

## WHAT LUTHERANS BELIEVE

**THE BIBLE** – We believe that EVERY word in the Bible is inspired by God, and therefore the whole Bible is the true, unalterable Word of God, clearly teaching the way of salvation. (2Ti. 3:15-17).

**GOD** – We believe that God is ONE (Dt. 6:4) and that He has revealed Himself in three distinct Persons (Mt. 3:13-17), the Father, our Creator and Preserver; the Son, Jesus, Who is both God and Man, and our only Saviour; the Holy Spirit, Who creates faith in our hearts and enables us to live a God-pleasing life.

**MAN** – We believe that God created man with body and soul, in His image, but man of his own free will lost this image through sin. (Gn. 1:27; 2:7; 3.)

**SIN** – “Sin is the transgression of the Law.” (1Jn 3:4). There are two kinds of sin: original (inherited) sin (Ps. 51:5) and actual sin (sin in thought, word and deed) (Mt. 15:19). Man is subject to death and eternal damnation by reason of the guilt that attaches to sin.

**REDEMPTION** – We believe that God out of pure love and mercy redeemed mankind from sin through the all-sufficient sacrifice of His only Son, Jesus, and His resurrection shows that God was satisfied with the work of Christ. (Jn 3:16; 1Jn 2:2; Ro. 4:25).

**FAITH** – We believe that the sinner must personally receive the merits of Jesus for salvation and trust that, “Jesus died for me.” (Jn 17:3; Ja 1:21; Ps. 31:14).

**THE CHURCH** – We believe that the church, established by Christ is the whole number of believers in Christ, for only believers are members of the church. Jesus Christ is its one and only foundation (Ep. 2:19-22). The church is found wherever the Gospel of Jesus Christ is preached and the Sacraments are administered according to Christ’s institution.

**SACRAMENTS** – We believe that Christ instituted two sacraments, and when Baptism is administered to infants and adults, according to the command of Christ, God offers His grace and forgiveness of sins (Acts 22:16). In the Lord’s Supper, believing communicants, with the bread and wine, also really receive Christ’s body and blood for the forgiveness of sins (1Co. 11:24-25).

**SECOND COMING OF CHRIST** – We believe that Christ will return visibly to earth (Acts 1:11) on the Last Day (Mk. 13:32) to judge the world (Acts 10:42). The believers will go to heaven, to be with God forever (1Th. 4:13-18). The unbelievers will go to hell, eternally separated from God (Mt. 25:32, 46).

**RESURRECTION** – We believe that on the Last Day believers in Christ will rise from the dead, their souls reunited with their earthly bodies and glorified by Christ (Jn 14:19; 17:24).

# **Eighth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 11B) July 18, 2021**

## **INTROIT**

*Psalm 147:7-11; Antiphon: Psalm 145:16*

*You open your hand;*

*you satisfy the desire of every living thing.*

*Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;*

*make melody to our God on the lyre!*

*He covers the heavens with clouds; he prepares rain for the earth;*

*he makes grass grow on the hills.*

*He gives to the beasts their food,*

*and to the young ravens that cry.*

*His delight is not in the strength of the horse,*

*nor his pleasure in the legs of a man,*

*but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him,*

*in those who hope in his steadfast love.*

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son**

**and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning,**

**is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*You open your hand;*

*you satisfy the desire of every living thing.*

## **COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**P**

*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.*

**C**

**Amen**

## **GRADUAL**

*Romans 11: 33, 36*

*Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!*

*How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!*

*For from him and through him and to him are all things.*

*To him be glory forever. Amen.*

## **RESPONSE FOR PRAYERS**

*After each petition:*

**P**

*Lord, in Your mercy,*

**C**

**hear our prayer.**

## **Jeremiah 23:1-6 (ESV)**

“Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!” declares the LORD. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> “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. <sup>6</sup> 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.’”

## **Ephesians 2:11-22 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> 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— <sup>12</sup> 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. <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 himself is

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

## **Mark 6:30-44 (ESV)**

<sup>30</sup>The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. <sup>31</sup> 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. <sup>32</sup> And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves. <sup>33</sup> Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. <sup>34</sup> 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. <sup>35</sup> And when it grew late,

his disciples came to him and said, “This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late. <sup>36</sup> Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.” <sup>37</sup> 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?” <sup>38</sup> 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.” <sup>39</sup> Then he

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

## THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Proper 11B)

Jeremiah 23:1–6

Ephesians 2:11–22

Mark 6:30–44

### *The Lord Jesus Shepherds His Church on Earth by the Ministry of the Gospel*

The Lord rebukes and removes “*the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep*” (Jer. 23:1). He gathers the flock, brings them back to the fold, and sets “*shepherds over them who will care for them*” (Jer. 23:3–4). He raises up the Son of David, the great Good Shepherd, to “*reign as king and deal wisely*” (Jer. 23:5). He is “*our righteousness,*” in whom we “ *dwell securely*” (Jer. 23:6). He has compassion on all of us, who were “*like sheep without a shepherd*” (Mark 6:34). Not only does He teach us many things, but, taking the bread, He blesses and breaks and gives it to the disciples “*to set before the people*” (Mark 6:41). He abundantly provides for His Church on earth, so that everyone is fed and fully satisfied in body and soul. He preaches peace “*to you who were far off,*” and “*by the blood of Christ*” He brings you near (Eph. 2:13, 17). Though you were “*separated from Christ*” by your sin, “*having no hope and without God in the world*” (Eph. 2:12), now “*you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God*” (Eph. 2:19).

### *Next Week’s Readings from God’s Word:*

July 25 (Proper 12): Pentecost 10 (Series B):

Genesis 9:8-17, Psalm 136:1-9, Ephesians 3:14-21, Mark 6:45-56