**8th Sunday after Pentecost**

**AS WE GATHER**

An old Jewish prayer begins, “Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe.” To call God “King” is to acknowledge Him as the highest ruler over all. Earthly kings never created the subjects of their rule out of nothing as has the one Creator God. So much higher and more exalted than any earthly sovereign king is God. In the Old Testament, God gave His people kings for their nation. But unlike the rulers of other nations, Israel’s kings were to rule in God’s name and after His heart and will and word. They were to rule God’s people like shepherds tending sheep, like David of old. Few, however, were faithful to their calling. Through a king named Zedekiah, God both condemned the former faithless kings and promised the future righteous Branch of the great King David. In today’s Gospel, we see Jesus, God’s Son, having compassion on people as a shepherd has compassion on the sheep. Because of Jesus’ blood and righteousness, you have a King that cannot fail. He cares for you and will deliver you safely to your eternal home.

**PSALM** 23

**INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** *Ephesians 2:12–13*

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Remember that you were once separated from Christ, having no hope and without God in the world.

**People: But now in Christ Jesus we who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace.**

*Silence for reflection.*

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**People: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, for You have commanded us to confess our sins and yet have promised Your forgiveness. We therefore confess our sins, even those we are not aware of, those we have done and all that we have failed to do. By Your divine command, grant us Your forgiveness for the sake of the blood of our crucified and risen Shepherd, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, for You have commanded Your called ministers of Christ to absolve those who repent of their sins. Therefore, upon this, your confession, 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.**

**HYMN** *“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”* (*LSB* 709)

**COLLECT OF THE DAY** *(bulletin insert)*

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** Jeremiah 23:1-6 *(bulletin insert)*

**GRADUAL** *(bulletin insert)*

**EPISTLE** Ephesians 2:11-22 *(bulletin insert)*

**HOLY GOSPEL** Mark 6:30-44 *(bulletin insert)*

**HYMN** *“The Church’s One Foundation”* (*LSB* 644)

**SERMON “*Not Safe, but Good”***

# THE NICENE CREED *(LSB*,back inside cover)

# PRAYER OF THE CHURCH and LORD’S PRAYER

**Divine Service and the Close Fellowship of Holy Communion**

*Our Lord speaks and we listen. His Word bestows what it says. Faith that is born from what is heard acknowledges the gifts received with eager thankfulness and praise. The gifts include the Holy Supper in which we receive His true body and blood to eat and drink. Those welcome to the table acknowledge the real presence of the body and blood of Christ, confess their own sinfulness, and in true faith wish to receive the forgiveness and strength promised through this Holy Sacrament, as* ***instructed*** *… and* ***in unity of faith*** *… with God’s people here in this congregation. It is our sincerest desire that you join in the intimacy of this fellowship. However,* ***if you are not, yet, an instructed and confirmed member-in-good-standing of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, please visit with the pastor about such a fellowship before communing****. If you wish to come forward for a blessing, you are welcome to join us at the rail to receive such. Please cross your arms in front of you to indicate that desire.*

**DISTRIBUTION**

*“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”* (*LSB* 711)

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son’s body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

### BENEDICTION

**HYMN** *“Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven”* (*LSB* 793)