



The Messenger

International Lutheran Church

www.ilcseoul.org | July 18, 2021 | Issue #758

A NOTE FROM PASTOR CARL

FULFILLED IN CHRIST

When he [Jesus] went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things (Mark 6:34 ESV). Being in central Iowa during the month of July means getting our fill of the local delicacy - "Deardorff" sweetcorn. Of course there are other cuisines in the world that have a way of satisfying our palate - like our newfound taste for Korean kimchi - but there is nothing like enjoying the taste of something that could easily become a whole meal in itself. Like any special local fare, the taste of familiarity and "homeness" is what makes it especially satisfying and filling. I suppose this is also what ultimately always seems to leave us hungering for something that will last and truly satisfy.

The crowds in Mark's Gospel were certainly experiencing this in their listening to Jesus, seeing His miracles and likely the whole atmosphere of being near Him. Our text tells us today that it was this desire that moved the people to flock to the places that they thought he would go, even in the middle of a desolate place. What was meant to be a break and time away for Jesus and His disciples turned to an even greater example of our emptiness and His ability to bring fulfillment. We might imagine what drew the crowds to hear this Galilean preach: the miracles, the amazing stories, or even the way He upset the establishment and put-off the ruling leaders and social insiders. But what drove Jesus? What was His ultimate "hunger" or yearning that needed to be satisfied? Mark only says that Jesus looked on the great multitude of people with compassion, a literal wrenching and movement in His stomach out of seeing the greatest plight of all these people. They were "like sheep without a shepherd." While their problems may have been obvious, there was no one who truly understood their needs or could do anything about them.

In the Old Testament lesson from Jeremiah today we hear how God promised to come and shepherd His people. The leaders and shepherds of Israel had only satisfied themselves and not taken care of God's people. God's judgment would visit them and deliver and rescue His people from this leaderless misery and establish His own "righteous branch," His own kingdom and rule over them. Gathering them to Himself, God would feed them and care for them Himself. In the person of Jesus,

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

11:00 AM *LIVE STREAMED ONLY* service

7:00 PM Bible Study
- on break until August -

THIS WEEK

- Bible Study on break until August -

OTHER EVENTS

Go to ilcseoul.org > Upcoming for other events

the Son of God, we see this fulfilled. Jesus' compassion - His love for us - is so great that He would gather us to Himself to be fed by Him. In Mark's Gospel even the desert becomes a lush and green place to sit and enjoy this "meal" with Jesus, and in the end there is more than enough to satisfy the desire of every living thing. No doubt the multiplication of fish and loaves was something to experience, but the faith to see that it is God who provides all our needs in Jesus is the real miracle. He becomes our desire as we see in Jesus how we have become His one desire.

Today God continues to feed us as we remember morning, noon and night how it is His Hand that satisfies us. At His Table we feast even now on the "bread from heaven" that He gives to us through His Word and promise. Jesus gave His very life on the cross to satisfy and fulfill for us the Law and all its demands, as well as to fill us with His own compassion and love. Jesus did not stop on the shore of the Sea of Galilee but has stretched His compassion as far as our lives as He fulfills in you and me His will and compassion today. His Spirit today is filling us and making us His own servants to share this meal with all.

Pastor Carl

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ONLINE ONLY

Due to a rise in cases and changing government regulations, ILC will hold online services only until further notice. The service at 11:00 AM will be live streamed through a link found in the electronic version of *The Messenger* as well as on our Facebook page and website.

All our Bible classes remain on break for the summer but will resume in August.

SUMMER WORSHIP

Doug Lopez will be our worship leader during Pastor Carl's brief absence this summer. Doug has been a long time member of International Lutheran Church and is currently serving as the interim ILC church president.

SUMMER TRAVELS

May our Lord grant travel mercies to all those who will be outside of Korea during the summer, bringing us all back together later in the fall.

FLOWERS

If you would like to purchase flowers for beside the altar in order to honor or gift to someone, the cost is ₩35,000 for a potted arrangement. Please write to seoulilc.volunteer@gmail.com with any questions or requests.



7/18: from Julie Baldwin
for the wedding of her son

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

ONLINE GIVING

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN FAITHFULLY MAKING USE OF ONLINE GIVING.

If you are unable to attend in-person church, we encourage you to make use of offering your tithes and gifts via online giving. Giving in this way will be recorded for your personal end-of-year giving statement.

CITIBANK 260-00497-243-01

READINGS

July 18: Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

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| OT | Jeremiah 23:1-6 |
| NT | Ephesians 2:11-22 |
| Gospel | Mark 6:30-44 |