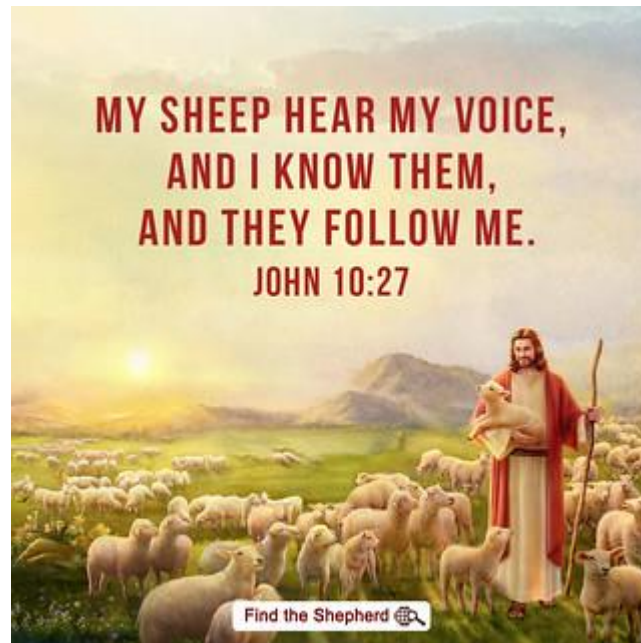


8th Sunday after Pentecost
July 18th 2021



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Opening

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

And also with you.

Sentence

My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord; I know them and they follow me.

John 10.27

Collect

Almighty God, your Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence. Give us pure hearts and constant wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings

2 SAMUEL 7:1-14A;

PSALM 89:20-37;

EPHESIANS 2:11-22;

MARK 6:30-34, 53-56

Good Shepherd

He told them: "Come alone to a deserted place, to rest a little." But because so many people went, they didn't even have time to eat. Jesus saw a great crowd and felt compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he was teaching them for a long time.

This text has two parts, the first is to retreat, to the desert, to silence, to the place where we are far from all the possessions in this world that distract us, and there is so much bustle in the world and we forget ourselves attending to the temple, and above all that encounter with God in his son Jesus Christ who calls us in the midst of all that bustle to tell us *"Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while."* How long do I take to attend to my relationship with God? How often do I seek to be alone to find myself and talk with God? Do I realize that it is necessary to have time for myself to meet with my family, with God?

After the first part, he continues to teach us about conversion, not only to attend to physical and physiological needs, but also to teach us to grow intellectually, socially, as a family and as a person, to grow spiritually. Do I follow the example and humility of the teacher Jesus Christ? Do I teach and help those who need to grow in any aspect of life? Was I interested in letting Jesus Christ teach me through his Word, through his daily message? Do I teach and give thanks for what God the Father provides us? Come yourselves apart into a deserted place" (v. 31). Jesus sees that the disciples are tired after their mission, and invites them to go to a separate place where they can rest. Soon Jesus will have compassion for the crowd, but he first has compassion for his apostles, who had not yet had time to eat. The work of a disciple must balance time of service with time of physical and spiritual renewal. Vincent de Paul advises, "Take care to take care of your health. It is a trap of the devil, used to deceive good souls, to instigate them to do more than they can, so that the time comes when they can do nothing." Jesus is the good shepherd who describes the Psalm 23 *"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me."* Jesus as a shepherd knows his sheep and knows that they are wounded, tired and hungry and he takes them to green pastures to rest and to heal their wounds and be filled with joy because the sheep have returned to their shepherd safe and sound.

The Good Shepherd lays down his life for his sheep, this means that the good shepherd in the day to day is consumed, he is spent for his sheep. It is the needs of the sheep that dictate to the shepherd how to organize his life. His hours of rest, his time to eat and the direction he walks, and others are established according to the good of the sheep, and not according to the tastes and desires of the shepherd.

Some characteristics of this Good Shepherd help us to better know the heart of God: The Good Shepherd knows his sheep, for him each sheep is particular. He knows his or her specific habits. He has special attention for each one. Each sheep has its own identity, generally characterized by a particular name, which means that it is not just a number. It is not that at the end of the day the Good Shepherd counts them and if one is missing, he goes out to look for any sheep that was lost. He looks at his flock and realizes that there is just "such" sheep missing and goes out to look for it

calling it by its name, he imagines where it has gone because he knows it very well, he knows its tastes and its temptations.

And that is why in the second part of today's Gospel Jesus feels compassion for his people, who had many shepherds in the town of Israel, Pharisees, high priest and the Roman Empire as well as many others who called themselves shepherds. (V34) Jesus sees a crowd that is alone, who have been abandoned by their shepherds because they were "*The hired hand*" As Jesus says in the Gospel of Saint John, they were not shepherds, but they stole and abused their sheep.

The story of the crowds approaching Jesus in Genesareth to be healed (vv. 53-56). They found the Good Shepherd and moved towards that direction to meet Jesus. When Jesus arrives at the place where they are to rest, a large crowd awaits him. Jesus and his disciples have reason to be upset. They have not eaten (v. 31), and they needed to rest even before they rowed the boat to its destination. We would expect tired and hungry men to respond angrily to this unexpected demand that requires more of their already scarce energy.

But on the contrary Jesus, full of love and compassion, approaches those sheep and heals them, and then teaches and cares for them. Mark does not tell us how the disciples respond, but Jesus has compassion on the crowd, because they are "like sheep without a shepherd" (v. 34). Jesus has direct answers for those who seek their own satisfaction, but he also has a soft heart for those in need.

"They were healthy" (v. 56). This gospel calls us today in the midst of a world full of difficulties, full of noises that prevent us from resting and finding the good shepherd. Today the gospel asks us to stop before the different situations that you are experiencing today, whatever it may be, no matter how good or bad that situation is, the apostles arrived full of joy for all that they had been able to do in the name of Jesus.; But He calls them to now feed on the body and blood of the risen Christ, so that all his wounds are healed and they become strong again to continue facing the circumstances of life.

This invitation from Jesus the Good Shepherd is to look at ourselves as children of God and have a close encounter with Him. Also, to know that we are a family in the church of Christ and in it we have to regain strength, and be prepared to continue helping all our brothers and sisters in the world as "*the Good Samaritan*", We are called to serve with the word of God and the Eucharist, to those who are sick, those who are hungry and thirsty, those who are in prisons, lead them to also have that encounter with the Son of the living God, with Jesus. You cannot be a Christian alone, but being a Christian is living in the church, in the body of Christ, helping and caring for each other. Amen

Prayers for Sunday 18 July, 2021 from Colin Clarke cmrclarke@gmail.com

Heavenly Father, we give thanks for the powerful expressions of love and support for one another being shown around the world in the face of hateful acts and statements. There are many difficult but necessary conversations that need to take place, and we are grateful that some have begun. We pray that we can maintain our faith in the face of adversity, our compassion in the face of confrontation, and by our thoughts, words and deeds be living proof that love conquers hate.

May your Holy Spirit guide and protect us all; the farmers and their workers, the front-line essential workers in the medical and protective services, the teachers who are helping to mould our children, and the leaders of the world tasked with governing our nations.

We thank you for the continued gifts of life, love and laughter during this trying time. Help us to remember your promise that we would always be blessed, that you are always with us, and to see that our Lord Jesus Christ is in each of us.

Help us to remember that you are our source of strength and comfort when despair or frustration threaten to overwhelm us as we face the new challenges of today. Give us the strength to surrender to your will, to "Let Go, and Let God".

We offer a special prayer for the families affected by the devastating tornado in Barrie and the terrible crane accident in British Columbia.

We ask all this in the name of your son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

We pray for Todd our Bishop, Anne our Metropolitan, Linda our Primate, Mark National Indigenous Archbishop, Marinez Bishop of Amazonia. AD Rick Jones, Rev. Enrique Martinez, Rev. Jack Cox

For the week beginning Sunday July 18, 2021, we will be praying for the **Rev. Canon Tony Boumeester** (interim) and the people of **St. Paul's, Port Dover**.

Remembering our shut-ins at home, hospital and in local nursing homes.
June, Shirley, Iris, Julie, John, Sheila, Sylvia, Anna and Jack B.

We pray for the ones who have asked for your healing touch upon their lives: Betty F., Don G., Franz and Elaine Z., Steven K., Rebecca M., Trista P., Bill MC., Dwayne M. and Andrea B., Susan A., Olivia H., Karen M., Delores B., Dale & David F, Rose G, Julie, Janice S., Barbara S., Ian M. Carol M., Elaine B., George F., and family and anyone known to you.



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It is important that we keep the prayer list and shut-in list up to date. If you know of any changes to these lists, can you please email Anne at lpbparishsecretary@gmail.com or Enrique at enrique6921@gmail.com

If you know of anyone that has asked you to pray for them during this pandemic, we will put on the prayer list for a month.

Prayer of Confession

Search us O God and know our hearts today
Try us and know our anxious thoughts,
see if there are any hurtful ways in us
and lead us in your loving and life-giving Way

Words of Assurance

God knows our secret fears, ignorance & selfish ways.
God forgives, forgive yourself, forgive others
Amen

Closing Prayer

God our strength and salvation, receive all we offer you today, and grant that we who have confessed your name, and received new life in baptism, may live in the joy of the resurrection, through Jesus Christ the Lord, Amen

Doxology

Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Please click on the link to watch this week's Parish Video

<https://youtu.be/C8eb75VsA8k>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you have anything you would like to contribute or comment on, regarding the newsletter, please do not hesitate to let Rev Enrique or myself know.

Any birthdays/anniversaries/special occasions in July – Let me know for the newspaper. We can celebrate you and add some facts that happened on that day in history. I don't need your year of birth, just the month and date. Of course, if you have a special age birthday and want to celebrate it just let me know. If you are interested in this special occasion section, please send me details.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

At this extraordinary time if you wish a telephone visit, please call Enrique. If you have any other announcements or news contact Anne Halls at the contacts below.

Enrique Martinez can be contacted by email at enrique6921@hotmail.com or by phone at 519 586 3401 – Please note that Enrique's day off will be Fridays

Our parish assistant Anne Halls can be contacted by email at lpbparishsecretary@gmail.com or by phone @ 519-586-7034

Please visit our website parishoflongpointbay.com and Facebook page



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Sing along to this morning's hymns

Hymn Texts - Sunday, July 18, 2021

#3 – Morning Has Broken

1. Morning has broken like the first morning;
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!
2. Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
Like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness where his feet pass.
3. Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning
Born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!

#371 – To God Be the Glory

1. To God be the glory, who great things has done!
God so loved the world, freely sending the Son,
Who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.
*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear God's voice.
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give God the glory, who great things has done!*
2. O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
To every believer the promise of God:
That when the offender, repenting, believes,
Through Jesus' atonement, God's pardon receives.
*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear God's voice.
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give God the glory, who great things has done!*
3. Great things God has taught us, great things God has done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer and higher and greater will be
Our wonder, our gladness when Jesus we see!
*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear God's voice.
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people rejoice!*

*O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give God the glory, who great things has done!*