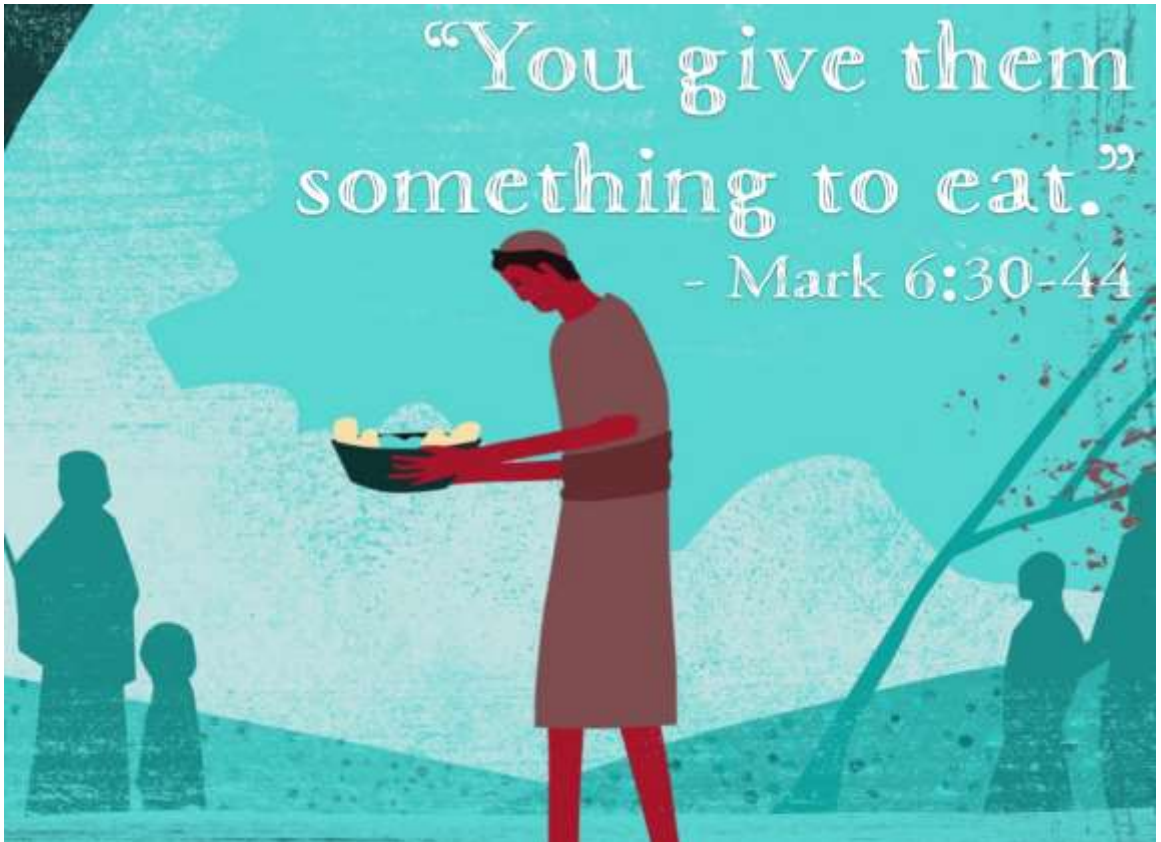


Triune Lutheran Church



Ninth Sunday after Pentecost



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

*We thank you for joining us here
at Triune Lutheran Church, a
family united by our Risen Lord,
Jesus Christ!*



In order to make you feel more at home, here are a few notes about the service. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. We hope to make your time here as meaningful as possible!

Worship

- We are taking extra precautions to ensure your safety and health as we worship together, including asking you to please, **please** wear a mask the entire time you are in the building.
- Everything is printed in the bulletin (no hymnals will be used). Based on many published scientific studies, we are asking you to refrain from singing. Instead, please use the included text to the hymns in the bulletin as a prayer to God.
- There will not be a separate time for an offering to be collected during worship. If you wish to do so today, you may place your offering in the offering plate at the back.
- The Communion elements are placed by your chair in small containers with lids. We ask you leave them as is until we reach the celebration of holy Communion during worship, when you will be asked to remove the lids and consume the bread (wafer), then the wine. If you need a gluten-free wafer, please let the pastor know before worship. We believe the body and blood of Christ is meant for everyone, regardless of your church affiliation, and so feel free to participate, if you feel so moved.
- Bathrooms are available in the hallway. Please wash your hands, and use a paper towel to open the bathroom door to exit.
- The pastor will not be standing for a receiving line after worship.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose steadfast love is everlasting,
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.
Amen!

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God,
we confess that we do not trust your abundance,
and we deny your presence in our lives.
We place our hope in ourselves
and rely on our own efforts.
We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.
We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.
We fear difference and do not welcome others
as you have welcomed us.
We sin in thought, word, and deed.
By your grace, forgive us;
through your love, renew us;
and, as the Holy Spirit, lead us;
so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen!

Beloved of God,
by the radical abundance of divine mercy
we have peace with God through † Christ Jesus,
through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.
Our sins are forgiven.
Let us live now in hope.
For hope does not disappoint,
because God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

“Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”

ELW 712

- 1 Lord, whose love in humble service
bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken,
worked your mercy's perfect deed:
we, your servants, bring the worship
not of voice alone, but heart;
consecrating to your purpose
ev'ry gift which you impart.
- 2 Still your children wander homeless;
still the hungry cry for bread;
still the captives long for freedom;
still in grief we mourn our dead.
As you, Lord, in deep compassion
healed the sick and freed the soul,
by your Spirit send your power
to our world to make it whole.

3 As we worship, grant us vision,
till your love's revealing light
in its height and depth and greatness
dawns upon our quickened sight,
making known the needs and burdens
your compassion bids us bear,
stirring us to ardent service,
your abundant life to share.

4 Called by worship to your service,
forth in your dear name we go,
to the child, the youth, the aged,
love in living deeds to show;
hope and health, good will and comfort,
counsel, aid and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord, in freedom
may your mercy know and live.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Glorious God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen!

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:1-5

¹Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.

²Why do you spend your money for that which is not
bread,

and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

³Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

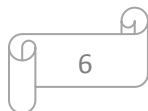
⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

PSALM

Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21

The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹LORD, you are good to all,
and your compassion is over 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.
- ¹⁹You fulfill the desire of those who fear you;
you hear their cry and save them.
- ²⁰You watch over all those who love you,
but all the wicked you shall destroy.
- ²¹My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD;
let all flesh bless God's holy name forever and ever.

SECOND READING

Romans 9:1-5

¹I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit—²I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. ⁴They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; ⁵to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed forever.

*GOSPEL

Matthew 14:13-21

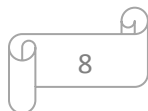
¹³Now when Jesus heard [about the beheading of John the Baptist], he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” ¹⁶Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” ¹⁷They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.” ¹⁸And he said, “Bring them here to me.” ¹⁹Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Praise and Thanksgiving”

ELW 689



- 1 Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer
for all things living, you have made good:
harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.
- 2 God, bless the labor we bring to serve you,
that with our neighbor we may be fed.
Sowing or tilling, we would work with you,
harvesting, milling for daily bread.
- 3 Father, providing food for your children,
by Wisdom's guiding teach us to share
one with another, so that, rejoicing
with us, all others may know your care.
- 4 Then will your blessing reach ev'ry people,
freely confessing your gracious hand.
Where you are reigning, no one will hunger;
your love sustaining showers the land.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Confident of God's care and upheld by the Spirit, let us pray
for all who are in need.

A brief silence.

O God, our Savior, bless your whole church around the world. Where believers must be isolated from one another, be present to us through your gracious word. Give to all leaders, wisdom for their tasks in this challenging time. Lord, hear our cry, for you are good to all.

O God, Creator of a wondrous earth, protect the glories of your seas and lands. Replenish ground water supplies, refresh lakes and ponds, send rains where there is drought, and shelter forests from wildfires. Lord, hear our cry, for you are good to all.

O God, Sovereign of the world, form the leaders of nations to strive for justice for all. Strengthen the peacemakers. Bring an end to racism in our society and guide our elected officials in how to govern with integrity. Lord, hear our cry, for you are good to all.

O God, Storehouse of goodness, visit all who face the coronavirus, especially those who do so alone. Assist all who face eviction from their residence. Bring wholeness and healing to those who suffer in body or spirit, including Bev Deitrick, Hazel Schwab, Martha Wasson, Mardell Weiss, Dave & Clara Wilcox, John & Jean Kurtz, Matthew Loede, Mary Phillips, George Tomaselli, Karen Schroedel, and all those we name in our hearts now...Lord, hear our cry, for you are good to all.

O God, Giver of bread, teach us how to feed the hungry: the children starving in war zones, the families who cannot afford groceries, the homeless on our streets, the farmers devastated by pestilence. Give to all creatures their food in due season. Lord, hear our cry, for you are good to all.

O God, everlasting mercy, we praise you for the lives of all who have died in the faith. At the end, bring us with all your saints to your heavenly banquet. Lord, hear our cry, for you are good to all.

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen!

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

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.

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.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

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.

COMMUNION

MUSIC INTERLUDE (use for meditation and prayer)

COMMUNION PRAYER

God of the welcome table,
in this meal we have feasted on your goodness
and have been united by your presence among us.
Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts
so that we may share your neighborly love with all,
through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life. Amen.

BLESSING

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ
Jesus.

God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ,
and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,
bless you and keep you in eternal love. Amen.

SENDING HYMN

“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”

ELW 843

- 1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness
with a liberating light;
praise the One who frees the pris'ners,
turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the gospel,
healing ev'ry dread disease,
calming storms and feeding thousands
with the very bread of peace.

Verses 2 & 3 (next page)

- 2 Praise the One who blessed the children
with a strong yet gentle word;
praise the One who drove out demons
with a piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water
to the desert's burning sand;
from this well comes living water
quenching thirst in ev'ry land.
- 3 Praise the one true love incarnate:
Christ, who suffered in our place;
Jesus died and rose for many
that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness,
seeing what our God has done.
Praise the one redeeming glory;
praise the One who makes us one.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you! Thanks be to God!

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Pastor: **Brad Ross**
Organist: **Edith Schatt**
Office Manager: **Jan Piskac**

Learning and Eating



Recently, I was reading the work of a colleague, who serves as my synod’s director for evangelical mission. In discussing how congregations can—and must!—be a blessing to their neighborhoods and communities, my colleague argued that there is an essential twofold nature of ministry. First, congregations made up of beloved children of God must witness in the

world to the good news of God’s gracious redemption of humanity through Jesus. And second, we must endeavor to meet the material needs of our neighbors (James 2:16). If we neglect either, we are, at best, preaching only half the gospel. As my wife frequently reminds me: “If it ain’t good news to the poor, it ain’t the gospel” (Luke 4:18).

In this week’s passage from Matthew, Jesus preaches the full gospel. He has just heard that his relative, John the Baptizer, has been killed out of spite by leaders who didn’t appreciate his criticism of their lifestyle (Matthew 14:3-13). Jesus was trying to find some alone time, presumably to grieve and consider how he, too, would be killed in a short time by a capricious power. But a large crowd followed him, and he had compassion on them, healing their sick (14) rather than insisting on his alone time.

Matthew doesn’t mention it directly, but all the other Gospels point out that Jesus spent the whole day teaching (Luke 9:11, Mark 6:34, John 6:3 [“sitting” was a favored teaching and learning posture for Jesus and the disciples, e.g., Luke 4:20-21]) in addition to healing. In other words, Jesus, instead of privately mourning for his relative, had taken up a position on a hill so he could heal and teach all day. The crowds stayed long into the evening to listen to him and have their injured healed.

But there was a problem.

Jesus had picked this location specifically because it was “a solitary place,” meaning that it was away from settled areas like towns or villages. As the daylight faded, people would be getting hungry. The disciples counseled Jesus to send the people away while they could still see the paths in front of them (we’ll see later that storm clouds were rolling in).

But Jesus surprised the disciples by asking them to provide for the people. The disciples came up with five loaves and two fish (probably the small, salted sardines for which the Galilee was famous). Jesus instructed the people to sit (they were about to learn something!). He blessed God and divided the meager food supply. And all the people ate—the disciples even collected 12 baskets of leftovers, which I imagine were snacks to help them survive the coming arduous night.

Upon seeing the people and having compassion on them, Jesus first spent the day teaching and healing, and then fed all of them as well. We do well when we follow Jesus’ example. We share his words of eternal life (John 6:68), and we share our food. The reading from Isaiah 55 underscores this point. God’s word through the prophet urges people to both 1) consume the bread, water, milk and wine that the Lord will provide without cost, and 2) “incline your ear, and come to me; listen so that you may live” (Isaiah 55:1-2). Isaiah says: “Listen carefully to me *and* eat what is good” (emphasis added) (2). God provides both food and holy word. As God’s people, we are entrusted with this same ministry.

Humans don’t live on bread alone, but on every word from the mouth of the Lord (Deuteronomy 8:3). We need both bread and the Word! Jesus, as incarnate human, knows both these needs, personally, and met them for others. Followers of the early church were known for their fellowship, praying, studying and eating together (Acts 2:42). Their life centered around sharing words and sharing food. We are the body of Christ when we share Christ as Word (John 1:1) and as Christ as Bread of Life (John 6:35).



Cory Driver is a minister of word and service, and the director of the Transformational Leadership Academy in the Indiana-Kentucky Synod. He earned his doctorate in Jewish religious cultures from Emory University, Atlanta. Cory lives with his family in Indianapolis.