

# Holy Eucharist

July 21, 2024

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85887946777?pwd=eig4MEdsMUh6clV6b2dUblFOQ3l2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 858 8794 6777

Passcode: 782611

## Proper 11B, Pentecost 9

### Prelude



*All stand as they are able*

### Opening Hymn

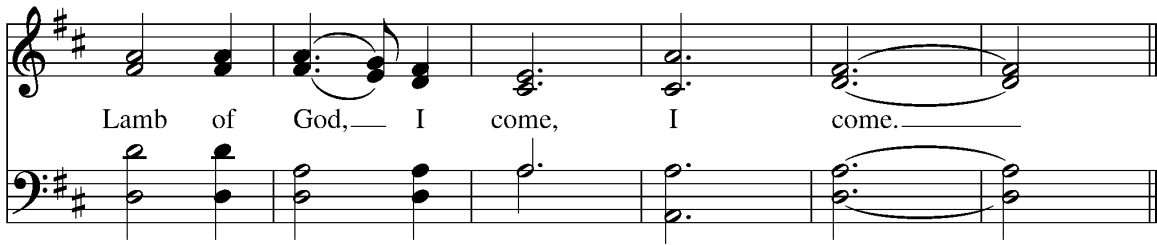
LEVAS 137

*Just as I am*

1. Just\_\_\_ as I am,\_\_\_ with - out\_\_\_ one plea, But  
2. Just\_\_\_ as I am,\_\_\_ though tossed\_\_\_ a - bout With  
3. Just\_\_\_ as I am,\_\_\_ poor, wretch - ed, blind; Sight  
4. Just\_\_\_ as I am,\_\_\_ thou wilt\_\_\_ re - ceive; Wilt  
5. Just\_\_\_ as I am,\_\_\_ thy love\_\_\_ un - known Has

1. that\_\_\_ thy blood was shed for me,  
2. ma - ny-a con - flict, ma - ny-a doubt;  
3. rich - es, heal - ing of the mind,  
4. wel - come, par - don, cleanse, re - lieve,  
5. bro - ken ev - ery bar - rier down;

1. And\_\_\_ that thou bidd'st\_\_\_ me come to thee,\_\_\_ O  
2. Fight - ings and fears\_\_\_ with - in, with - out,\_\_\_ O  
3. Yea,\_\_\_ all I need\_\_\_ in thee to find,\_\_\_ O  
4. Be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,\_\_\_ O  
5. Now\_\_\_ to be thine,\_\_\_ yea, thine a - lone,\_\_\_ O



*Presider* Blessed be the + one, holy, and living God.  
*People* **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

*The Presider 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.**

**Glory to God in the highest,  
 and peace to God's people on earth.  
 Lord God, heavenly King,  
 almighty God and Father,  
 we worship you, we give you thanks,  
 we praise you for your glory.  
 Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
 Lord God, Lamb of God,  
 you take away the sin of the world:  
 have mercy on us;  
 you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
 receive our prayer.  
 For you alone are the Holy One,  
 you alone are the Lord,  
 you alone are the Most High,  
 Jesus Christ,  
 with the Holy Spirit,  
 in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**Collect of the Day**

*Presider* God be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Presider* 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.

# First Reading

Jeremiah 23:1-6

A Reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

<sup>1</sup>Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. <sup>2</sup>Therefore 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. <sup>3</sup>Then 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. <sup>4</sup>I 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.

<sup>5</sup>The 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. <sup>6</sup>In 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."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Remain seated

# Psalm 23

Hymnal 663

1 The Lord my God my shep - herd is; how  
 2 To whole - ness he re - stores my soul and  
 3 Yea, e - ven when I must pass through the  
 4 Thou hast in grace my ta - ble spread se -  
 5 Then sure - ly I can trust thy love for

1 could I want or need? In pas - tures green, by  
 2 doth in mer - cy bless, and helps me take for  
 3 val - ley of death's shade, I will not fear, for  
 4 cure in all a - larms, and filled my cup, and  
 5 all the days to come, that I may tell thy

1 streams serene, he safely doth me lead.  
 2 his Name's sake the paths of righteous - ness.  
 3 thou art here, to comfort and to aid.  
 4 borne me up in ever - last - ing arms.  
 5 praise, and dwell for ever in thy home.

## Second Reading

Ephesians 2:11-22

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

<sup>11</sup>Remember 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—  
<sup>12</sup>remember 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.  
<sup>13</sup>But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup>For 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. <sup>15</sup>He 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, <sup>16</sup>and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. <sup>17</sup>So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; <sup>18</sup>for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. <sup>19</sup>So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup>built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. <sup>21</sup>In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; <sup>22</sup>in 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

Hymnal 708

*Savior, like a shepherd lead us*

1 Sa - vior, like a shep - herd lead us; much we need thy  
 2 Ear - ly let us seek thy fa - vor, ear - ly let us

ten - der care; in thy plea - sant pas - tures feed us;  
 learn thy will; do thou, Lord, our on - ly Sa - vior,

for our use thy folds pre - pare. Bless - ed Je - sus!  
 with thy love our bos - oms fill. Bless - ed Je - sus!

Bless - ed Je - sus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.  
 Bless - ed Je - sus! Thou hast loved us: love us still.

**Holy Gospel**

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

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

<sup>30</sup>The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. <sup>31</sup>He 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. <sup>32</sup>And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. <sup>33</sup>Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. <sup>34</sup>As 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.



<sup>53</sup>When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. <sup>54</sup>When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, <sup>55</sup>and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. <sup>56</sup>And 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**

**Marion VanLoo**

*All then stand as they are able.*

## **Nicene Creed**

*Presider* 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

*Presider* Brothers and sisters, children of God, we have made in the image of God. May our eyes be opened to see the image of the Holy One 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, our people, our bishops, priests, deacons, and Ministry Teams, that they may faithfully lead us in our calling to be a light to the world. Be present with those who take council for your church at General Convention in Louisville. 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 up voices of thanksgiving for all of your grace toward us, and for our abundant blessings [especially for \_\_\_\_\_].

We lift before you all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, and those who struggle with themselves or with difficult situations [especially\_\_\_\_\_]. Infuse them with your healing power and move us to reach out to them with compassion.

We lift before you those who are dying and those who mourn [especially\_\_\_\_\_]. Receive the dying into your eternal embrace, 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*

*Presider* O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## Confession of Sin

*The Presider says to the people*

Jesus said, “The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.” *Mark 12:29-31*

Let us confess our sins to God.

*All remain standing, or kneel, as they are able.*

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People*

**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.**

*All stand as they are able*

## **Peace**

*Presider* The peace of Christ be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*The Ministers and the People may offer God's peace to one another in the name of the Lord.*

*The People then are seated.*

## **Announcements**

## **Holy Communion**

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

*Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, to the Presider.*



*The people stand as they are able when the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.*

## **Offertory Hymn**

## **Doxology**

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

*The people remain standing as they are able*

## Great Thanksgiving

*Presider* The Lord is here.

*People* **God's Spirit is with us.**

*Presider* Lift up your hearts.

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

*Presider* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

*The Presider proceeds*

It is right indeed, it is our joy and our salvation, holy Lord,  
almighty Father, everlasting God, at all times and in all places  
to give you thanks and praise through Christ, your only Son.  
You are the source of all life and goodness;  
through your eternal Word  
you have created all things from the beginning  
and formed us in your own image;  
male and female you created us.  
When we sinned and turned away  
you called us back to yourself  
and gave your Son, to share our human nature.

By his death on the cross, he made the one perfect sacrifice  
for the sin of the world, and freed us from the bondage of sin.

On the night before he suffered, our Saviour gave us this holy feast,  
in which we receive the benefits of his passion  
and are filled with the power of his resurrection.  
You raised him to life triumphant over death; you exalted him in glory.

In him, you have made us a holy people  
by sending upon us your ✚ holy and lifegiving Spirit.

Therefore with the faithful who rest in him,  
with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven,

we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*The people continue to stand, or kneel, as they are able.*

*The Presider continues*

All glory and thanksgiving to you, holy Father;  
on the night before he died, your Son, Jesus Christ, took bread;  
when he had given you thanks, he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
Take, eat, this is my body, which is given for you; do this to remember me.

After supper, he took the cup; when he had given you thanks,  
he gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you,  
for 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, to remember me.

**Glory to you, Lord Christ;  
your death we show forth;  
your resurrection we proclaim;  
your coming we await;  
Amen! Come Lord Jesus.**

*The Presider continues*

Therefore loving God, recalling your great goodness to us in Christ,  
his suffering and death, his resurrection and ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate our redemption with this bread of life and this cup of salvation.

Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving which we offer through Christ,  
our great high priest. Send your + Holy Spirit, that these gifts of bread and wine  
which we receive may be to us the body and blood of Christ, and that we,  
filled with the Spirit's grace and power, may be renewed for the service of your kingdom.

United in Christ with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, O God, in songs of everlasting praise.

**Blessing, honour and glory be yours, here and everywhere,  
now and for ever. AMEN.**

*The Presider 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 forever. Amen.**

### **Breaking of the Bread**

*A period of silence is kept.*

*The Presider says*

This is the true bread which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.  
**Whoever eats this bread will live for ever.**

These are the gifts of God for the People of God.

*All are welcome to receive Holy Communion.*

*When all who desire have received, the Presider says*

Let us pray.

*Presider and People*

**Loving God,  
we give you thanks  
for restoring us in your image  
and nourishing us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.  
Now send us forth, a people forgiven, healed, renewed;  
that we may proclaim your love to the world  
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.  
Blessing**

*A priest blesses the people, saying*

Live without fear: your Creator has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you as a mother. Go in peace to follow the good road,  
 and the blessing of + God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
 be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**Concluding Hymn**

**MHSO 50**

*Let us talents and tongues employ*



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a  
 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at his ta - ble he  
 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a



shout of joy: bread is bro - ken, wine is poured,  
 sets the tone, teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless,  
 world of doubt, gives us love to tell, bread to share:



Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard:  
 love in word and in deed ex - press: Je - sus lives a - gain,  
 God Im - man - u - el ev - ery - where:



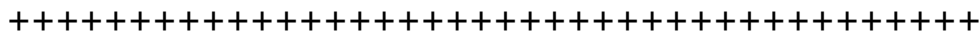
earth can breathe a - gain, pass the word a - round: loaves a - bound.

**Dismissal**

*Minister* And now, my siblings in Christ, I bid you go out as did St Barnabas,  
 the Encourager. Go out with a good heart, full of peace and joy, to love and  
 serve our Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Postlude**



**This week in prayer**

**Please remember these persons and congregations in your prayers this week:**

**Our Bishops** Bonnie, Michael, Sean, Justin, Moises (TEC); Elizabeth, Donald and Craig (ELCA) **and for** all bishops, priests, deacons, Ministry Teams, and those in formation  
**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:**

July 21 The Anglican Church of Burundi

**Diocese of Michigan Cycle of Prayer:**

July 14 Grace Church, Detroit; St Mary’s-in-the-Hills, Lake Orion; St Mary the Virgin, Montillano, DR

**St Barnabas Cycle of Prayer:** Lynn, Jan S, Selenah

**and our continuing prayers for:** Jim M, Mardi, Pat, Robert, Selenah

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Faith in Action provides leadership in collecting donations to support households in need in the Chelsea and Dexter areas. They are in need of our continuing help. 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*, with “St Barnabas” on the memo line. The **next Food Drive is NEXT Sunday, July 21**. In the Spirit of Jesus, please contribute as generously as you can.

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### Upcoming Commemorations

- July 21 Albert John Lithuli, Prophetic Witness, 1967
- 22 Mary of Magdala, Apostle
- 23 John Cassian, Monastic and Theologian, 435
- 24 Thomas à Kempis, Priest and Mystic, 1471
- 25 James (the Greater), Apostle
- 26 The Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 27 William Reed Huntington, Priest, 1909

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**“No longer strangers”**  
A hymn by Avery and Marsh

He turned to say: "Come follow me."  
I joined his band to travel land and sea.  
And so we go to whom he sends,  
No longer strangers, we're sisters, brothers, friends.

I walked alone, I heard your cry.  
I came to you instead of passing by.  
We gave, we took; our story ends:  
No longer strangers, we're sisters, brothers, friends.

My world was small, my neighbors few,  
But now God's love gives me a larger view:

Before the cross my world extends,  
No longer strangers, we're sisters, brothers, friends.

No foreign kind, no alien race,  
In Christ we all have found a welcome place.  
The Spirit binds, our voices blend;  
No longer strangers, we're sisters, brothers, friends.

Words by Richard K. Avery; Donald S. Marsh © 1978 Hope Publishing Company

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**Proper 11B July 21, 2024**

***Jeremiah 23:1-6***

The book of Jeremiah, named after the prophet Jeremiah, was written for the people of Judah who had just survived three invasions by the Babylonians that resulted in the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple and exile from their homeland. They were a people trying to understand how this destruction, death, and separation could have occurred to the faithful children of God. The prophet Jeremiah places responsibility for this misfortune squarely in the hands of the kings of Judah: “Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord” (v. 1). As explained in Chapter 22 of Jeremiah, just preceding the assigned reading for today, the kings of Judah, God’s shepherds of his people, have only been concerned with enriching themselves and have forsaken the needs of the people. They have not acted with justice and righteousness, they have not attended to the people, delivering all from the hands of the oppressor, and they have not avoided doing wrong or violence to the alien, the orphan, and the widow, or shedding the blood of the innocent (Jer 22:3). Clearly, leadership matters, and the realization of the Kingdom requires leaders of the people and stewards of the land that exemplify the righteousness of God, our ultimate shepherd – a righteousness that brings about an equitable social order, where the most vulnerable are protected, justice and inclusion prevail, and all can flourish.

Jeremiah leaves the reader with the hope that God will “raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing” (v. 4). None shall be missing, all are included in the kingdom of justice, peace, and love that God wants for us. We must play a part in this work, by ensuring that we demand from any who seek to lead us that they never forget that they are but shepherds in service to the people that they lead. They should always put the flock before their own needs and always work for justice and peace where all are included, and the alien, the orphan, the widow, the poor, and the oppressed are raised up and allowed to flourish alongside the entire flock. Leadership matters.

- In an election year where division and “othering” by each political side seems to be the norm, how do the words of the prophet Jeremiah speak to us?
- What actions does Jeremiah call us to, and how should we play a role in the realization of the Kingdom?

***Psalm 23***

Psalm 23 is probably the most beloved and well-known of all the psalms. It is often used and recited to provide comfort at funerals and other times of great hardship. The psalmist reminds us of God’s steadfast and comforting love for us in the very first verses: “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters” (v. 1-2). This introduction pulls us into a beautiful prayer of recognition and thankfulness for how God abides with us every day. God’s love and mercy “pursue” us every day of our lives; the psalmist ends the psalm with, “Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life” (v. 6). God wants to be in relationship with us. God wants us to flourish and have peace in our lives. We can respond to this deep, abiding love by not only loving God back but also by passing on this deep, abiding love to our family, friends, communities, the other, and the stranger. In this way, we ensure that all know that God is pursuing them, too.

- Psalms are poetic prayers that are often sung or chanted in the liturgies of The Episcopal Church. Does singing or chanting Psalm 23 change your emotional response to the psalmist’s words? If so, how?
- How do we express our relationship with God in our relationships within our own communities? What about in our relationships with the Other and those strangers we might interact with in our daily lives?

**Ephesians 2:11-22**

This portion of Ephesians appointed for Proper 11 strikes the heart of the theology of the book. Through Christ and through the cross, we are bonded together in love and unity. There is no longer “us” and “them,” we are called to be one Body, “for he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both into one and has broken down the dividing wall” (v. 14). Christ has created “in himself one new humanity in place of the two” (v. 15), and all “have access in one Spirit to the Father” (v. 18). The writer also calls us to remember our past and the separation from the Holy that we came from, and how we “have been brought near by the blood of Christ” (v. 13). In the time that this letter was written, this would have been a challenging theology, not only in rejection of the barriers that had led to much hostility and calling for full inclusion of the Gentiles into the Body of Christ but also by pointing out that it is Christ who came to proclaim and provide, “peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near” (v. 17) and not the peace enforced by the ruling empire of the time. This would have been a direct challenge to the Roman empire and Caesar himself, who was the one to be lauded for bringing and keeping the peace (albeit through militarist rule and repression). This letter could have been viewed by the empire as a threat to their authority. However, the peace that Christ brings is not the peace Rome would have been so proud to boast of. Not the peace resulting from zero tolerance for resistance, but the deeper peace of knowing that we are all one in Christ, fully included in divine love and belonging. No one is left out, and no one is alone, for we are all beloved and “brought near” through Christ and within the community of Christ.

- What role should today’s church and the followers of Christ take in addressing the partisanship and divisions so prevalent in today’s world?
- What does it mean to you to be part of the Body of Christ?

**Mark 6:30-34, 53-56**

It would be understandable to wonder why the lectionary for today’s Gospel skips over two of the “big” miracles in the Gospel of Mark in jumping from verses 30-34 to verses 53-56. Namely, the feeding of the five thousand (Mark 6:35-44), and Jesus walking on water (Mark 6:45-52). It seems that, by skipping these verses, we are being reminded of the fact that although the “big” work is important to do, Jesus recognizes the need for rest and solitude in our busy lives. He wants this for us. In our human brokenness, we need to take a break, to take Sabbath time to recharge, to eat, to pray, to listen for the quiet voice of God and Spirit, so that we do not travel down a wrong path while distracted by our busyness and tiredness. The work of compassion takes a focus and energy that is fueled by times of rest, reflection, and prayer. Still, we see in verse 34 that Jesus does not always practice what he preaches if confronted by the needs of the people! This demonstrates compassion for others that passes all understanding and reminds us of how Christ’s divine nature always abides with us.

It could also be viewed that in skipping the two “big” miracles, the lectionary points us to the deep truth in verses 53-56 that the ministry of Christ was often focused on and occurred in the “small” moments – just healing the people, one by one, being present to each suffering person and bringing healing to all. Mark writes in verse 56 that Jesus healed “Wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms.” The “big” miracles are important, but let us not forget the daily “small” miracles that Christ conducted in his day-to-day ministry – “small” miracles that we can also perform by addressing the daily needs of our world and by being present to what Dr. Martin Luther King called the “fierce urgency of now.”

- What “small” miracles have you recently witnessed? Were you involved in making any of them occur?
- How does the thought of taking time for rest, reflection, and prayer make you feel? Why?

*This study was written by Jon Achée*

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**Drawing** on p.20 by the Rev. Jay Sidebotham, from *Drawn to the Gospels: an illustrated lectionary*, Year B, p.112  
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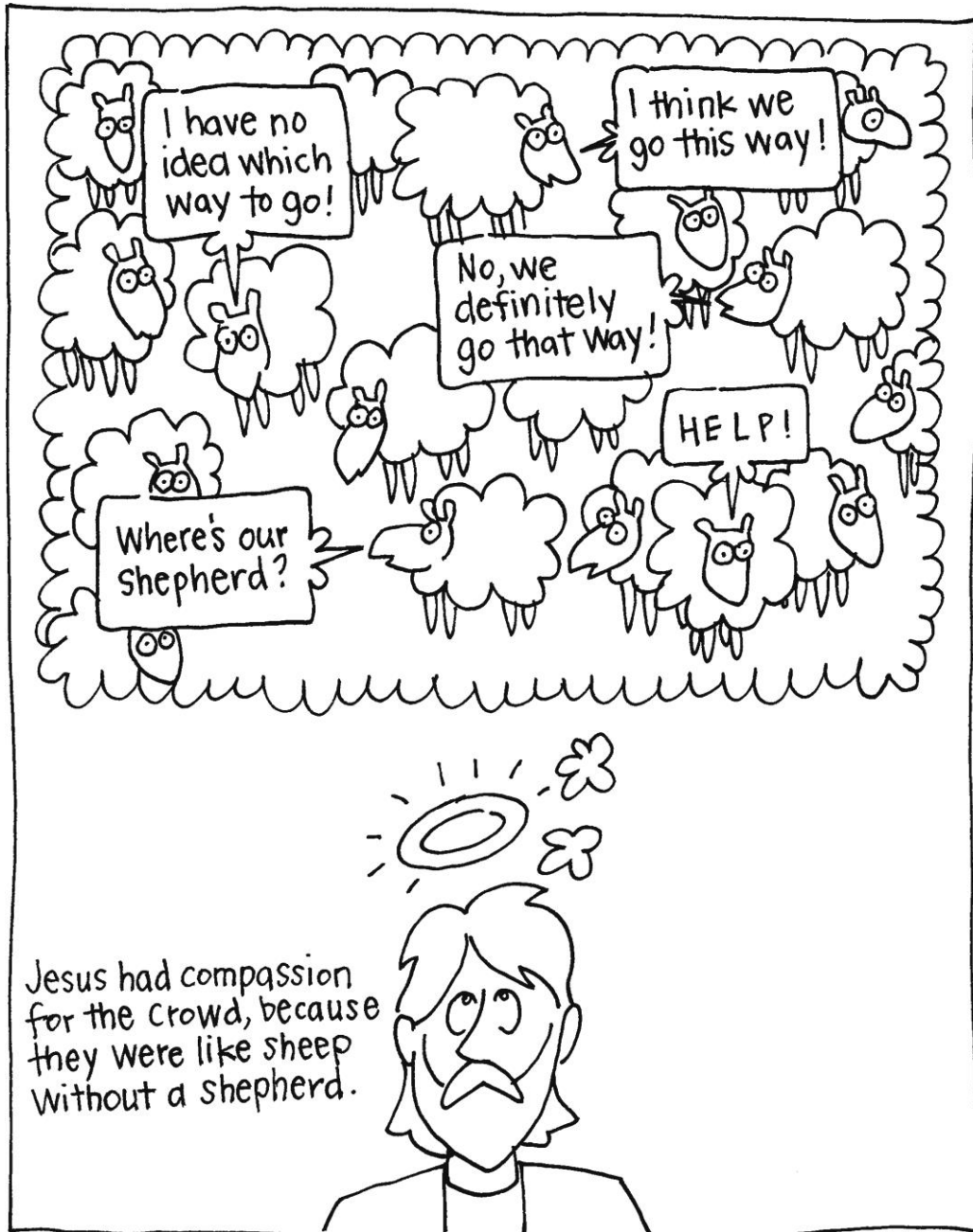
**Closing Hymn** found in *My Heart Sings Out*, #50

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## 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.



## St Barnabas Episcopal Church

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