

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
July 25, 2021
Worship at 9:15 am



INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Today is the first of five Sundays with gospel readings from John 6, the first four of which focus on Jesus as bread of life. Today Jesus feeds thousands of people with five loaves and two fish. What we have, what we bring to Jesus' table, seems like it is not nearly enough to meet all the needs we see around us. But it is not the adequacy of our supplies or our skills that finally makes the difference: it is the power of Jesus working in the littlest and least to transform this world into the world God desires, a world where all the hungry are satisfied.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRAYER REQUESTS

BELLS AND LIGHTING THE CANDLES

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
the God of manna,
the God of miracles,
the God of mercy.

C **Amen**

P Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,
Let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God, our provider,

C **help us.**

It is hard to believe there is enough to share.

We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live.

We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you.

We take offense at your teachings and your ways.

Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn?

Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world.

Amen.

P Beloved people of God:

in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished.

By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough.

Through Jesus, ☩ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy:

you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

C **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

"Give to Our God Immortal Praise" ELW 848 vs. 1 & 2

1 Give to our God immortal praise! Mercy and truth are all his ways.

Wonders of grace to God belong; repeat his mercies in your song.

2 He sent his Son with pow'r to save from guilt and darkness and the grave.

Wonders of grace to God belong; repeat his mercies in your song.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

GREETING

P The grace of Jesus Christ our Savior, the reconciling love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray together.

C **Gracious God, you have placed within the hearts of all your children a longing for your word and a hunger for your truth. Grant that we may know your Son to be the true bread of heaven and share this bread with all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

First Reading: 2 Kings 4:42-44

Today's reading is part of a larger section of 2 Kings that describes the miracles of Elisha, the successor to Elijah. Here the prophet gives food to a hungry crowd. Though there is not enough food to go around, Elisha trusts God, who provides enough and even more to satisfy the need.

⁴²A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing food from the first fruits to [Elisha,] the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, "Give it to the people and let them eat."⁴³ But his servant said, "How can I set this before a hundred people?" So he repeated, "Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the LORD, 'They shall eat and have some left.'"⁴⁴ He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the LORD.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 145:10-18

¹⁰All your works shall praise you, O LORD,
and your faithful ones shall bless you.

¹¹They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your power,

¹²that all people may know of your power
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

¹³Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages.
You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.

¹⁴The Lord upholds all those who fall
and lifts up those who are bowed down.

¹⁵The eyes of all wait upon you, O LORD,
and you give them their food in due season.

¹⁶You open wide your hand
and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

¹⁷You are righteous in all your ways
and loving in all your works.

¹⁸You are near to all who call upon you,
to all who call upon you faithfully.

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:14-21

We have been rooted and grounded in the love of Christ, which surpasses all human knowledge. Because Christ dwells in our hearts, our lives are continuously strengthened and empowered by the ongoing presence of the Spirit.

¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. ¹⁶I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, ¹⁷and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. ¹⁸I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (see front of hymnal, page 205)

C **Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.
Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.
Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 6th chapter

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: John 6:1-21

In John's gospel, the miracles of Jesus are called "signs," because they reveal the true character of God. As such, they remain within the mystery of God and cannot be brought under human control.

¹Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. ²A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. ³Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. ⁴Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. ⁵When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people

to eat?”⁶ He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do.⁷ Philip answered him, “Six months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.”⁸ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him,⁹ “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?”¹⁰ Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.” Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all.¹¹ Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted.¹² When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, “Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.”¹³ So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets.¹⁴ When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, “This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.”

¹⁵When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

¹⁶When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, ¹⁷got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. ¹⁸The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. ¹⁹When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. ²⁰But he said to them, “It is I; do not be afraid.” ²¹Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee” ELW 759 vs. 1 & 3

- 1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine!
Now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away, oh, let me from this day be wholly thine!**
- 3 While life’s dark maze I tread and griefs around me spread, be thou my guide;
bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow’s tears away, nor let me ever stray from thee aside.**

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808-1887

APOSTLES’ CREED

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**
**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

After each petition, the congregation responds:

P Lord, in your mercy.

C hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

P We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.

C Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. During these extraordinary times, you are welcome to mail your offering to the church or access our on-line giving option: https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/1390744

OFFERING PRAYER

P God of love,

C Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. Amen.

DIALOGUE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right ... we remember that
In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

As you take the wafer, hear these words.
“The body of Christ given for you.” *All partake of the bread.*

P Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

As you take the cup of wine or juice, hear these words.
“The blood of Christ shed for you.” *All partake of the wine or juice.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Spoken)

C Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen**

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.

C Amen.

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

“Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise” ELW 207 (service music)

**Thankful hearts and voices raise;
tell ev'ryone what God has done.
Let ev'ryone who seeks the Lord rejoice
and bear the name of Christ.
Send us with your promises
and lead your people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Text © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

BLESSING

P The blessing of God,
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
✠ be upon you now and forever.

C Amen. (sung)

SENDING HYMN

“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing!” ELW 545 vs. 1 & 2

- 1** Lord, dismiss us with your blessing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace.
Oh, refresh us; oh, refresh us, trav'ling through this wilderness.
- 2** Thanks we give and adoration for your gospel's joyful sound.
May the fruits of your salvation in our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful to your truth may we be found.

Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740-1817

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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Special thanks to today's Faithful Servants

Presiding:	Pastor Amy Thoren
Guest Pianist	Thomas Karunas
Greeter:	Donna Svencner
Usher:	Bob Svencner
Lector:	Marilyn Black
Coffee Host:	Roxie Danyus
Live Stream & Video Team	Sara Corrigan, Jerry and Elaine Decker, Bella Karunas Alan Duesterhaus, and Richard Wade

Readings and Psalm for next Sunday

- **Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15** *The LORD gives manna in the wilderness*
- **Psalm 78:23-29** *God rained down manna from heaven; so mortals ate the bread of angels.*
- **Ephesians 4:1-16** *Maintain the unity of the faith*
- **John 6:24-35** *Christ the bread of life*

This Week at Holy Cross:

Sun., July 25 9:15am in Sanctuary & Live Stream

Sun., Aug. 1 9:15am in Sanctuary & Live Stream

Faithful Servants for Sunday, August 1st

Greeter:	Lucy Weyen
Usher:	Herman Weyen
Lector:	Jerry Decker
Coffee Host:	Marilyn Black
Cleaning:	Ted Corrigan

A note of generosity

“It is the heart that does the giving; the fingers only let go.” —*Nigerian proverb*

Announcements

Devotions Available! *Words to Live By* featuring favorite scripture verses to ponder and/or memorize are featured on our Holy Cross Facebook page each week and paper copies are available on the table in the narthex. The next quarter of *Christ in our Home* daily devotion books are also available!

Please keep these people and their families in your prayers.

Pastor Amy Marti B Joni M Glenna P Elaine J-D
Jerry D Lauralee H Britt W Steve T Jan Lawson & Family

Kathy (cousin of Jerry Decker)

Mandy (niece of Pam Musser)

Kenneth (father of Kathy Carter)

Peggy (second parent to Lee Williams)

Milton (in-law of Lee Williams)

Mindy (cousin of Lee Williams)

Tina (cousin of Jerry Decker)

Maribeth (Godmother of Kay Wolken)

Jerry (son of Mae Grace)

Keisha (friend of Kendra Berry)

Kim, Lydia, Gunnar (friends of Bella Karunas)

Sally, Christopher, Tracy & Tina (Elaine Decker's sister & family)

Judy & Wayne (sister and brother-in-law of Jerry Decker)

Trisha (friend of Kristie Smith who is waiting for a heart transplant)

Lila (aunt of Kristie Smith)

Priscilla (cousin of Elaine Decker)

Arnie (cousin of Elaine Decker)

Warren (co-worker of Emily Buhnerkempe)

Rachel (friend of Pastor Amy)

Molly Arnold (friend of Kristie Smith)

Elsie Benson (cousin of Lee Williams)

Holly Alexander (grandniece of Jerry Decker)

Family of Tana White (cousin of Jerry Decker)

David Ludwig (relative of Jerry Decker)

Keith Stricker, brother-in-law Robert Preston & nephew Alex Garcia, on the loss of Keith's sister, Laurie

Brenda (friend of Kathy Carter)

Kelly Den Hartog Armitage (former member and friend of Kathy Carter) on the loss of her husband

Please call the church office to have your prayer requests listed or when prayers have been answered and name(s) can be removed.



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