FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Rescuing the Wanderers

AS WE GATHER

If the Lord describes Himself in Scripture as our “Shepherd,” it follows that we, as those who belong to Him, are His “sheep.” Although the agrarian setting of the Shepherd-sheep relationship may be unfamiliar to many in our day, it’s a powerful scriptural image that shows forth the saving work of Jesus. All we like sheep wander away from our Shepherd’s provision, wrongly assuming we can find our own way. Not only can we never find our own way to lasting life, but we can find our own way only to everlasting death. Because the Shepherd became one of us as the very “Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,” we know that the Lord never gives up on us! He pursues His wanderers. Finding us and claiming us, He carries us home. And that’s exactly where He gathers us today: at home in His presence so that He, our Shepherd, can fill us, His sheep, with His love and mercy.
**PREPARATION**

PRELUDE
“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”  
Diane Bish

CALL TO WORSHIP
“I Was Glad”  
Edward Geisler  
Ascension Chorale

PASTORAL GREETING

HYMN
“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”  
_ASB_ 686

INVOCATION

Pastor:  In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
People:  Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION  
_Isaiah 53:6_

Pastor:  As sheep who have wandered from the Shepherd, we all have turned from 
the Lord in our disobedience to His commands.

People:  All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his 
own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Pastor:  Confident in the pursuit of our Shepherd, Jesus, for those who wander from 
Him, let us confess our sins to God our Father.

A time for silent reflection upon God’s Word and personal prayers of confession

Pastor:  Together, we pray:

People:  Good Shepherd, we are Your wandering people. We need You. We 
need Your love. We need Your forgiveness. We need Your pursuit of 
us all. Guide us back into the fold of Your care that we be cleansed of 
our sins. Create in us hearts to worship You in truth and follow Your 
Word, which alone gives us life. Amen.

Pastor:  In the mercy of almighty God, we are redeemed by Jesus Christ. In Him, 
our Good Shepherd, who laid down His life for us all, we are fully and freely 
forgiven. Receive this forgiveness today as you, like wandering sheep, are 
drawn back into His rescuing mercy. As a called and ordained servant of 
Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name 
of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People:  Amen.
**KYRIE** *(spoken)*

**Pastor:** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Pastor:** For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Pastor:** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Pastor:** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Pastor:** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**People:** Amen.

**HYMN OF PRAISE**  “Sing to the Lord a New Song”

[Music notation image]
SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, You are the Good Shepherd.

People: Without You nothing is secure.
Pastor: Rescue and preserve us that we may not be lost forever.
People: Help us to follow You, rejoicing in the way that leads to eternal life;
Pastor: for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
People: Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-24
(The Lord will search for and seek out His scattered sheep.)

"`For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land. I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD. I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice.
"`As for you, my flock, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will judge between one sheep and another, and between rams and goats. Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture? Must you also trample the rest of your pasture with your feet? Is it not enough for you to drink clear water? Must you also muddy the rest with your feet? Must my flock feed on what you have trampled and drink what you have muddied with your feet?
"`Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says to them: See, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you shove with flank and shoulder, butting all the weak sheep with your horns until you have driven them away, I will save my flock, and they will no longer be plundered. I will judge between one sheep and another. I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd. I the
LORD will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them. I the LORD have spoken.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle: 1 Timothy 1:12-17
(Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.)

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service. Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Congregation, please rise for the Alleluia verse and the Holy Gospel.

VERSE Luke 15:10

Pastor: Alleluia. I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God
People: over one sinner who repents. Alleluia.

(Heaven’s joy will be great when sinners repent.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fifteenth chapter.
People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."
Then Jesus told them this parable: "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.
"Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, `Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY  “As Rebels, Lord, Who Foolishly Have Wandered”  LSB 612


APOSTLES’ CREED  Text found in the back of the Hymnal.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH  Ezekiel 34:16

Pastor: The Lord says through the His prophet: “I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak.”

Confident in the care of our faithful Shepherd, let us bring our thanksgivings, requests, and intercessions before our Father’s throne of grace.

Faithful Shepherd, You are so good to us. Even when we stray from Your presence through disobedience to Your commands, You bring us back into Your presence through the good news that we have received in this time of worship.

People: Grant that we treasure all we possess in the Gospel of Christ.
Pastor: Loving Shepherd, You care for all You have made, for all the world is Yours. Grant that those who are broken in heart, mind, and spirit find refreshment in Your presence. Open our eyes to the needs of our neighbors, for in them we see You.

People: Give us hearts to serve others with the mercy You give to us all.
Pastor: Healing Shepherd, You bind up the wounds of those who suffer in both soul and body. [Today we lift up before You . . .] Whatever the need and whatever the circumstance, draw Your sheep into the fold of Your care that they receive the healing You desire for them.

People: Open our eyes to see Your healing hand at work.
Pastor: . . . Special intercession may be added here. . .
People: Open our eyes to see Your healing hand at work.
Pastor: As sheep who trust in their faithful Shepherd, we bring these prayers, along with all the unspoken prayers of our hearts, before You.

People: In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.
THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
People: And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY “The Majesty and Glory of Your Name”  Tom Fettke Ascension Chorale

HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with “Amen!”, a word of affirmation and belief.
SACRAMENT

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.  
People: And also with you.  
2 Timothy 4:22

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.  
People: We lift them to the Lord.  
[Colossians 3:1]

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.  
[Psalm 136]

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Shepherd, for by His death and resurrection He has rescued Your wandering sheep by becoming the very Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

961 Sanctus


Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”


Agnus Dei

Distribution Hymns

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is” LSB 709 Verses 1-4

“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart” LSB 641

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us” LSB 711
**GENERAL COMMUNION BLESSING**

*The body & the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.*

**BENEDICTION**

Pastor: As our Shepherd, our Savior will lead us as we walk with Him in faith.

People: Following our Shepherd every day, let us share His mercy with all we meet.

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. *Numbers 6:24–26*

People: Amen.

**HYMN**

“Now Thank We All Our God” *LSB 895*

**CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS**

**DISMISSAL**

Pastor: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE**

“Now Thank We All Our God” *J.S. Bach*
### Serving in Worship

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>8:00</th>
<th>10:30</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT</strong></td>
<td>Pastor John Larson</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES</strong></td>
<td>Michael Zehnder</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CHOIR ACCOMPANIST</strong></td>
<td>Diana Gaide</td>
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<td><strong>ORGAN ASSISTANT</strong></td>
<td>Gwen Geisler</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>YOUTH BAND</strong></td>
<td>Ashley Boeding, Brooke Boeding, Larry Boeding, Lilly Brinkman, Kayden Erling, Will Kopriva</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ELDER</strong></td>
<td>Scott Luethy</td>
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<td><strong>LECTOR</strong></td>
<td>Dana Thom</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00</td>
<td>Kathy Johnson</td>
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<td>10:30</td>
<td>Ann Ranisate</td>
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<td><strong>ACOLYTE</strong></td>
<td>Holly Schmitt</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00</td>
<td>Art Gordon, Members of the Congregation</td>
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<td>10:30</td>
<td>Jason Dierking, Members of the Congregation</td>
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<td><strong>USHERS</strong></td>
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<td>Art Gordon, Members of the Congregation</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00</td>
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<td>Jason Dierking, Members of the Congregation</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SERVER</strong></td>
<td>10:30</td>
<td>Collin Brinkman</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ALTAR GUILD</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sally Atchison, Gloria Gaudreault, Cathy Utecht</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FLOWERS</strong></td>
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<td>Anita Baresel, birthday blessing.</td>
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**GOD’S LOVE FOR THE LOST**

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