Working Preacher Lectionary Study

Pentecost through Lectionary 17
Sundays: May 24 through July 26, 2015
Mark (and John) in Pentecost

Resources: Preaching the Year of Mark

“Mark” in enterthebible.org (see “Passages”)

Working Preacher: workingpreacher.org
(see J. Boyce, gospel lessons for Pentecost 2 thru 5)

Text Week: textweek.com

Study Bibles: Oxford, Harpers, Lutheran Study Bible

Handouts:
  - Outline of Mark
  - Themes in Mark
  - Pentecost 1: List;
  - Pentecost 1: Texts
  - People of the Word: First Things
  - Mark: Key Narrative Selections, Parts 1 & 2
# THE GOSPEL OF MARK

## I. INTRODUCTION  (1:1-13)
“Beginning”… in the wilderness; John the Baptist, Jesus’ Baptism; Temptation

## II. JESUS’ MINISTRY IN GALILEE (and beyond)  (1:14-8:21)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transitional Summary: “Kingdom of God is at hand”</th>
<th>1:14 - 15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Jesus Son of God: Authority in Word and Deed</td>
<td>1:16-3:6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call of Disciples, Healings, Teaching, Conflict Stories</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transitional Summary: Multitudes follow from everywhere</td>
<td>3:7 - 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Jesus Son of God: Rejected by his own people</td>
<td>3:13-6:6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parables (ch. 4); Miracles (ch. 4-5); Rejection at Nazareth</td>
<td>6:1-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transitional Summary: Teaching among the Villages</td>
<td>6:6b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Jesus Son of God: Misunderstood by his own disciples</td>
<td>6:7 – 8:21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission of the 12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feeding 5000 (6:30-44)------------------------Feeding 4000 (8:1-10)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crossing Sea (6:45-52)------------------------Crossing Sea (8:11-20)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transitional Summary: Do you not understand?</td>
<td>(8:21)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## III. JESUS ON THE WAY TO JERUSALEM  (8:22-1:52)
Jesus the Messiah who Suffers – Discipleship in light of the Passion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GIVING OF SIGHT STORY</th>
<th>8:22-26</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PETER’S CONFESSION</td>
<td>8:27-30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Passion Prediction # 1</td>
<td>8:31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misunderstanding</td>
<td>8:32-33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching on Discipleship</td>
<td>8:34-9:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Transfiguration</td>
<td>9:2-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disciples puzzled</td>
<td>9:9-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching to Disciples</td>
<td>9:14-29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Passion Prediction # 2</td>
<td>9:30-31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misunderstanding</td>
<td>9:32-34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching on Discipleship</td>
<td>9:35-37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collection of Teaching Materials: First, last; Last, First</td>
<td>9:38-10:31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Passion Prediction # 3</td>
<td>10:33-34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misunderstanding</td>
<td>10:35-41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching on Discipleship</td>
<td>10:42-45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GIVING OF SIGHT STORY</td>
<td>10:46-52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## IV. JESUS IN JERUSALEM  (11:1-16:8)
Ministry before the Passion  (ch. 11-13)
Triumphal Entry; Cleansing of the Temple; Conflicts with Leaders
Apocalyptic Discourse: Watch! (ch. 13)

| Passion Narrative (14:1-15:47) | |
| Resurrection (16:1-8) | |
THE GOSPEL OF MARK – THEMES FOR PENTECOST

**Beginnings:**
Beginning of the good news...Salvation comes in the wilderness (1:1)

**In the Middle:**
The Kingdom of God is at Hand; Repent and Believe the Good news (1:14-15)
Call to Discipleship
Teaching in Parables
Healing
Rejection (Do you not understand?) 8:21

Passion: Messiah is one who suffers/serves
Follow - Take up the Cross

**Endings:**
Passion (Philippians 2:5-13 in narrative form)
Resurrection

**Urgency**

**Secrecy** (commands to silence; hiddenness of kingdom)

**Apocalyptic Community Waits** in the meantime of radical call to obedience

**Christology:** Jesus as the suffering servant

**For Pentecost: Jesus Ministry in Galilee**

**Discipleship** – struggling to understand and follow a faithful Messiah

**Kingdom is at Hand (1:14-15)**
**Call of Disciples Follow Me** (1, 3, 6)
**Miraculous Healings**
**Teaching about the Kingdom (Parables)**
**Conflict**
Rejection by his own people
Misunderstood by his disciples
Multiple crossings of sea (chaos) parallel the issue of fear and faith

**In Mark:**
This story constantly unfolds in mystery, hiddenness, surprise, in secrecy and irony (greatest is one who serves)
(cf. Master of Surprise, Donald Juel; Miracle of Mark Roy Harrisville)
Pentecost, May 24

Overall Themes:

Role of the Spirit: Creative Power/ Guide into Future and Truth
Promise is Inclusive of All People/ All Creation
New ways of seeing what God is about
Intensity of the Spirit’s role in community/ Unity
Spirit as sign of Jesus’ Continuing Presence
A Community Waits in Patience and Hope
Spirit Leads into God’s Unfolding Future
Ezekiel 37:1-14: In the midst of death, Promise of God’s Word and Action

Hand of Lord: God is in control
O Lord You know! A cry of despair
God’s command to Act: Prophesy even in face of death!

Repeated Promise: I am the Lord (6, 13)
I have spoken; I will Act: You will Know
My Spirit (breath) within you
1) Event (1-13); 2) Peter’s Sermon (14-36) 3) Response (37-41)
Focus: pouring out of Spirit (filling, plenty, richness 4,17,18

1) Universal: “all” flesh, every nation (1,4,5,17,21)
2) Inclusive (17): sons/daughters; old, young; slaves, etc
3) All creation is affected (cf. Genesis)
4) Day of Lord; when Lord acts = salvation
5) Inspired speaking/hearing transcends barriers of peoples &languages
6) Message/Content: God’s majestic action in Jesus
7) Interpretation is at risk: what does this mean? Needs those to make God’s deeds intelligible
Romans 8:22-27: A Pentecost World: The whole creation waits in Hope

1) Scope: the whole creation; it’s not just about me!
2) The time is now: We were saved we already have the first fruits of the Spirit
3) A creation-changing event
4) Yet: Patient waiting; the full story is not yet in
5) Hope is the Word: there is more to come
6) Spirit joins us in our waiting; hopes along with us
7) God hears and knows the Spirit’s prayer in us
8) Hang in there in Hope!
Pentecost, May 24

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
Farewell Discourse (13-17) Interprets Jesus’ Passion from perspective of Resurrection for a Post Resurrection Community

1) Spirit testifies on Jesus’ behalf
2) Disciples join the Spirit’s testimony: you’ve known me
3) Good News: if I go, the Spirit comes
4) Spirit’s task: convince us of the truth: it’s all about Jesus
   About sin – it’s about belief/trust in me
   About righteousness – it’s about return to the Father
   About judgment – the ruler of this world stands condemned
5) There is more to come: Spirit as guide into “the whole truth”
   Truth is unfolding; Not all has been said; God’s Future is still unfolding; Spirit is sign and promise of connection.

A Pentecost People Living into God’s Future; Spirit is God’s Surprise!
Overall Themes:

Trinity: not theological gymnastics, but “story” of God’s Word and Work
Biblical witness to social/communal nature of God in relation to Creation
God engages in community of which human creation a part
Creative powers of creation a gift that mirrors creative power of God
Father, Christ, Spirit: we are in cahoots with this Trinity; it’s me and Jesus all the way
Isaiah 6:1-8  A Transforming Vision of What God is About

1) A transforming Vision: God’s Holiness fills the Earth
2) What can I say?  Woe is me! I’m a goner!
3) The Big “Yet” -- My Eyes have seen the King; and I’m not dead
4) Not destruction, but forgiveness; not devastation but wholeness
5) God’s wholeness makes us whole
6) God’s wholeness leads us to mission: Whom shall I send
7) God’s presence is a transforming promise
Romans 8:12-17 – How shall God’s adopted children live?

1) Assessing our debts: how shall we live?
   By the flesh? – then death, as slaves
   By the Spirit? – then life as the adopted children of God

2) About this Trinity: the Spirit is in cahoots with our spirit

3) Our testimony together: we are God’s children!

4) What belongs to children? We are heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ

5) There you have it – one big family; the Trinity, the Father, Jesus Christ, the Spirit, and US, all the way!

6) That’s the way it is with God’s glory!
John 3:1-17  God so Loved the World – One man’s story becomes everyone’s story – in order that the world might be saved through him

1) Particular: Nicodemus came to him at night; what about this kingdom?
2) Universal: God so loved the world
3) Begins in mystery and question: Why? How?
4) Ends in Revelation and Promise:
   Why? For salvation (life)
   How? Because God sent the Son
5) A new birth: born of the Spirit
6) God’s necessity, Centered in the Cross: the Son of Man must be lifted up
7) Verses 16-17: Gathers and summarizes the promise: what, why, and how: “so that….”
   ...everyone who believes in him may have life
   ...the world might be saved through him
8) It’s Trinity Sunday: What is this God about? New birth, salvation, kingdom
Note: Missing in the Lectionary in 2015
Texts for Lectionary 9

Lectionary 9: Mark 2:23-3:6

Two stories of Jesus’ behavior on the Sabbath along with reaction of the leaders.
The story is just beginning, and right away Jesus is in trouble.
The upshot: the Pharisees plot to kill him.
We begin to see already where this story is heading
2 Corinthians: Five Sundays (June 7 through July 5):

**Lectionary 10: 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1**
Living by faith as we await glory prepared for us by God

**Lectionary 11: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17**
We walk by faith; in Christ there is a New Creation

**Lectionary 12: 2 Corinthians 6:1-13**
Now is the Day of Salvation

**Lectionary 13: 2 Corinthians 8:7-15**
Sharing in the Grace of God; the community practices balancing abundance and need

**Lectionary 14: 2 Corinthians 12:2-10**
Paul’s Vision: Grace is sufficient in the Power of Christ
Overall Themes:

Pentecost: As the Journey of Discipleship
Call & Mission of God’s chosen disciples: Doing God’s Will
A shattered world of relationships
True Family and the Will of God
What does it mean to live by faith?
Seen in the promise and hope of the kingdom
1) Begins with peaceful scene: a walk in the Garden
2) Exposed! I was naked, and I was afraid!
3) The first instinct -- blame the other!
   She gave...I ate
   The serpent tricked...I ate
4) A family shattered...I will put enmity
5) From family to world...Between all your offspring
2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1 (Begins 5 Sunday sequential reading)

Living by Faith, as we Await God’s eternal glory

1) Faith grounded in the witness of scripture
2) Belief and witness are joined
3) God raised Jesus; God will raise us too
4) Grace abounds to more and more people
5) Thanksgiving abounds to the glory of God
6) Strong in heart as we the glory prepared for us by God
Mark 3:20-35 – Jesus Comes Home from Whirlwind Galilean Tour (chapters 1-3) How will it Play in the Hometown? (see workingpreacher.org)

1) Jesus comes home: expectations are high
2) Signs of success: again the crowds
3) Back to reality: a family mess: “he’s out of his mind!”
4) Rulers join the fray and up the ante: he has a demon
5) Jesus: more parables and riddles
6) It’s about the kingdom (it always is; cf. 1:14-15)
7) Who is the strong man? Jesus or Satan?
8) The risk of blasphemy..What will you say about this Jesus?
9) It’s about true family: Whoever does the will of God?
10) Finally, the “who” is left up in the air/ undefined? Where will discipleship lead?
Overall Themes:

1) The promise of a New Creation in Christ
2) God’s planting, the promised future
3) The kingdom of God is like this
4) Special knowledge for disciples: hiddenness and revelation on the journey
5) Walking by faith, not by sight, confident that the love of Christ controls us
Exekiel 17:22-24 God speaks a Parable. God has a Plan: God’s New Planting

Reading is framed by the Word:
Thus says the Lord (22); I the Lord have spoken (24)

I: A Plan:
1) God’s new planting
2) Trees that know the Lord
3) The transforming power of Growth
   God will bring up the low
   God will make even the dry trees flourish

II. A Promise
I have spoken; and I will accomplish it
2 Corinthians 5:6-17: Love of Christ empowers us. Because he died and was raised for us, in Christ we are a New Creation

1) We walk by faith, not by sight
2) The love of Christ empowers us to boast about God
3) Christ died and was raised for all
4) We live not in ourselves but in him who died and was raised
5) A new point of view: In Christ a New Creation, and everything has become new!
Mark 4:26-34—The kingdom of God is like this: a seed growing secretly, a mustard seed. Jesus teaching in parables. (see workingpreacher.org)

1) The kingdom is like this:
Seed scattered and grows, he knows not how
And yet the harvest comes

2) The kingdom is like this:
A mustard seed, from smallest beginning to greatest plant

3) With many such parables:
As they are able to hear; it takes special ears and a gift to be a disciple
Everything is in parables
For disciples: a special teaching in private
The special place and call of disciples who follow this Jesus
Overall Themes:

1) Reality of our predicament – living in the midst of the storms of life
2) Disciples don’t know everything: living in the midst of knowing and not knowing
3) Living between fear and faith
4) Transforming power of Christ’s present with us
5) The healing power of faith: Your faith has save you!
Job 38:1-11: God confronts Job with the reality of human limitations

1) Out of a whirlwind
2) The Lord interrogates Job
3) Just who do you think you are?
4) Taking measure: what are the limits of knowledge
5) There is a great gulf between humans/the creation, and the God of creation
2 Corinthians 6:1-13: Confident that Salvation is Now, the community works together as servants in ministry with one another

1) As new creation:
   Accepting the grace of God
   Working together

2) The promise of a “right time” and a day of salvation

3) That “right time” and that day of salvation is NOW

4) In the midst of hardships our call is to work as servants (diakonoi)

5) As ones who have nothing, and yet possess everything
Mark 4:35-41 – On the sea. A parable of disciple life between Fear and Faith

1) On that day: the disciple journey continues
2) In the boat on the sea with Jesus
3) The storms of life arise
4) The fear of abandonment: Do you not care?
5) Jesus meets their need, no questions asked: Peace be still
6) Now come the questions: What about Fear and Faith?
7) A glimmer of possibilities: filled with awe
8) But yet the questions: Who then is this?

What will it mean to follow and to trust this one?
Overall Themes:

1) The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end!
2) The surprising wonder of faith and salvation
3) Disciple life lived poised between fear and faith
4) Salvation and healing: the gift of God in anticipations of our Lord’s resurrection
5) Our sharing with one another is a grace that matches the grace that we have received
Part I: The steadfast love of the Lord is sure

1) A four-fold assertion (just in case you’re slow to get it)
   a) Steadfast love never ceases
   b) His mercies never come to end
   c) New every day – each morning a new beginning
   d) Lord’s faithfulness is great

2) And two conclusions: a result and a reason
   a) THEREFORE: we can put our Hope in Him
   b) BECAUSE: The Lord is Good, All the time

Part II: Still we live with the difficult Questions

Why does there seem to be so much grief, affliction and suffering?

An answer born of hope:

Affliction will not last forever; steadfast love will eventually overflow and win the day

The Lord has compassion. It is not the Lord’s will to afflict or grieve anyone
2 Corinthians 8:7-15 – Thinking about the Collection for the Saints.
Grace and Balance belong together

About this collection for the saints:
1) It is a sign of the overflowing abundance of Grace
2) Not as a command, but as a testing of the genuineness of love
3) Matching our graceful action with the grace we have received from Christ
   Our grace (gift) matches the grace (gift) of Christ
4) There is a great exchange going on
   He was rich, yet became poor for our sakes
   So that we though poor, might become rich in him
5) So now we are invited to complete the sharing of grace as we are able
6) A vision of community in balance (isotes, equality, equilibrium)
7) A balance of needs and resources
Fifth Sunday of Pentecost – June 28 (Lectionary 13)

Mark 5:21-43 – A marvelous two-for-one story of Healing and Salvation- Two “daughters” (see workingpreacher.org)

1) A Familiar Setting: by the sea, crowds follow
2) Story #1: A leader’s daughter at the point of death
3) A plea: all the right moves; prayer and purpose: that she may be saved and live
4) Great expectations: Jesus goes/responds without a word; the crowd follows in expectations

Interruption:
5) Story # 2: A woman – and a long description
6) An act: no prayer, no explanation: she touches his garment
7) Then comes explanation: if only....I touch
8) Caught in the act: Convicted and guilty
9) The surprise of faith: Salvation; she is now “daughter”
10) More than she imagines: faith, peace, health

Back to story #1: Meanwhile other hopes are dashed – the daughter is dead
11) Faith is now at risk: Do not fear, only believe
12) A ridiculous assertion: not dead but sleeping; they break out in laughter
13) Jesus speaks a word: Arise (anticipates end of Jesus’ story)
14) Two responses: Amazement. Don’t tell anyone

Faith, and salvation, and resurrection meet together in anticipation of the end of the story and in confirmation of God’s power in Jesus for healing and life.
Overall Themes:

A picture of mission: called & sent by God
Empowered by the Spirit
Sufficient Grace in the Power of Christ
A picture of discipleship – but in which picture will we be
  Will we follow this Jesus
  Or will we take offense
Closest to home – there the greatest risk of faith
1) Begins with Lord’s clear Determination: stand up and I will speak!

2) Spirit and Word come together: an energy drives toward hearing

3) A serious mission: the mission & its difficulty stated twice
   I am sending you...
   To a rebellious people...

4) You shall say...thus says Lord: Words/message are given

5) Reality about the potential: will they hear?

6) Hearing is at risk... there are no guarantees

7) The Lord’s prophet is not responsible for outcome
2 Corinthians 12:2-10 – Paul’s Vision – In the midst of trials
Grace is Sufficient

1) Paul’s Vision: in Christ an experience of wonder
2) A caution about boasting (hyper-elation)
3) Back to reality: a “thorn in the flesh”
4) The lesson: Grace is sufficient in all circumstances
5) God’s power is made complete in weakness
6) Indwelling power of Christ is sufficient
7) Conviction for living: when I am weak, then I am strong
Two Options of Discipleship are Before us: Offense or Faithful Mission
In which picture will we be? Closest to home/ closest to unbelief; where greatest comfort, there the greatest risk

1) A telling setting: we’ve been here before
   Jesus is back home: full circle (cf. 3:20ff.)
   Disciples “follow”
   It is “on the sabbath”: begins to teach in synagogue (cf. 1:21f)
   Crowds “hear with astonishment”: amazed at his wisdom / miracles

2) Picture #1: Offense
   Who does he think he is? On whose authority?
   Is this a prophet? No honor in hometown
   Power becomes no power
   Unbelief where least expected: Jesus amazed at their unbelief

3) Picture #2: Disciples called & sent in mission
   Still the mission continues: faithful followers endowed with authority
   Sent with bare essentials: equipped for the task – the mission of Jesus
   Proclaim the good news: kingdom at hand/ repent (cf. 1:14-15)
   Cast out demons
   Heal & anoint the sick
Ephesians: Seven Sundays (July 12 through August 23)

1) Lectionary 15: July 12 – Ephesians 1:1-14
   A Glorious Hymn of Praise: God’s Plan of Salvation in Christ

2) Lectionary 16: July 19 – Ephesians 2:11-22
   God’s Building Plan: Walls of Hostility Broken Down; New Walls of Reconciliation
   New Community with Christ the Cornerstone

3) Lectionary 17: July 26 – Ephesians 3:14-21
   The Riches of the Power of Christ Indwelling in Us
   Hearts Founded in Love, Empowered by the Spirit

4) Lectionary 18: August 2 – Ephesians 4:1-16
   Called to a new Unity in the Spirit: One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism, One God & Father
   By Grace, a New Body Being Built with Christ as the Head

5) Lectionary 19: August 9 – Ephesians 4:25-5:2
   The Model of a New Life: Living in Love as Christ First Loved Us

6) Lectionary 20: August 16 – Ephesians 5:15-20
   Making the Most of the Time:
   Living in Thanksgiving for Everything in the Name of Christ

7) Lectionary 21: August 23 – Ephesians 6:10-20
   Equipped for the Struggle: The Life of Faith
Overall Themes:

God’s kingdom at Risk
The Gospel is on Trial in competing claims
God’s prophets/disciples at risk
God’s rich blessings of salvation in Christ
Discipleship: following is no bed of roses
Offense is real and dangerous
The blessing of God’s Plan of Salvation in Christ
1) The vision: a “plumb line” – does Israel measure up?

2) A clear message & a call to account: who will hear?

3) Rejection of the message: two prophets contend:
   - Amos: for the Lord
   - Amaziah: for Jereboam

4) Irony: “Bethel” = House of God! OR “the King’s sanctuary

5) The Word belongs to the Lord

6) A prophet at risk, but not responsible for the message
1) “Blessing” and “Praise” frame the reading, beginning & end
2) Blessed with every blessing in Christ
3) From creation, destined as children in Christ
4) Redeemed and forgiven by grace
5) At the right time: God’s economy and plan to gather the whole universe in Christ
6) Heirs in Christ: heard the Word, believed, sealed
7) Received the down payment of the Spirit
8) All in “Praise of his Glory” in Christ (the refrain: 6, 12, 14)
Mark 6:14-29 – Herod & John the Baptist: A Somber Prelude--Another “King”--A Competing Story--A different death. A caution for Ones Who Follow this Jesus

1) King: first word, a competing claim
2) Heard: a hearing of another kind
3) Jesus “name”: don’t tell, Jesus says, but someone did!
4) What is his name? John, Elijah, prophet
5) A resurrection? Anticipation of the end of the story?
6) Ambivalent authorities;
7) A suspicious “opportunity”: “timing is everything (1:15, 10:30; 11:13; 12:2; 13:33; 14:11
8) “Ask what you want” : assumes role of king; 5x “king” is named; who is really the king here
9) Brought and gave – his head; compare: brought & gave the loaves and fish
10) Disciples came & took his body; compare Joseph came & took his body (15:47)
11) What will be the end of this story? For John? for Jesus? for disciples?
Overall Themes:

Concern for who will be the shepherds who care responsibly for the sheep, God’s people
Promise and Hope in a new and righteous king who will shepherd God’s people – Jesus
Christ is our shepherd, and our peace, who through the cross has broken down the dividing walls
A new building of community with Christ as the cornerstone
There is power and salvation for those who follow this Jesus as disciples
Jeremiah 23:1-6 – The Lord speaks through his prophet of concern for who will shepherd his people. Promise of a New and Faithful Shepherd

1) The Lord’s promise: I will gather a remnant and restore the flock
2) A people gathered anew will live a renewed life (be fruitful and multiply) because of their restored and faithful shepherd
3) The Lord’s doing: raise up shepherds so that people no longer live in fear
4) Promise: a righteous branch of David who will act with justice and righteousness
5) A Righteous Shepherd who will reign as king with wisdom, justice and righteousness
6) Salvation and righteousness are in Name: His Name shall be: “the Lord is our Righteousness
Ephesians 2:11-22 – The “then” and “now” of a new reconciled community, a building established in Jesus Christ as cornerstone

1) THEN: You were aliens: without Christ, without Hope, without God
2) But NOW: in Christ and his blood, you have been brought near
3) Christ is our Peace: in his flesh he has broken down the dividing walls of hatred
4) We are reconciled through the cross
5) No longer aliens but joint citizens and members of God’s household
6) We are new building, built on foundation of apostles/prophets, with Jesus Christ as cornerstone
7) Under construction: constantly being joined together and growing as a temple/ dwelling place for Lord
8) It’s all about YOU: you are part of the dwelling place for God
Eighth Sunday of Pentecost – July 19 (Lectionary 16)


Note: assigned reading omits some important Markan themes: “Feeding of 5000” “in the wilderness” while disciples are at a loss, and “Jesus walking of the water” along with his terrifying “I AM” contrasted with disciples lack of understanding (6:50-52)

1) Disciples report back: they have done and taught “all things”
2) Celebrates the power and promise of discipleship
3) Jesus takes them aside to wilderness: place of rest, but also surprises in Mark
4) Crowds cannot be shaken, they persist and get there first
5) Jesus has compassion for the crowds: like sheep without a shepherd
6) Jesus assumes the role of shepherd and teacher in care for the sheep
7) Began to teach them “all things”

8) Feeding 5000, crossing over the sea (omitted verses 35-52)
9) A summary of successful mission
10) People once again bring the sick to him, wherever
11) Whoever touches even the fringes of his garments are healed

The power and promise of salvation’s touch resides in this Jesus – for ALL – even at the fringes Power is there for ALL:
ALL they did, teaches them ALL; ALL ate; ALL saw him (fear); ALL are healed
Looking Ahead: Begins a 5-week break from Mark
Five Sundays (July 26 through August 23) Jesus as the “Bread of Life”

John in Pentecost 2015 – A Five Week Series

1) Lectionary 17: July 26 – John 6:1-21
   Jesus Feeds the 5000
   A sign: Bread in the Wilderness: This is the prophet who is to come

2) Lectionary 18: August 2 – John 6:24-35
   I AM the Bread of Life
   This is food that endures to Eternal Life

3) Lectionary 19: August 9 – John 6:35, 41-51
   I AM the Bread of Life (reprise)
   How can this Be? No one comes to Father unless I draw him
   All who believe have eternal life

4) Lectionary 20: August 16 – John 6:51-58
   Believing and Knowing the Bread which came down from Heaven
   Flesh to eat? Blood to drink? Those who eat and drink abide in me and have eternal life

5) Lectionary 21: August 23 – John 6:56-69
   To whom can we go? You have the Words of Eternal Life
   Eat my flesh! Offense. Believing is a Gift
Overall Themes:

Jesus promise and claim: I AM the bread of Life
Bread comes “in the wilderness”
Surprising ways of God’s mercy
There is security and abundance in the provisions and promises of God

1) The Lord promises to feed the people
2) The prophet acts on behalf of the Lord
3) The instructing promise: give, eat and they will have some left over
4) The prophet acts according to the promise: he gives, they eat, and there is some left over.
5) All of this happens “according to the Word of the Lord”
Ephesians 3:14-21 – Confident Prayer for the newly reconciled community – the surpassing riches of God’s grace in love in Christ

1) In the Triune Name: before the Father (14), with power through the Spirit (16), that Christ will dwell in your hearts (17)
2) Rooted and grounded in love
3) Prayer:
   that you may know and comprehend the love of Christ which surpasses (Hyper-love) all knowledge
   That you be filled with the fullness of God
4) A confident Doxology:
   God’s power is at work in us
   God will do even more (Hyper-action) than we ask or imagine
   To God be glory in the church
   In Christ Jesus
   To all generations
John 6:1-20 – Jesus Feeds 5000 in the Wilderness. An interlude from Mark, but same setting – Jesus beside the sea with large crowds following. But now with John’s special theme of “Signs” as the frame

I. A miraculous Feeding
1) Large crowd, because they saw the “signs”
2) Jesus goes up to mountain with disciples; sits as teacher
3) It is Passover
4) Jesus Lifts up his eyes and sees the people
5) A Test: where is bread for so many
6) Disciples: we have no resources, no money, only 5 loaves, 2 fish
7) Jesus: takes loves, gives thanks, gave: as much as they wanted, with leftovers beside
8) The People saw the “sign” – This is the prophet who is to come!

II. An encounter on the sea
1) A storm at night; disciples see Jesus walking
2) I AM he (It is I) Stop being afraid!
3) Jesus immediately with them in the boat, and they are safe at land

Two miraculous “signs” that point to Jesus power and authority, and call for the response and trust of disciples