



# Celebrate

Sunday, July 18, 2021  
8th Sunday after Pentecost

Mark's gospel makes clear how great is the press of the crowd, with its countless needs to be met, on Jesus and his disciples. Yet in today's gospel Jesus advises his disciples to get away and rest, to take care of themselves. Sometimes we think that when others are in great need we shouldn't think of ourselves at all; but Jesus also honors the caregivers' need. We are sent from Christ's table to care for others and for ourselves.

## Prayer of the Day

O God, powerful and compassionate, you shepherd your people, faithfully feeding and protecting us. Heal each of us, and make us a whole people, that we may embody the justice and peace of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## First Reading

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Jeremiah prophesied before the exile in 587 BCE. In this passage, he uses the metaphor of a shepherd to describe the bad kings who have scattered the "flock" of Israel. God promises to gather the flock and to raise up a new king from David's line to save Israel and Judah.

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."

## Psalm

Psalm 23; refrain, Ps. 23:1



The LORD is my shep-herd; I shall not be in want.

The LORD <sup>1</sup> is my shepherd;  
I shall not <sup>1</sup> be in want.

<sup>2</sup>The LORD makes me lie down <sup>1</sup> in green pastures  
and leads me be- <sup>1</sup> side still waters.

<sup>3</sup>You restore my <sup>1</sup> soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways <sup>1</sup> for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I shall <sup>1</sup> fear no evil;

for you are with me; your rod and your staff,  
they <sup>1</sup> comfort me. **R**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence <sup>1</sup> of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is <sup>1</sup> running over.

<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days <sup>1</sup> of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the <sup>1</sup> LORD forever. **R**