

***The Lutheran Church of the Covenant***  
***“Reaching Out, Reflecting Christ, Renewing Lives”***



*Ninth Sunday after Pentecost*  
*August 2, 2020*



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

## Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

*In today's first reading God invites all who are hungry or thirsty to receive food and drink without cost. Jesus feeds the hungry multitude and reveals the abundance of God. At the eucharistic table we remember all who are hungry or poor in our world today. As we share the bread of life, we are sent forth to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry.*

Prelude-Global Tune Medley (Hansen) with flute

Confession & Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as we take time to recognize our shortcomings, while also remembering God's relentless grace.*

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 *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness* (EDWARDS, WYETH) #843



- 1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
- 3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris-'ners, turn-ing blind-ness in - to sight.  
 praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two-edged sword.  
 Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,  
 Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;  
 Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.  
 from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.  
 Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

## 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 Lesson

Isaiah 55:1-5

*God invites Israel to a great feast at which both food and drink are free. God also promises to make an everlasting covenant with all peoples, with promises that previously had been limited to Israel. As David was a witness to the nations, these nations shall now acknowledge the ways in which God has glorified Israel.*

<sup>1</sup>Ho, 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.

<sup>2</sup>Why 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.

<sup>3</sup>Incline 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.

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

<sup>5</sup>See, 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.

The word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

<sup>8</sup>The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

<sup>9</sup>**LORD, you are good to all,  
and your compassion is over all your works.**

<sup>14</sup>The Lord upholds all those who fall  
and lifts up those who are bowed down.

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

<sup>16</sup>You open wide your hand  
and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

<sup>17</sup>**You are righteous in all your ways  
and loving in all your works.**

<sup>18</sup>You are near to all who call upon you,  
to all who call upon you faithfully.

<sup>19</sup>**You fulfill the desire of those who fear you;  
you hear their cry and save them.**

<sup>20</sup>You watch over all those who love you,  
but all the wicked you shall destroy.

<sup>21</sup>**My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD;  
let all flesh bless God's holy name forever and ever.**

## Second Lesson

Romans 9:1-5

*This begins a new section in Paul's letter in which he will deal with the place of Israel in God's saving plan. He opens by highlighting how Israel's heritage and legacy include being God's children, having God's covenants, being given God's law, participating in worship of God, and receiving divine promises.*

<sup>1</sup>I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit—<sup>2</sup>I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. <sup>3</sup>For 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. <sup>4</sup>They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; <sup>5</sup>to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

The word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

Gospel

Matthew 14:13-21

*After John the Baptist is murdered, Jesus desires a time of solitude. Still, his compassion for others will not allow him to dismiss those who need him, and he is moved to perform one of his greatest miracles.*

The holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, o Lord!**

<sup>13</sup>Now 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. <sup>14</sup>When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. <sup>15</sup>When 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.” <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” <sup>17</sup>They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.” <sup>18</sup>And he said, “Bring them here to me.” <sup>19</sup>Then 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. <sup>20</sup>And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. <sup>21</sup>And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

This is the holy Gospel of our Lord!

**Praise to you, O Christ!**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day *Praise and Thanksgiving* (BAYLY)

#689



1 Praise and thanks-giv - ing, God, we would of - fer for all things  
2 God, bless the la - bor we bring to serve you, that with our  
3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing food for your chil - dren, by Wis - dom's  
4 Then will your bless - ing reach ev - 'ry peo - ple, free - ly con -



liv - ing, you have made good: har - vest of sown fields, fruits of the  
neigh - bor we may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, we would work  
guid - ing teach us to share one with an - oth - er, so that, re -  
fess - ing your gra - cious hand. Where you are reign - ing, no one will



or - chard, hay from the mown fields, blos - som and wood.  
with you, har - vest - ing, mill - ing for dai - ly bread.  
joic - ing with us, all oth - ers may know your care.  
hun - ger; your love sus - tain - ing show - ers the land.

## Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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

Confident of God's care and upheld by the Spirit, let us pray for all who are in need, responding to the words "Lord, you are good to all" with the phrase, "hear our cry."

*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, you are good to all: **hear our cry.**

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, you are good to all: **hear our cry.**

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, you are good to all: **hear our cry.**

O God, Storehouse of goodness, visit all who face the coronavirus, especially those who face it alone. Assist all who face eviction from their residence. Bring wholeness and healing to those who suffer in body or spirit. Lord, you are good to all: **hear our cry.**

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, you are good to all: **hear our cry.**



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, you are good to all: **hear our cry.**

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

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts!

**We lift them to the Lord!**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

**It is right to give our thanks and praise!**

Holy God,  
our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer,  
in the harmonious world of your creation,  
the plants and animals,  
the seas and stars  
were whole and well in your praise.

When sin had scarred the world,  
you sent your Son to heal our ills  
and to form us again into one.

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.

Remembering, therefore,  
his acts of healing,  
his body given up,  
and his victory over death,  
we await that day when all the peoples of the earth  
will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Holy Spirit, be immersed in this meal:  
as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,  
so let your church be gathered from the ends of the earth,  
that all may be fed with the Bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
both now and forever. **Amen!**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

Communion

Music Interlude *Sonata for Flute*-(Handel) with Ann Droste  
(*please use this time to meditate or pray for those dear to your heart*)

## Prayer after Communion

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 *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ* (KAAN, POTTER)

#674



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:  
 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,  
 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.  
 teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.  
 gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!

*Refrain*



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you!

**Thanks be to God!**

Postlude *All You Works of God, Bless the Lord!* –(Ore)

**Praying Together**

**... for those who are homebound, ill, hospitalized or recuperating:** Gayle Agg, Bob Buettner, Alexis Carr, Joan Clarke, Steve Dobush Barbara Fossa, Carolyn Frajter, Ken Frajter, Nealie Gage, Barb Gaglione, Michelle Garnett, Rosa Garnett, Alex Hohenstein, Judy Jones, Tom Juhasz, Ralph Kane, Dylan King, Jason Lanese, Andrea Lanzalaca, Sara Mendes, Phyllis Nemeth, Bernice Novak, Don Rusher Jr., Norm Schuette, Arlene Stoltz, Tim Susaneck, Tom Susaneck, Phyllis Treichel, Phyllis Welker, Linda Wright, Wilma Dancy, Bill Helmick, Nancy Helmick, Robert Lambrecht, Kim (Novak) Leonhardt, Laura Mele, Judy Morgan, Kris Sandor, Bill Wilkens, Eugene Winfrey, the Copeland/Lane Family

**LAST WEEK**

General Fund receipts for week ending 7/26/2020: \$1824.00

## *Lectionary Blog: 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.*

*This, and other resources for the journey of faith, available at [LivingLutheran.org](http://LivingLutheran.org), as well as our own website: [covenantmaplehts.org](http://covenantmaplehts.org).*

### ***Adjusting Day-to-Day: Food Pantry Continues to Serve During Time of Coronavirus***

As coronavirus disease 2019(COVID-19) began sweeping around the world Bridge of Peace Community Church in Camden, NJ did what many other congregations did — it adjusted quickly to keep serving its community.

Beginning in early March the congregation began assembling and distributing emergency food-and-toiletry bags containing hand sanitizer, soap, toilet paper, canned food, rice and more.

“We found during Hurricane Sandy that many of our families struggled with the inability to stockpile supplies due to financial instability,” said the Rev. Giselle Coutinho, the church’s pastor. “Since then we have done this twice before as a way of being proactive in our community, to give people we serve a way of caring for their families and be prepared rather than live in fear. This is particularly necessary in places of deep poverty.” As the situation quickly shifted, the congregation’s food pantry — supported in part by your gifts to ELCA World Hunger — adjusted too. Usually to a supermarket-style facility where guests choose their own items. It switched to preassembled food bags to keep guests and volunteers safe. And instead of accepting food drop-offs in person, Pastor Giselle asked the local community to order items online and have them delivered directly to the pantry. Still, her top concern is keeping the growing number of guests and the volunteers healthy.

“[The volunteers] are incredibly passionate about this work. They will do anything to make sure there’s not hunger in this city,” Pastor Giselle said. “It’s a very difficult adjustment. It’s day-to-day and hour to hour, people coming together and figuring out new ways to do things.”

Along with modifying the food pantry, Bridge of Peace has also made adjustments to its congregational life and ministry, from hosting Bible studies via video conference to enlarging its domestic violence ministry while families and partners are confined at home together. As homeless shelters in Camden filled up, Bridge of Peace continued to serve people experiencing homelessness.

“Our ministry believes that no one should ever go to bed hungry,” Pastor Giselle said.

“We’re just trying to be present to our community. Even in the midst of being physically distant, we can be socially present to each other.”

Despite the ongoing and anticipated challenges, Pastor Giselle said she sees God at work. Usually the pantry offers produce only in the summer as it works with local farmers, but recent community connections led to a new partnership to get produce beginning in April, which helps provide even more healthy food to even more people in this time of great need.

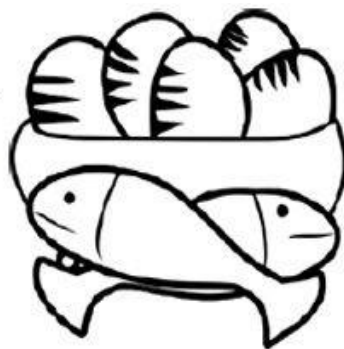
“That’s really the work of God in the midst of this. Whenever we think we aren’t going to have enough, there is enough.”

- *ELCA World Hunger LifeLines Spring 2020*

# Jesus Feeds the 5000

Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. John 6:11 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on John 6:1-14



H J F W W W H F J S S X N N V  
V B B O A T T B K X A Y C D D  
X P T J M F L N A M T H Q P J  
C D Q F E A A C K K I E N T R  
T H C L O H V R E U S G K W Z  
O E U U T L G I T Z F C P E V  
W A X T J R L P X Z I L A L V  
N L H T X E Z O L S E P M V B  
S E I C Y H S V W P D B V E I  
L D C R G S C U L E E S F S K  
J O T A E M I M S J D O D K C  
F B A S K E T F U L S W P S K  
P I B V T T A K B D O H S L W  
P S S L E B D U I R K M X M E  
Q D J H K S F K C L M E H A O

JESUS	BASKETFULS	SATISFIED	CROWDS	LOAVES
THANKS	LEFT	FOLLOWED	PEOPLE	TOWNS
TWELVE	HEALED	FISH	BOAT	SICK