

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**  
**Worship Devotional**  
**July 28, 2024**  
**Tenth Sunday of Pentecost**

**Prelude** Susan Berg, Piano

**Announcements**

**Opening Song** "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"  
Song Leaders and Congregation

**Verse 1**

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
no merit of my own I claim, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

**Refrain**

On Christ, the solid rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground  
is sinking sand.

**Verse 2**

When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace;  
in ev'ry high and stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil.

**Refrain**

**Verse 4**

When he shall come with trumpet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,  
clothed in his righteousness alone, redeemed to stand before the throne!

**Refrain**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross.*

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

**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God, our provider,

**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 works of eternal life and feed us for life in the world.**

**Amen.**

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.

**Amen.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

**P:** We pray together ...

**C:** Gracious God, you have laced 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 LESSON**

2 Kings 4:42-44

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

### **Elisha Feeds One Hundred Men**

<sup>42</sup> A man came from Baal-shalishah bringing food from the first fruits to 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." <sup>43</sup> 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." <sup>44</sup> He set it before them; they ate and had some left, according to the word of the LORD.

## **SECOND LESSON**

Ephesians 3:14-21

### **Prayer for the Readers**

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

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

## **GOSPEL**

John 6:1-21

### **Feeding the Five Thousand**

**6** After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>2</sup> A large crowd kept following him because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. <sup>3</sup> Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. <sup>4</sup> Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. <sup>5</sup> When 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?" <sup>6</sup> He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. <sup>7</sup> Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." <sup>8</sup> One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, <sup>9</sup> "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" <sup>10</sup> Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place, so they<sup>[b]</sup> sat down, about five thousand in all. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." <sup>13</sup> So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. <sup>14</sup> 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."

<sup>15</sup> When 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.

### **Jesus Walks on the Water**

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

### **Sermon**

“ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

### **Sermon Hymn**

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”  
Song Leaders and Congregation

### **Verse 1**

Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need your tender care.  
In your pleasant pastures feed us, for our use your fold prepare.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us; we are yours.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us, we are yours.

### **Verse 2**

We are yours; in love befriend us, be the guardian of our way;  
keep your flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear us children when we pray.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear us children when we pray.

**Verse 4**

Early let us seek your favor, early let us do your will;  
blessed Lord and only Savior, with your love our spirit fill.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us, love us still.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us, love us still.

## Prayers of the People

**Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.**

Heavenly Father, throughout His ministry, Jesus demonstrated his compassion for people with miracles. Today's lessons speak of feeding the multitudes. But Elijah in the Old Testament also demonstrated God's power through a miracle feeding-event. Jesus proclaimed Himself to be the bread of life. Bread is necessary for our daily life, so is Jesus. ***Lord in your mercy...***

The Apostle Paul in his letter to the church at Ephesus broadens that provision even more. He says, *"I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, [God] may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit... I pray that you may... know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."* ***Lord in your mercy...***

We pray for our nation, state and city; our president, governor, mayor and the leaders of the world. Lord, how you must yearn for all the people of the world who live in darkness. It is not your desire that any one of them should perish. In fact, you have laid claim with your name upon each person, each tribe and each family. Paul continues, *"For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name."* What a privilege to be claimed by the powerful God who created the universe. ***Lord in your mercy...***

Remember this congregation, its pastor and people, as we share the love of Jesus. Touch those who have asked for prayers with healing, comfort and new life. We name those among us who have asked for prayer. And for what else do the people of God pray or praise? ***Lord in your mercy...***

Lord God, your love and mercy overwhelm us. We are sinful and not worthy of your lovingkindness. Paul proclaims the grace of our Heavenly Father when he says, *"Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever."* In Jesus' mighty name, we pray. ***Amen***

CAROLYN T. LINN

**Special Music**      "Hallelujah, We Sing Your Praises"  
South African (Public Domain)  
Choral Ensemble

Phil (Anderson)  
Gary Assmussen (Deuker's Cousin)  
Please pray for the Bob Krause family on his  
passing. (Anderson)  
Irene Goldman (Dueker)  
Jennifer Wenzel (Wilk)  
Betty (Anderson)  
Tonya (White)  
Shanese (White)  
Dirk Rathwick (Norris)  
Zyg Zee (Norris)  
Claire (Vonny)  
Janet Sharp (Fake)  
Anthony Collichio (Norris)  
Mickey Cecil (Norris)  
Jeanne Grant (Anderson)  
Dorothy Lee Bruce (Julie)  
Monica & Kyle Sedra (Werfelmann)  
Jacob, Abbe & Family (Werfelmann)  
Melissa (Sandy T.)  
Joy Kensinger (Miller)  
Frank and Anita Porco (Vonny)  
Jim D. (Norris)  
Jade Dixon (Julie)  
Pam (Smith)  
Grace Johnson (Fake)  
Hudson Otten (Anderson)  
Karen Ohanesian (Hays)  
Rosemary (Vonny)  
Nathan & Sandy Robbins (Robbins)


**Daily Bible Readings**
**Sunday:** Acts 10-12

**Monday:** Micah 5-7

**Tuesday:** Nahum 1-3

**Wednesday:** 2 Kings 20-21

**Thursday:** Zephaniah 1-3

**Friday:** Habakkuk 1-3

**The Conversion of Saul — Fill in the Blanks**

Acts 9:1-9 tells the story of the conversion of Saul, who later was known as the apostle Paul. Read the story and fill in the blanks from the list to the right. Some words are used more than once. You can insert the correct number rather than writing the word if you wish.



Meanwhile Saul, still breathing \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ against the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord, went to the \_\_\_\_\_ and asked him for letters to the \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ so that if he found any who belonged to the \_\_\_\_\_, men or women, he might bring them bound to \_\_\_\_\_. Now as he was going along and approaching \_\_\_\_\_, suddenly a \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ flashed around him. He \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ and heard a \_\_\_\_\_ saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am \_\_\_\_\_, whom you are \_\_\_\_\_. But get up and enter the \_\_\_\_\_, and you will be \_\_\_\_\_ what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood \_\_\_\_\_ because they heard the \_\_\_\_\_ but saw no one. Saul got up from the \_\_\_\_\_, and though his eyes were \_\_\_\_\_, he could see \_\_\_\_\_; so they led him by the hand and brought him into \_\_\_\_\_. For \_\_\_\_\_ days he was without sight, and neither ate nor \_\_\_\_\_.

1. persecuting
2. disciples
3. three
4. high priest
5. nothing
6. Damascus (3)
7. Way
8. threats
9. heaven
10. fell
11. drank
12. ground (2)
13. Jerusalem
14. murder
15. light
16. voice (2)
17. Jesus
18. city
19. synagogues
20. told
21. speechless
22. open

**Solution (in the order they appear):** threats, murder, disciples, high priest, synagogues, Damascus, Way, Jerusalem, Damascus, light, heaven, fell, ground, voice, Jesus, persecuting, city, told, speechless, voice, ground, open, nothing, Damascus, three, drank.



Sunday, July 28, 2024

## Scripture Reading: John 6:1-21

*The hunger for love is much more difficult to remove than the hunger for bread. —Mother Teresa*

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The Paris Olympics began two days ago and, in practical terms, this means that every day more than 15,000 athletes will need three square meals a day.

Not to worry. The French have this covered. The participants are feasting on fresh baguettes, gourmet dishes and environment-friendly French cuisine — enjoying some of the 40,000 meals a day at the Olympic Village served up by some of France’s renowned chefs.

Alexandre Mazzia, whose AM restaurant in Marseille earned three Michelin guide stars, is serving a dish made of crushed chickpeas with herbs and a smoked fish sauce. Other chefs unveiled dishes that included an elaborate quinoa risotto and a chocolate mousse with raspberries. The athletes “know they will eat well here,” said one spokesperson. “Our goal is to provide them with high-quality food.”

The eatery at the Olympic Village seats 3,500 people, making it perhaps the largest restaurant — for the time being — in the world.

In the gospel lesson for today, Jesus faces the problem of feeding 5,000 men. But there were also the women and children. The disciples were going to send the crowds away. After all, they had no food and babies were crying and people were murmuring.

In the training manual for Ritz-Carlton Hotel employees, there’s a maxim that says, “If you see a problem, you own it.” To say, “It’s not my problem” or “It’s not my job” is not acceptable. If you see a problem, you own it — you take responsibility.

So, in this spirit, according to Matthew, Jesus says to the disciples, “*You* give them something to eat” (Matthew 14:16, emphasis added). Jesus doesn’t do the reasonable thing here, the rational thing, but turns the problem into an opportunity — a teachable moment. *You* give them something to eat.

Fortunately, a boy stepped up with five baguettes and two fish. It was more than enough. Everyone got their fill.

When we accept Jesus’ challenge to feed those who are around us, the meal will be provided and there will be plenty to go around.

— Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: Lord Jesus, loaves and fish are yours to distribute as you see fit. May I have eyes to see those who are hungry and in need of my help. In your name. Amen.*