

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR SUNDAY, July 18, 2021**  
**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

**READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-14a**

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." <sup>3</sup>Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup>Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. <sup>7</sup>Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" <sup>8</sup>Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; <sup>9</sup>and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. <sup>12</sup>When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup>He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. <sup>14a</sup>I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me.

## **PSALM: Psalm 23**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd;  
I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup>The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.

<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall  
fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort  
me.

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my  
life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

## **GOSPEL: Mark 6:30-34, 53-56**

<sup>30</sup>The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they  
had done and taught. <sup>31</sup>He said to them, "Come away to a deserted  
place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming  
and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. <sup>32</sup>And they went  
away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. <sup>33</sup>Now many  
saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on  
foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. <sup>34</sup>As he went  
ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them,  
because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to  
teach them many things.

<sup>53</sup>When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret  
and moored the boat. <sup>54</sup>When they got out of the boat, people at  
once recognized him, <sup>55</sup>and rushed about that whole region and  
began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was.  
<sup>56</sup>And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid  
the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might  
touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were  
healed.