

**Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
July 22, 2018

**First Reading - Jeremiah 23: 1-6**

Woe to the shepherds  
who mislead and scatter the flock of my pasture,  
says the LORD.  
Therefore, thus says the LORD, the God of Israel,  
against the shepherds who shepherd my people:  
You have scattered my sheep and driven them away.  
You have not cared for them,  
but I will take care to punish your evil deeds.  
I myself will gather the remnant of my flock  
from all the lands to which I have driven them  
and bring them back to their meadow;  
there they shall increase and multiply.  
I will appoint shepherds for them  
who will shepherd them  
so that they need no longer fear and tremble;  
and none shall be missing, says the LORD.

Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD,  
when I will raise up a righteous shoot to David;  
as king he shall reign and govern wisely,  
he shall do what is just and right in the land.  
In his days Judah shall be saved,  
Israel shall dwell in security.

**Psalm 23**

*The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;  
beside restful waters he leads me;  
he refreshes my soul.

He guides me in right paths  
for his name's sake.  
Even though I walk in the dark valley  
I fear no evil; for you are at my side  
with your rod and your staff  
that give me courage.

You spread the table before me  
in the sight of my foes;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

Only goodness and kindness follow me  
all the days of my life;  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
for years to come.

**Second Reading - Ephesians 2: 13-18**

Brothers and sisters:  
In Christ Jesus you who once were far off  
have become near by the blood of Christ.  
  
For he is our peace, he who made both one  
and broke down the dividing wall of enmity,  
through his flesh,  
abolishing the law with its commandments  
and legal claims,  
that he might create in himself one new person  
in place of the two,  
thus establishing peace,  
and might reconcile both with God,  
in one body, through the cross,  
putting that enmity to death by it.  
He came and preached peace to you who were far off  
and peace to those who were near,  
for through him we both have access  
in one Spirit to the Father.

**Gospel - Mark 6: 30-34**

The apostles gathered together with Jesus  
and reported all they had done and taught.  
He said to them,  
“Come away by yourselves to a deserted place  
and rest a while.”  
People were coming and going in great numbers,  
and they had no opportunity even to eat.  
So they went off in the boat by themselves  
to a deserted place.  
People saw them leaving  
and many came to know about it.  
They hastened there on foot from all the towns  
and arrived at the place before them.

When he disembarked  
and saw the vast crowd,  
his heart was moved  
with pity for them,  
for they were like sheep  
without a shepherd;  
and he began to teach  
them many things.



## Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time July 22, 2018

### Come Now Is the Time To Worship

Come, now is the time to worship  
Come, now is the time to give your heart  
Come, just as you are to worship  
Come, just as you are before your God. Come.

*One day every tongue will confess You are God  
One day every knee will bow  
Still the greatest treasure remains for those  
Who gladly choose You now*  
Brian Doerksen, Arranged by Ed Bolduc ©1998, 2004 Vineyard Songs

### Psalm 23

*My shepherd is the Lord. Nothing, indeed, shall I want.*

### We Are Called

Come, Live in the light.  
Shine with joy and the love of the Lord  
We are called to be light for the kingdom  
to live in the freedom of the city of God

**We are called, to act with justice  
We are called, to love tenderly  
We are called, to serve one another  
to walk humbly with God**

Come, Open your heart  
Show your mercy to all those in fear  
We are called to be hope for the hopeless  
so all hatred and blindness will be no more  
Text: Based on Micah 6:8. Text and music David Haas ©1988, GIA Publications, Inc.

### “Ground Rules” for Small Group Faith Sharing

Maintain confidentiality – “Whatever happens in small group stays in small group.”  
Judgment-free zone – You don’t have to agree with everyone, but you have to have respect for everyone.  
No “shut downs” or “put downs” – See Christ in one another, BE Christ to one another.  
Don’t be a “discussion hog” – Be sure that everyone that wants to gets a chance to share.  
Leave room for the Spirit – Silence is OK! Not everyone has to share.  
Practice active listening – Avoid interrupting, fidgeting, criticizing, lecturing, or thinking of what you’re going to say while another person is speaking.  
Questions are a guide - You do not have to answer all of them or go in order.  
Be open – God is doing amazing things!

### Words from our Holy Father

May the Church be a place of God’s mercy and hope, where all feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live according to the good life of the Gospel. And to make others feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged, the Church must be with doors wide open so that all may enter. And we must go out through these doors and proclaim the Gospel.

-Pope Francis, General Audience, 6/12/13

### Petitions

Our response: “Lord, you are our shepherd.”

### Closing Prayer

Compassionate God, from far and near you gather your Church into one. Safeguard the unity of your flock through the teaching of Christ the Shepherd, that all your scattered children may find in him the guidance and nourishment they seek. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

### Questions for Reflection on the Gospel

1. What word, image, or phrase struck you from the Gospel?
2. What does Jesus do in this Gospel story that is an example of good shepherding? How does Jesus deal with his own need for rest and the needs of the people who were like sheep without a shepherd?
3. What concern does Jesus show toward the apostles after they worked hard? What role does prayer play for the apostles when they are on mission? What can we learn from this?
4. Does Jesus lead with compassion or power? What is the difference? What attitudes, gifts, and skills make for a good leader?
5. In the First Reading, the Lord speaks to the bad shepherds, i.e., the leaders of his people. What, do you think, are the priorities or values of a shepherd whose sheep tremble and fear? What are the priorities and values of “The Lord of Justice”?
6. Imagine being a caretaker of people in the way that a shepherd is for sheep. What can you do about the fear people experience all over the world due to injustice? Can you do anything to remedy any of the injustice? Is there anything you can do about unfair situations in your own living area?
7. In the Second Reading, Paul, a Jew preaching to Gentiles, became a Christian preaching to Jews. There was a barrier or “dividing wall,” according to Paul. What are the “dividing walls” between peoples present in our world today? Do the walls only mark differences in faith? Using this reading from Ephesians as a guide, how might people break down the walls that divide them?
8. Read Pope Francis’ words to the left. How does this relate to this week’s Gospel? How should we respond to our Holy Father’s teaching?

