

When Jesus saw the vast crowd,
his heart was moved with pity for them,
for they were like sheep without a shepherd.

MARK 6:34



Sixteenth Sunday *in Ordinary Time*

JULY 18, 2021

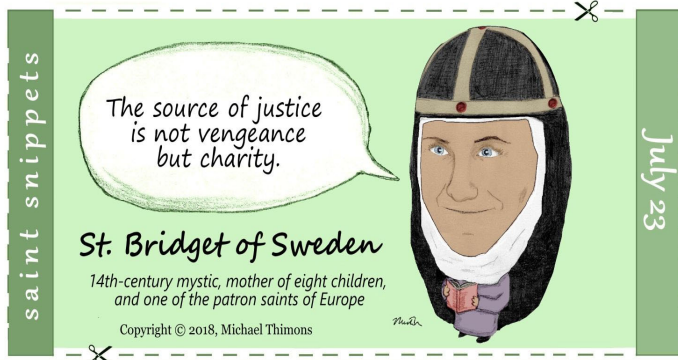
Feast of Faith

The Prayer Over the Offerings

In the liturgy of the 1570 Missal, this prayer was called the “secret” prayer. It was “secret” not because its content was mysterious, but because it was prayed in silence by the priest, who only recited the conclusion aloud: . . . per omnia saecula saeculorum. With the reforms of the Second Vatican Council, we again hear these rich prayers spoken aloud. They remind us to prepare ourselves for what is to happen in the Eucharistic Prayer, for it is not only the bread and wine that will be transformed.

The Prayer Over the Offerings is a prayer for transformation, an expression, in a few words, of all that we hope that the liturgy will accomplish in our lives. We ask God to accept the gifts we present, and to change us even as God hallows the bread and wine. As we listen carefully to the Prayer Over the Offerings, we are reminded of what it is that we seek in the Eucharist: to be made holy; to be drawn closer to God; to come to eternal joy, unity, peace, and salvation.

—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



The Days Are Coming

Separation, isolation, and hostility are terrible things. We are, sadly, too familiar with all of them in our modern life, whether we look at world events or events in our own neighborhoods and families. All three readings today refer to these same sad human conditions.

The prophet Jeremiah describes world conditions as if the people of his time were sheep who had been scattered by poor leadership and corrupt shepherds. But “the days are coming,” he assures us (Jeremiah 23:5), when a new shepherd, a just king, will come. We meet that king in the second reading and the Gospel. Paul reminds us in the Letter to the Ephesians that all divisions can now cease in Christ Jesus, who has brought us together through his blood. In Mark’s Gospel we see Jesus himself, looking with pity on those searching for him as if they were sheep without a shepherd.

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Readings for the Week

Monday:	Ex 14:5-18; Ex 15:1bc-6; Mt 12:38-42
Tuesday:	Ex 14:21 — 15:1; Ex 15:8-10, 12, 17; Mt 12:46-50
Wednesday:	Ex 16:1-5, 9-15; Ps 78:18-19, 23-28; Mt 13:1-9
Thursday:	Sg 3:1-4b or 2 Cor 5:14-17; Ps 63:2-6, 8-9; Jn 20:1-2, 11-18
Friday:	Ex 20:1-17; Ps 19:8-11; Mt 13:18-23
Saturday:	Ex 24:3-8; Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15; Mt 13:24-30
Sunday:	2 Kgs 4:42-44; Ps 145:10-11, 15-18; Eph 4:1-6; Jn 6:1-15

Saints and Special Observances

Sunday:	Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Tuesday:	St. Apollinaris
Wednesday:	St. Lawrence of Brindisi
Thursday:	St. Mary Magdalene
Friday:	St. Bridget
Saturday:	St. Sharbel Makhhlūf



Today’s Readings

First Reading — I shall gather the remnant of my flock and bring them back to their meadow (Jeremiah 23:1-6).

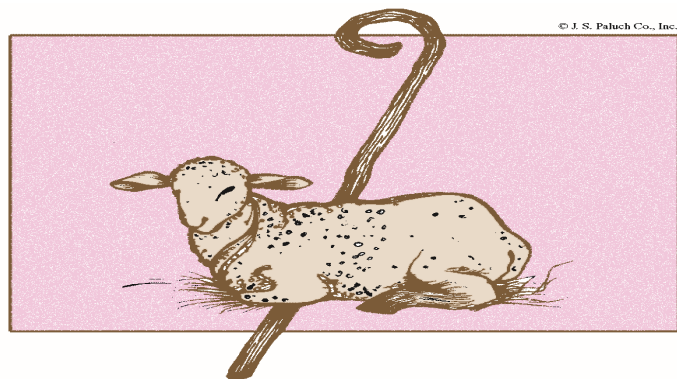
Psalms — The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want (Psalm 23).

Second Reading — You who were once far off have become near by the blood of Christ (Ephesians 2:13-18).

Gospel — When Jesus saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, and he began to teach them many things (Mark 6:30-34).

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**Sixteenth Sunday
In Ordinary Time
July 18, 2021**



**Behold, the days are coming,
says the Lord, when I will raise up
a righteous shoot to David.**

—Jeremiah 23:5a

Treasures From Our Tradition

“Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while” must have been chosen for this summer season by a committee eager for a vacation. For the apostles, the promise of rest was foiled by the needs of the people who discovered their hideaway and pressed them into ministry. Some people do indeed use their vacation for ministry and mission, giving an intensity of service otherwise not possible. For most of us, vacation is a time when we can grow more aware of God’s plan, and can renew the bonds of love with family and friends in times of play and leisure.

The disciples learn today that there is no place so out of the way that the life of worship and ministry is disengaged. Giving yourself to summer worship will enrich you, delight you, and give you a sense of the word of God’s progress in your heart. In today’s world, summer is the time when we are most acutely aware of the beauty of the world. Gratitude and wonder are fertile soils for God’s word to take root and prosper. Welcome the visitor today, and resolve that when you travel, you will be faithful to Sunday worship.

—James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Jesus, Our Peace

You probably know that the Jews in the first century did not particularly like the Gentiles. Some of them who became Christians still looked down on the non-Jewish Christians. In the epistle today, Paul addresses this problem by reminding them that Jesus died for all people, Jew and Gentile. And just as Jesus rose from the dead to a new life, the converts to Christianity were given a new life also. That new life of baptism joined them all to Christ, who lives in them, forgives them, and brings them peace. So why was that unity so hard to accept?

One reason is that as much as we complain about laws and regulations, many people like to live by them. We even make our own rules: "I always eat breakfast at 7:15," or "I have to read the newspaper every morning." Even though our rules may not be bad in themselves, if we get angry at anyone who interrupts our routine, those rules lead us to sin. But some of the Hebrew Christians thought that they still had to keep the laws and regulations of the old covenant. There is nothing wrong with keeping the Ten Commandments: They are simply examples of Jesus' command to love God with all your being and to love your neighbor as yourself. So why not just do that?

The problem with only keeping commandments is that we can avoid doing evil things, but still not love God or my neighbor. For example, we can avoid using God's name in vain and kick back and relax on the Sabbath, but still not really love God. We can keep from killing, robbing, or lying to our neighbor, without loving anyone. Fortunately for us, God loves us first; we need only respond to that love. And if we make the decision to love God and our neighbors, and base all our other actions on that love, we will not break any commandments, or even worry about breaking them. We will have the peace that Paul mentions in our reading, the peace that makes us all one in Christ.

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Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

JULY 18, 2021



THE APOSTLES REPORTED ALL THEY HAD DONE AND TAUGHT. JESUS SAID TO THEM,

“Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.”

MARK 6:30, 31

COMPASSION

If we were to use one word to describe the scriptures for today, it would be “compassion.” In Jeremiah, God rails against those who have scattered the sheep, and vows to “gather the remnant” personally. We also hear the prophecy about the coming Messiah. In Ephesians, Christ is breaking down the walls of division between peoples and drawing them to be reconciled with God in peace. In Mark, Jesus calls the tired disciples away to rest and have some “me time,” but even then the crowds persisted. Jesus saw their spiritual hunger and neediness and was “moved with pity.” All three situations involve looking beyond one’s own agenda to see the needs of others and respond. God models how to empathize with others. May we continue to learn to be kinder, gentler, and more caring for each other.

TIME FOR A TEAM MEETING

In last week’s Gospel, Jesus sent the apostles out two by two. Today we see him bringing them back together, reporting “all they had done and taught.” A lot has happened between then and now and in this time the disciples experienced many things. They would have grown in their ministry and their ability to heal and preach, but they probably also ran into frustrating times and encountered their limitations as human beings. If human nature prevailed, their partners were driving them nuts! So now after all this sharing, Jesus called for some balance in their lives. It was time to come away and rest. Between family and friends and social media, many of us have lost this ability to “be by ourselves” as we have become accustomed to filling every day and every moment with distractions. Perhaps one of the gifts and challenges of “sheltering in place” these last months is that we celebrated moments of joy and hope and peace but were also forced to listen to and name those voices of anger, loneliness, and fear.

WELL-LAID PLANS

It is important to have balance in our lives, and Jesus was indeed was trying to teach this to the Apostles, but when they got to their intended place of repose, they encountered so many people Jesus was filled with compassion. No doubt he went about feeding them spiritually and physically; it would have been important for him to be hospitable. But at some point in time, I’m guessing that he still pulled the apostles aside and told them “Okay, people are settled now, so let’s leave all the excitement, delegate the job to somebody else, and find some peace and quiet.” None of us is any good at our prayer, our ministries, our lives, unless we take the time to find the quiet and go back to replenish our own wells. There is no way we can give to others unless we do. That is why we return to church each week, to rest and be nourished and renewed. And none of us is so important that we can’t take time away to take care of ourselves. So be gentle with yourself and with others this week.

TODAY’S READINGS

Jeremiah 23:1–6
Psalm 23:1–3, 3–4, 5, 6
Ephesians 2:13–18
Mark 6:30–34

Prayer of the Faithful

**Let us bring our prayers today to our Good Shepherd,
who gathers and cares for his people.**

**For Christians throughout the world who are in
danger because of their beliefs, especially in the Middle East,
let us pray to the Lord.**

**For peace in the world, especially in those places where
enmity and hostility stretch back for generations,
let us pray to the Lord.**

**For those who are without direction in their lives, for
those who are seeking meaning and guidance,
let us pray to the Lord.**

**For time alone to recharge, and for the grace to be renewed
in spirit by God's gracious presence,
let us pray to the Lord.**

**For an end to racism in our country, our city, our community,
let us pray to the Lord.**

**For all those who are sick, for all who suffer from COVID-19,
and for all who have died, especially N., N., and N.,
let us pray to the Lord.**

**For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts;
for all our intentions spoken and unspoken,
let us pray to the Lord.**

**O Shepherd of us all,
you know our lives and what we need.
Graciously grant these our prayers,
you who live and reign for ever and ever.**

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God's Word for Children

When Jesus saw a huge crowd of people,
 "his heart was moved with pity for them,
 for they were like sheep without a shepherd" (Mark 6:34).
 Draw lines to match the shepherd puzzle pieces to their sheep.
 Then match your name to your Shepherd's name.

Write Your Name

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Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus wants to be our Savior.
 Start at the top of this door and write the word **open** in the boxes.
 When you're finished, read what Jesus hopes we will say
 when he knocks on the door of our hearts.





Letters from Heaven



Start with the letter in the shaded square. Draw a path from letter to letter to complete the Biblical statement. Move one square at a time, up, down, right, left and diagonally until all letters are used once. Ignore any black squares.

When Jesus saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep ...

H	E	P	E
W	S	H	R
I	H	A	D
T	O	U	T

W _____

Answer: *without a shepherd*

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The Little Ones

Jim Burrows



The apostles gathered together with Jesus; and they reported to him all that they had done and taught. And he said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a secluded place and rest a while." Mk 6:30-31

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- 68% of households surveyed, when making a choice between businesses, are inclined to choose the one who advertised in the bulletin
- 62% of households keep the bulletin the entire week as a reference
- 41% of households do business with a company specifically because of their advertisement in the church bulletin
- 22% of households go to breakfast, brunch, lunch, or dinner after church each week.

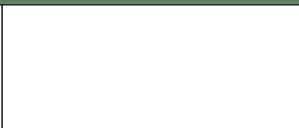
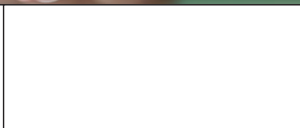
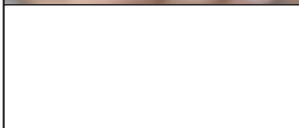
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