



TO BE HIS LIGHT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 18, 2021

THOUGHTS OF PREPARATION

Jesus teaches but requires more of a listener. We are invited to join the journey, wrestle with our assumptions, confront our spiritual bigotry and struggle with the humbling mystery and profound profundity of God. — Otis Moss Jr.

Welcome

Prelude *“It Is Well With My Soul”* (Arr. by David Schwoebel)
(Dobin Park - Piano, Michael Sullivan - Organ)

Tower Bell

Call to Worship (Responsive)

In a world that too easily wounds and breaks,
 we long for those who will heal and restore;
In a world that too easily divides and dissects,
 we long for those who will unify and interweave;
In a world that too easily excludes and judges,
 we long for those who will include and understand;
And in a world where your call, O God, can still be heard,
 *we long for the courage to answer, and to be the ones we long
 for.*

We come to worship this day, Lord, ready for You to lead us into this
life-changing, world -shaping reality,
 and to offer our open-hearted praise! Amen.

***Responsive Prayer of Adoration & Confession**

Creator God, we confess that at times we are skeptics. At times we doubt that You exist because of the evil we have seen in the world, or the circumstances and hurts in our own lives. Oppression, marginalization, and plain hate still plague our world, and it is hard to see Your love and light. Sometimes, even those who bear Your name do not walk in Your ways.

*Help us to see Your goodness in this world.
Help us to know Your love.
Fill us with Your love and goodness,
so that we might love one another,
and lift up one another in faith. Amen.* (Silence is kept)

Words of Assurance/Blessing

The psalmist (Psalm 27) says, “I am sure I shall see the goodness of our God in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!”

Know that you do not wait alone.

God has given us one another for this journey of faith, to help one another.

Know that you do not wait alone;

Christ is with us.

Be encouraged, and encourage one another.

We will joyfully go and share the Good News. Amen.

***Gloria Patri**

(Greatorex)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

Scripture Lesson

From the Hebrew Prophets: Jeremiah 23:1-6

23 Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. ²Therefore 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. ³Then 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. ⁴I 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.

⁵The 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. ⁶In 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.”

Anthem

“O God Beyond All Praising” (Arr. by Dan Forrest)

O God beyond all praising, we worship You today
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
for we can only wonder at ev’ry gift you send
at blessings without number and mercies without end.
we lift our hearts before You and wait upon Your word,
we honor and adore You, our great and mighty Lord.

For we can only wonder at ev’ry gift you send
at blessings without number and mercies without end.
For Christ, your gift from heaven, from death has set us free,
and we through Him are given the final victory.
then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring
that we, we who know Your favor may serve you as our King
and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
we’ll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless You still:
to marvel at Your beauty and glory in Your ways,
and make a joyful duty our song of praise.
Our sacrifice of praise.

Scripture Lesson From the New Testament “Letters:” Ephesians 2:14-22

¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ 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, ¹⁶ and might reconcile both groups to God in one body^[a] through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it.^[b] ¹⁷ So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; ¹⁸ for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, ²⁰ built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.^[c] ²¹ In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; ²² in whom you also are built together spiritually^[d] into a dwelling place for God.

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

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.

Offertory Invitation

The Shepherd cares for us, providing all that we need in abundance.

The Shepherd calls us to love one another in truth and action.

May our gifts reflect our trust in the Shepherd’s care.

May our offerings show our willingness to love one another.

Offertory

“As the Deer” (Arr. by Martin Nystrom)

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you

You alone are my heart’s desire and I long to worship you.

For you alone are my strength, my shield; to you alone may my spirit yield.

You alone are my heart’s desire and I long to worship you.

Scripture Lesson

From the Gospels: Mark 6:30-56

³⁰ The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. ³¹ 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. ³² And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. ³³ Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. ³⁴ 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. ³⁵ When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; ³⁶ send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat.” ³⁷ But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.” They said to him, “Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii^[a] worth of bread, and give it to them to eat?” ³⁸ And he said to them, “How many loaves have you? Go and see.” When they had found out, they said, “Five, and two fish.” ³⁹ Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰ So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. ⁴¹ Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and he divided the two fish among them all. ⁴² And all ate and were filled; ⁴³ and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. ⁴⁴ Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

⁴⁵ Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. ⁴⁶ After saying farewell to them, he went up on the mountain to pray.

⁴⁷ When evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and he was alone on the land. ⁴⁸ When he saw that they were straining at the oars against an adverse wind, he came towards them early in the morning, walking on the sea. He intended to pass them by. ⁴⁹ But when they saw him walking on the sea, they thought it was a ghost and cried out; ⁵⁰ for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.” ⁵¹ Then he got into the boat with them and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded, ⁵² for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.

Break Now the Bread of Life 665

1 Break now the bread of life, dear Lord, to me, as once you
2 Bless your own Word of truth, dear Lord, to me, as when you
3 You are the bread of life, dear Lord, to me; your ho - ly
4 O send your Spir - it now, dear Lord, to me, that he may

broke the loaves be - side the sea. Be - yond the sa - cred page
blessed the bread by Gal - i - lee. Then shall all bond - age cease,
Word the truth that res - cues me. Give me to eat and live
touch my eyes and make me see. Show me the truth made plain

I seek you, Lord; my spir - it longs for you, O liv - ing Word.
all fet - ters fall; and I shall find my peace, my All in all!
with you a - bove; teach me to love your truth, for you are love.
with - in your Word, for in your book re - vealed I see the Lord.

WORDS: Mary A. Lachbury (1841-1913); vs. 3-4, Alexander Groves (1842-1909), alt.
MUSIC: William F. Sherwin (1826-1888), alt.

BREAD OF LIFE
6.4.6.4.D.