



“For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison...”

- Mark 6:17

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
8th Sunday after Pentecost – July 14, 2024**

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Rev. Katie McNeal, Presiding Minister

Maizy Fisher, Director of Music Ministries

*We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning!
Know that you are welcome here just as you are.*

If you are looking for a church to call home, why not consider making this one your own? If this is your first time worshiping at St. John, please fill out the visitor information card stapled to your bulletin.

*Everything you need to follow worship can be found in this bulletin. As you are comfortable, please rise when there is an * and join in the congregational responses, noted in **bold**. All songs are marked with numbers. The red book in the pew has all the songs. Look for the large number in the upper corner of the page to find the correct song.*

*During the time of **Peace**, you are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcomed to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.). Hand sanitizer is available in each pew.*

*At the time of **Offering**, you are invited to share a gift. Envelopes are available in the pews if you prefer. Online gifts may be made using the QR code below:*



*You may also offer updates to our ongoing prayer list using the yellow cards in the pews and placing them in the offering plates. **Visitor information cards** and member attendance cards (attached to the front of the bulletin) may also be placed in the offering plates.*

*As Lutherans, we believe Christ is truly present in the elements of the Lord's Supper. At the time of **Holy Communion**, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward via the center aisle, receive the elements, and return via the side aisles. We begin at the front of the right side, commune all on the right side, then we will invite the left side forward. When you come forward, you may receive the bread from the pastor (gluten free wafers are available), then pre-filled cups with wine or grape juice from the assisting minister. You may consume the elements after receiving them then place the empty cup in the tray held by the acolyte. Those who do not receive Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

*If you need a **restroom**, restrooms are located on the bottom floor at the far side of the building from the elevator. Restrooms may be accessed either via the stairs in the rear of the sanctuary, the stairs by the Greeting Area, or the elevator.*

*A **playroom** is available downstairs for children who need a break from the worship service. For safety reasons, an adult must accompany the child. This room is by the elevator on the lower level. Children are also welcome to utilize the books and puzzles available in the Greeting Area on the top level by the elevator.*

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to fill out the blue prayer request forms located in each pew. The cards will be collected during our hymn of the day, and prayers will be offered during the prayers of intercession.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

*GATHERING SONG *O God of Light* (ELW 507)



1 O God of light, your word, a lamp un - fail - ing,
2 From days of old, through blind and will - ful a - ges,
3 Un - dimmed by time, those words are still re - veal - ing
4 To all the world your sum - mons you are send - ing,



shall pierce the dark - ness of our earth - bound way
though we re - belled, you gent - ly sought a - gain,
to sin - ful hearts your jus - tice and your grace;
through all the earth, to ev - 'ry land and race,



and show your grace, your plan for us un - veil - ing,
and spoke through saints, a - pos - tles, proph - ets, sa - ges,
and quest - ing spir - its, long - ing for your heal - ing,
that myr - iad tongues, in one great an - them blend - ing,



and guide our foot - steps to the per - fect day.
who wrote with ea - ger or re - luc - tant pen.
see your com - pas - sion in the Sav - ior's face.
may praise and cel - e - brate your gift of grace.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who greets us in this and every season,
whose word never fails,
whose promise is sure.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

Merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned.
We have hurt our community.
We have squandered your blessings.
We have hoarded your bounty.
In the name of Jesus,
forgive us and grant us your mercy.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Righteous God,
we confess that we have sinned.
We have failed to be honest.
We have lacked the courage to speak.
We have spoken falsely.
In the name of Jesus,
forgive us and grant us your mercy.
Silence is kept for reflection.

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst.
God offers boundless grace when we fail.
In God's goodness, we are free to claim the gift of God's mercy:
we are freed and forgiven
in the name of † Jesus Christ.
Amen.

***Canticle of Praise *Now the Feast and Celebration* (ELW 167)**

Refrain



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



Refrain
freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



Refrain
glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



Refrain
God; to make all things new.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

O God, from you come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Amos 7:7-15

A reading from Amos.

⁷This is what [the Lord GOD] showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. ⁸And the LORD said to me, “Amos, what do you see?” And I said, “A plumb line.” Then the Lord said,

“See, I am setting a plumb line
in the midst of my people Israel;
I will never again pass them by;

⁹the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate,
and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste,
and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.”

¹⁰Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, “Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. ¹¹For thus Amos has said,

‘Jeroboam shall die by the sword,
and Israel must go into exile
away from his land.’”

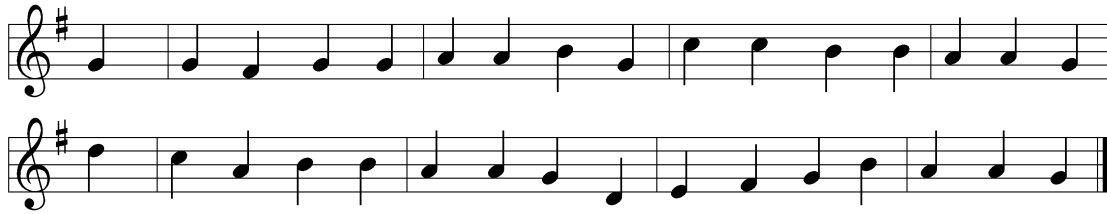
¹²And Amaziah said to Amos, “O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; ¹³but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king’s sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.”

¹⁴Then Amos answered Amaziah, “I am no prophet, nor a prophet’s son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, ¹⁵and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 85:8–13



1. Lord, you are speaking now to us,
And I will listen for my part,
For you speak peace to faithful souls
Who turn to you with all their heart.

2. To those who bow in reverent awe,
Your saving help is very near;
Your purpose is that in our land
Your radiant glory may appear.

3. Mercy and truth at last have met,
Justice and peace are reconciled;
Truth has arisen from the earth,
Justice looked down from heaven and
smiled.

4. You grant prosperity to us,
Our land will yield its full increase;
Justice shall go before your face,
The pathway for your feet is peace.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14

A reading from Ephesians.

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia

*GOSPEL READING: Mark 6:14-29

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴King Herod heard of [the disciples' preaching,] for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." ¹⁵But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." ¹⁶But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

¹⁷For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. ¹⁸For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." ¹⁹And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, ²⁰for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. ²¹But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee.

²²When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." ²³And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." ²⁴She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer."

²⁵Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." ²⁶The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, ²⁸brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY *Let Justice Flow Like Streams* (ELW 717)

(Blue prayer cards are collected)



1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spar-king wa - ter, pure,
2 Let righ - teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,
3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,



en - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans - ing, sure.
an ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans - lat - ed in - to deed.
and jus - tice, right, and peace per - vade this world our whole life through.

*APOSTLES' CREED

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

One in the communion of saints and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we join our voices in prayer. *A brief silence.*

You gather your people into the body of Christ. Where your church is wounded, heal it. Where it is right, strengthen it. Where it is divided, reunite it. In your mercy,
hear our prayer.

From before the foundation of the world, you are God. Revive ecosystems destroyed by human greed. Curb our desire to put wealth ahead of the health of all who call this planet home. In your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You establish equity and make justice. Within every nation, tribe, and land, cause laws to be written and customs to be observed that protect the most vulnerable. In your mercy,
hear our prayer.

On the cross your beloved Son endured pain and death. Bring healing to those in need, hope to any in despair, and comfort to the dying. We pray especially for Bob, Geneva, Cherry, Winnie, Henry, Harry, Ellen, Ruth, Sally, Katie, Debi, Anne, those on our prayer list, all whom we remember aloud or in our hearts. In your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You send your Spirit into this community of faith. Empower ministries that serve and build up local communities. Nurture partnerships with other community organizations. In your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You are eternal and everlasting. We give you thanks and praise for the lives of loved ones who now rest in you. In the fullness of time gather us with all your saints in light. In your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Holy God, holy and merciful: you hear our prayers, spoken and unspoken. We lift now the prayers that are on the hearts and minds of this congregation this day (*blue prayer cards are read*). Into your outstretched arms we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN *When Our Song Says Peace* (ELW 709)

Rise on 3rd verse



1 When our song says peace and the world says war, we will
2 When our song says free and the world says bound, we will
3 When our song says home and the world says lost, we will



sing de-spite the world. We will trust the song, for we sing of God,
sing de-spite the world. We will trust the song, for we sing of God,
sing de-spite the world. We will trust the song, for we sing of God,



who breaks the spear and sword and stills the storm of war.
who o - pens pris - on doors and sets the cap - tives free.
who brings us home at last, and gives a song to all.

*OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of field and forest, sea and sky,

you are the giver of all good things.

Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,

and multiply your graciousness in us,

that the world may be fed with your love,

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary
that we should at all times and in all places
offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord,
through Christ our Lord;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

You are holy, almighty and merciful God, and great is your glory.
You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.
Having come into the world, he fulfilled for us your holy will
and accomplished our salvation.

To explain God's love, to show it and share it,
in the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his good command,
his life-giving Passion and death,
his glorious resurrection and ascension, and his promise to come again,
we give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought, but as we are able;
and we ask you to accept our praise and thanksgiving,
and, with your Word and Holy Spirit, to bless us,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine;
that we and all who share in the body and blood of your Son
may be filled with heavenly peace and joy,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be made holy,
and have our place with all your saints.

All blessing, praise, and thanks to you, Holy God,
through Jesus Christ, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. **Amen**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray,
**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**

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.
Come!

Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life, and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. In response to Jesus' invitation, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine. Those who do not receive the bread and wine are invited to come forward for a blessing.

Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available upon request. Communion may also be brought back to the pews for those who are unable to come forward.

COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN *God Extends an Invitation* (ELW 486) (sing twice)

Nues-tro Pa - dre nos in - vi - ta a la me - sa de la
 God ex - tends an in - vi - ta - tion to the ta - ble of cre -

vi - da, don - de hay vi - no, luz y pan; y no -
 a - tion, where there's wine and light and bread. Here we

so - tros nos reu - ni - mos, y lo nues - tro com - par - ti - mos, pues a -
 gath - er in thanks - giv - ing and we of - fer all our liv - ing. Here the

sí es la co - mu - nión; pues a - sí es la co - mu - nión.
 feast of life is spread; here the feast of life is spread.

COMMUNION HYMN *Just a Closer Walk with Thee* (ELW 697)

Refrain

Just a clos - er walk with thee, grant it, Je - sus, is my plea;

dai - ly walk - ing close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

1 I am weak but thou art strong: Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;
 2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?
 3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;

Refrain

I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.
 Who with me my bur - den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.
 guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy king - dom shore, to thy shore.

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and preserve you in grace. **Amen**

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***BLESSING**

The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed
bless, keep, and sustain you † now and to the end of the age. **Amen.**

***SENDING SONG *Blessed Be the Name* (ELW 797)**



1 He - ri ni ji - na, he - ri ni ji - na, he - ri ni ji - na la Ye - su.
2 Twe-nde kwa Ye - su, twe-nde kwa Ye - su, twe-nde kwa Ye - su mbi-ngu - ni.
1 Bless-ed be the name, bless-ed be the name, bless-ed be the name, Je-sus' name.
2 Let us go to Je-sus, let us go to Je-sus, let us go to Je - sus in heav'n.



He - ri ni ji - na, he - ri ni ji - na, he - ri ni ji - na la Ye - su. A-mi-ni!
Twe-nde kwa Ye - su, twe-nde kwa Ye - su, twe-nde kwa Ye - su mbi-ngu - ni.
Bless-ed be the name, bless-ed be the name, bless-ed be the name, Je-sus' name.
Let us go to Je-sus, let us go to Je-sus, let us go to Je - sus in heav'n. Be-lieve!



Al - le - lu - ya, al - le - lu - ya. He - ri ni ji - na la Ye - su. A - mi - ni!
Al - le - lu - ya, al - le - lu - ya. Twe - nde kwa Ye - su mbi - ngu - ni.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Bless - ed be the name, Je - sus' name. Be - lieve!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Let us go to Je - sus in heav'n.



Al - le - lu - ya, al - le - lu - ya. He - ri ni ji - na la Ye - su.
Al - le - lu - ya, al - le - lu - ya. Twe - nde kwa Ye - su mbi - ngu - ni.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Bless - ed be the name, Je - sus' name.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Let us go to Je - sus in heav'n.

***DISMISSAL**

[Jesus said,] “Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.”

Mark 16:15

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

**The flowers on the altar today were provided by Todd and Katie Niklewicz
in celebration of their 17th Wedding Anniversary.**

Assisting in worship today:

Assisting Minister: Emma N

Acolyte: Nathan K

Ushers:

Greeters: Ruth Ann Tully

Offering: Ava N and Ella N

Attendance last week: 47 + 4 zoom

Notes for the day's texts:

God's prophets are ordinary people called to deliver an extraordinary message. Hear the praise Paul heaps on the Ephesians, naming them as God's blessed, God's chosen, and God's adopted children (Eph. 1:3-5). It is the kind of pep talk coaches give their players just before sending them back into the game against a seemingly unbeatable team. Like Amos, who freely confesses his humble background and unlikely credentials, we are sent from worship each week to proclaim God's in-breaking reign to all the powers that claim to rule this world.

Still, beneath the apparent victory of power over truth, there is a hidden story bursting through the seams of this tale. Yes, John the Baptist dies, but the integrity of his witness outshines all of Herod's corrupt court intrigues. Herod himself was drawn to John's preaching, and in the end it is Herod's character that seems most tragic.

Like Herod, we are each challenged to really listen to the challenging voice of God in our day and age, and to turn away from the lures and temptations that attempt to seduce us away from fidelity to God. Through us, God speaks words of peace, love, and faithfulness that challenge the world's violence, hatred, and treachery.

Today's Music

O God of Light. Text: Sarah E. Taylor, 1883–1954, alt., Music: H. Barrie Cabena, b. 1933. Hope Publishing Company (ASCAP) / Augsburg Fortress.

Now the Feast and Celebration. Text and music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950. GIA Publications, Inc.

Let Justice Flow like Streams. Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926, Music: Aaron Williams, 1731-1776. Westminster/John Knox Press / Public Domain.

When Our Song Says Peace. Text: Richard Leach, b. 1953, Music: Thomas Pavlechko, b. 1962. Selah Publishing Co., Inc. / Augsburg Fortress.

Psalm 85. Text: The New Metrical Psalter, Christopher L. Webber, © 2008. Music: TALLIS' CANON, Public Domain.

God Extends an Invitation. Text: Miria T. Kolling; English and Spanish tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923

Music: Miria T. Kolling. Augsburg Fortress / Irma Miria T. Kolling .

Just a Closer Walk with Thee. Text: North American traditional, Music: North American traditional. Public Domain.

Blessed Be the Name. Text: East African traditional, as taught by Deorgratia Mahamba, Music: East African traditional; arr. hymnal version. Augsburg Fortress.

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Next Week's Readings

Jeremiah 23:1-6 From David's line, a righteous shepherd for Israel

Psalm 23 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want

Ephesians 2:11-22 Reconciled to God through Christ our peace

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56 Christ healing the multitudes