21 Maria Skobtsoba, Monastic & Martyr, 1945; and, Albert John Luthuli, Prophetic Witness, 1967
- 22 Mary of Magdala, Apostle
- 23 John Cassian, Monastic & Theologian, 435
- 24 Thomas a Kempis, Priest & Mystic, 1471



OFFERING OUR DONATIONS OF FOOD AND FUNDS TO FAITH IN ACTION

Faith in Action is continuing to provide leadership in collecting donations to support households in need in the Chelsea and Dexter areas. They are in need of our continuing help. **The usual "TOP ITEMS" needed are:** baked beans, coffee, canned tomatoes, hamburger helper (or any helper), spaghetti sauce, small cans Campbell's soup, ketchup, ranch dressing, cereal, 64oz fruit juices, chips, crackers, toilet paper, laundry soap, cleaning products. You may bring your donations to FIA, or to Nancy who will see that they get there. **If you bring food directly to FIA**, please let Nancy know, so she can continue to keep our records of donation. If you write a check, please make it to *Faith In Action*. The **next Food Drive at the church** will be **August 15**. Please leave your donations at the church on that day.

Financial donations to help us combat the continuing effects of the pandemic can be made by PayPal at www.faithinaction1.org, by Facebook, or by mailing a check to *Faith in Action*, 603 S. Main Street, Chelsea MI 48118. **If you need help, please call FIA at (734) 475-3305**

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Pentecost 8 Proper 11B July 18, 2021

2 Samuel 7:1-14a

The David story is an exciting story, full of twists and turns – well worth reading in its entirety. Even though this chapter doesn't have the guts, gore, and drama of other parts of the story, scholars and careful readers have noticed that this passage presents the *theological* apex of the whole narrative found in 1 and 2 Samuel. Here, God promises to make David's name great (v. 9), to "plant" Israel peacefully in their land (v. 10), and to build David a "house" (v. 11).

Some commentators suggest a play on the double-meaning of "house" (Hebrew: *bayit*) here. Originally, David had wanted to build *God* a house (vv. 2 and 5)—i.e., a temple for the ark. Now, God uses the same word ("*bayit*") spoken through the prophet Nathan to say he will build *David* a house (v. 11)—only God seems to mean a house of humans: a dynasty. He then makes promises about David's "offspring," whom God will "raise up" from the physical line of David and whose reign he will "establish" (v. 12). "He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom

forever. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me” (vv. 13-14a).

- What stands out to you about this passage?
- In what ways does David’s “offspring” seem to refer to Solomon, and in what ways does the promise seem to come to full fruition in Jesus and in his church? Read John 2:13-22 aloud if time; see also 1 Corinthians 3:16-17.

Psalms 89:20-37

Psalms 89 as a whole is both a song of praise and an honest wrestling with God over how Israel’s history played out. This particular section sings of the promises God made to David in 2 Samuel 7 and reflects on them with faith and hope. It understands those promises as constituting a “covenant” (vv. 28 and 34) that God will not break. Other parts of the Scriptures seem to interpret the eventual disruption of the Davidic monarchy in 587 BCE as a result of God’s people’s failure to uphold their end of the covenant. But note verses 30-33: God says that if David’s descendants forsake the law—the way of life given to them as a gift by God—they will reap their own punishment, but even then, God “will not take” his *chesed* (mercy or steadfast love) from them, “nor let [his] faithfulness prove false” (v. 33). Elsewhere, one of God’s faithful people writes, “Even if we sin we are yours” (Wisdom 15:2), and the Psalmist sings, “Our sins are stronger than we are, but you will blot them out” (Psalm 65:3). Human sin and brokenness are never enough to stop God’s love and faithfulness.

- Are there any ways in which these promises of God ring true in your own life? Have you ever experienced God’s steadfast love in the midst of brokenness?
- Which verse speaks most to you in this psalm?

Ephesians 2:11-22

Through baptism into Christ, we become heirs of the “covenants of promise” (v. 12) and “members of the household of God” (v. 19). Everything promised to David and finally fulfilled in Jesus is granted also to us through our union with Jesus, begun in baptism and nourished and strengthened through holy communion. And in him, we are being built “into a holy temple in the Lord” (v. 21). God’s presence in the world, once specially concentrated in the ark of the covenant and housed in temple and tabernacle, is now in *us* (!) who are in Christ. Through the Holy Spirit, it is both already true and will become even more so what John the Revelator writes: “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God” (Revelation 21:3, ESV).

- How does the “temple” (v. 21) written about here compare to the one David had in mind?
- What does the cross (v. 16) have to do with it? If Jewish and Gentile Christians can be reconciled “in one body through the cross,” what does that mean for our situation of Christian division today?

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

These verses of Mark’s gospel serve as a bookend for a “bread miracle” in which Jesus feeds five thousand people (vv. 35-44) and the episode that immediately follows in which Jesus walks on the sea (vv. 47-52). Taken together, Jesus’s invitation of the disciples into a “deserted place” (v. 31) followed by his miraculous provision of food and demonstration of power over the chaotic element of water all hearken back to Israel’s first wilderness wanderings with God (see Exodus 14 and 16). The comparison is no accident. The “many” (vv. 31 and 33) who are “like sheep without a shepherd” (v. 34) also figure importantly in these parts of the narrative. Twice we are told that the people “recognized” (vv. 33 and 54) Jesus, and far from ignoring or intently evading them, he has “compassion” on them, “teach[es]

them many things” (v. 34), and heals them (v. 56).

- What do you think the people “recognize” in Jesus?
- What, if anything, can we glean from the people’s approach to Jesus and Jesus’ approach to the people?
- Does anything else stand out to you in this passage?

This study was written by Kristen Gunn.

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Eucharistic Prayer from Wells, Samuel and Abigail Kocher, *Eucharistic prayers*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2016, pp.226-227.

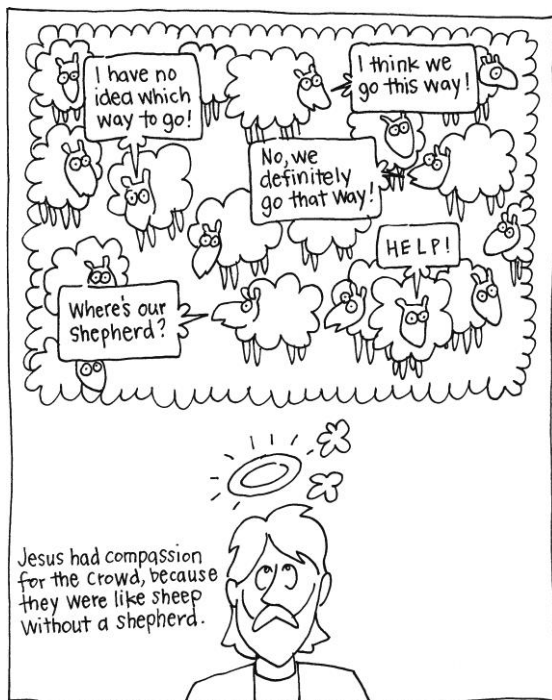
Invitation to the Table adapted from *The Iona Abbey Worship Book*, (Glasgow, UK: Wild Goose Publications, 2001), p.53.

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Blessing adapted from a prayer of St Clare of Assisi. Live Without Fear, a Reflection — Episcopal Church of New Hampshire (nhepiscopal.org) Accessed 7 June 2021.

Our Mission:

We seek to grow as diverse disciples of Jesus Christ,
and to serve Jesus by serving others in the world,
guided by the values of Ancient Rites, Open Minds, and Affirming Hearts.



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