

July 18th, 2021
Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jeremiah 23:1-6
Psalm 23
Ephesians 2: 13-18
Mark 6:30-34

**Shepherds Are Always to Lead People to Wholeness,
 Not Exclusion.**

I looked back over the years at the columns I wrote for this particular Sunday's readings. (Remember, there is a three-year cycle.) With consistency I alerted you to be wary of who you follow. It may be a civil authority or a Church authority. One must discern and be careful in selecting who one follows. That is, who are the shepherds?

In the first reading the prophet Jeremiah rants against the kings who did not properly lead the people. Due to their malfeasance the people lost their homeland and were sent into exile. These leaders did not put the needs of the people first. Nevertheless, Jeremiah had hope God would send the Messiah who would set things right because God never gives up on his people. God always works to bring them back. Moreover, the one who causes especially the vulnerable to be ostracized through the use of his office may find him or herself in grave moral trouble.

Saint Paul in Ephesians 2 (today's reading) speaks to those "who once were far off". They now "have become near by the blood of Christ." When looked into deeper the early Church did separate Jewish Christians and Gentile Christians. It was felt that Jewish Christians were closer to God because they were from the "chosen people". This passage is speaking to the Gentiles, those who were thought to have been once far off because they were not originally Jewish. Paul is consistent throughout his writings. Gentiles could be included among the followers of Jesus. No one may be put aside.

All people regardless of origin have been redeemed by the blood of Christ. There are no more divisions among people, no more groups segregated from each other. All have been made into "one new person in place of the two..." The law that was abolished by Jesus Christ were "commandments" that separated people, demonstrated in rituals and purity laws, etc. Some people were simply deemed "unclean".

Jesus, as seen in the Gospel passage today, was exhausted. He needed a rest. However, he saw the people in need of a shepherd. He could not rest until he brought them all to himself to relieve their pain and desire to be made whole. He did not want them to be alienated. This goes back to what I preached a couple of weeks ago when I reminded everyone Pope Francis reminds us we the Church are an emergency room. People are imperfect and come to be healed.

There are those in every age who exclude others because they deem the others as unclean and unworthy. This is especially true and hurtful when it is leaders in the Church who do this. Yes, there are those leaders who exclude the "sinner" not recognizing they themselves are sinners too.

As I pointed out in a recent homily Pope Francis has raised questions for discernment. In each case he asked how we may include and heal people now excluded from the Faith Community. He has often been thwarted by some bishops who have some agenda, not mercy and redemption. They continue to apply the parts of the law Christ abolished as mentioned above concerning what Paul addressed.

It is true there is a wholesome way of life that permits us to find fulfillment in life. Paul and the Gospel writers are the first to make that clear. It is Jesus' acts of healing and welcoming while offering direction with warm love that attracts the lowly and tired people of the world.

Shepherds must show love for welcoming the stranger, the left out, the poor, and many more. Love for life as we find it in those who are with us now; loving them even in their brokenness and hurt. Their desperate behavior might even make them undesirable as they unskillfully advocate for their needs. As St. Paul made clear to the Ephesians, no one is to be deliberately disenfranchised. We must embrace all as one in ourselves and one Christ even as we all are wounded. Shepherds need to lead us all to wholeness.

Next Week's Readings
 2Kgs.4:42-44;Eph4:1-6;Jn6:1-15
Join us for Scripture Sharing Thursdays at 7:00pm in the chapel.

<u>Stewardship</u>	
Attendance last week:	231
Tithes Collected:	\$4,019.00
Online Giving:	\$275.00
Total:	\$4,294.00
2 nd Collection for Am Black/Indian Mission:	\$396.00
Thank you!	

LITURGY FOR JULY 18, 2021
16th Sunday Ordinary Time (B)

- **HYMN #1: ALL ARE WELCOME HERE (D.PEREZ)**
- 1. As we gather as one people, all are welcome in God's Holy place. Love is flowing, God is calling and we glorify His name:
- 2. **All are welcome here, all are welcome here**
We are, welcome here. We are, welcome here!
All are welcome here, all are welcome here.

We are welcome here. We are all as one!

3. We are brothers, we are sisters, and together we seek harmony. Joyful voices, all around us, let our praises rise to You!
4. Fill our hearts Lord with your fire. Bless your people with your love and grace. In your promise, we have faith Lord; we receive. We give you thanks!
5. All are welcome at His table. Sharing his bread, that's blessed and broken. Living water, source of all life; you give us unending love!

- **PSALM 23:** The Lord is My Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.
- **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: (ALLELUIA)** My Sheep hear my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me.
- **HYMN #2: THROUGH IT ALL (R.Morgan)**
 1. You are forever in my life, You see me through the seasons. Cover me with Your hand, and lead me in Your righteousness. And I see look to You, and I wait on You.
 2. **I'll sing to You, Lord a hymn of love for Your faithfulness to me. I'm carried in everlasting arms, You'll never let me go, through it all.**
 3. Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah
- **HYMN #3: ALL WE LIKE SHEEP (D.Moen)**
 1. All we, like sheep have gone astray, each of us turning our own separate way, we have all sinned and fallen short of Your glory; But your glory is what we desire to see and in Your presence is where we long to be.
 2. **O Lord, show us Your mercy and grace, take us to Your holy place; Forgive our sin and heal our land, we long to live in Your presence once again.**
 3. Taking our sickness, taking our pain, Jesus, the sacrifice Lamb, has been slain. He was despised, rejected by men, He took our sin; Draw us near to You, Father, through Jesus Your Son, let us worship before You, cleansed by Your blood
- **HYMN #4: WITH ALL I AM (R. Morgan)**
 1. Into Your hands I commit again all I am for You, Lord. You hold my world in the palm of Your hand. And I am Yours forever.
 2. **Jesus, I believe in You. Jesus, I belong to You. You're the reason that I live, the reason that I sing, with all I am.**
 3. I'll walk with You wherever You go. Through tears and joy, I'll trust in You. And I will live in all of Your ways, and Your promises forever.
 4. I will worship. I will worship You. I will worship. I will worship You.
- **HYMN #5: YOUR GRACE IS ENOUGH (M. Maher)**
 1. Great is Your faithfulness, O God; You wrestle with the sinner's restless heart. You lead us by still waters into mercy and nothing can keep us apart,

2. So remember Your people, remember Your children, remember Your promise O God
3. **Your Grace is enough, Your grace is enough. Your Grace is enough for me.**
4. Great is Your love and justice, God of Jacob; You use the weak to lead the strong, You lead us in the song of Your salvation, and all Your people sing along,
5. So remember Your people, remember Your children, remember Your promise O God.

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MASS INTENTIONS

- Saturday, July 17
4:00 p.m. † Julius Delisio by Friends
† Irene Flaherty by Joanie
- Sunday, July 18
9:00 a.m. Blessed Sacrament Parish
10:45 a.m. † Charlotte Koch by Sharkey Family
† Carolyn Beck by Anita Brommer
- Monday, July 19
8:00 a.m. NO MASS
- Tuesday, July 20
8:00 a.m. † Souls in Purgatory by Richard & Margaret Schmelz
- Wednesday, July 21
8:00 a.m. † Bernard & Eileen Flood by Flood Family
- Thursday, July 22
8:00 a.m. † Alberto Quintana by Mary Kay, Sonny, & Family
- Friday, July 23
8:00 a.m. † Souls in Purgatory by Richard & Margaret Schmelz
- Saturday, July 24
4:00 p.m. Fr Don Tranel by Daniel Murphy
† Madelyn Fix by Mary Miller
- Sunday, July 25
9:00 a.m. † Andres Martorell by Wife
10:45 a.m. Ghislaine Wainwright by Gladys
Johnathan Wilbanks by Wife