

The 10th Sunday after Pentecost

“Satisfied”

Matthew 14:20

August 2, 2026

Rev. Ed Weber

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, our text for this 10th Sunday after Pentecost is from our Gospel reading, Matthew 14:20.

“20 So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained.”

So far our text:

Filled...ate as much as they could...and still had leftovers! But were they completely satisfied? They may have felt satisfied for the moment. But, they were lacking what they truly needed to be satisfied as our Old Testament reading told us from Isaiah 55:

“Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. 2 Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance. 3 Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live;”

Yes, a good meal satisfies for the moment, but then a few hours later, comes the question? What’s for dinner?

God offers everyone, yes, everyone, something that truly satisfies and is good to eat. And it comes without a price. You can’t buy it! Listen carefully to Me, God says. Let your soul delight itself in abundance. Let your soul be fully satisfied. Hear and your soul shall live.

And what is it that God so graciously offers to everyone? **“I will make an everlasting covenant with you—the sure mercies of David.”**

And what is that everlasting covenant? The Messianic promises given to David and his descendants, culminating in the great Son of David, Jesus Christ. In this King, in this Seed of David, God established His throne forever to all generations.

So we hear in Psalm 89, God saying:

“I have made a covenant with My chosen, I have sworn to My servant David:

4 ‘Your seed I will establish forever, and build up your throne to all generations.”

And this is what Jesus desired to offer to the 5000, to that generation and all generations – Himself, the Son of David, the Son of God, the Savior of the world! What compassion Jesus had on the crowd that followed Him. He healed their sick. But most importantly He taught them – taught them many things, the many promises of God of the Messiah.

So we hear in Mark 6, the parallel account of the feeding of the 5000 these words:

“And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. So He began to teach them many things.”

Sheep without a shepherd. Souls unsatisfied.

Maybe you remember the Snickers commercial. “Snickers satisfies”. Maybe that’s true for the moment, but the Good Shepherd Jesus wanted to give the people and us something much more enduring – life with Him – life in His sheepfold – care and eternal protection of body and soul from the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for the sheep to pay for all their sins. Satisfaction for the soul!

Yes, the world strives to be satisfied. The world strives to satisfy the customer, strives to guarantee satisfaction or your money back, strives to offer you the latest and best to really satisfy what your missing in life, a new phone, a new car, a new look, a new song, a new experience, a new place to visit, a new food...the list goes on...

And God gives us these things in life to enjoy, but these things can also become one’s only delight. These things, the riches of this world can also choke out what is most important, Jesus the Savior.

Jesus gives some warnings to beware of in Luke 6:

“25 Woe to you who are full, for you shall hunger.” Luke 6:25

“But woe to you who are rich, For you have received your consolation.” Luke 6:24

If one only seeks to be satisfied with the things of this world, then there is great hunger of the soul that is left in great need of being filled. If riches are one’s consolation, then the soul is left wanting and distressed.

Paul explains the Christian perspective of living in this world in Philippians 4 – complete trust in God.

“11 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: 12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. 13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

Philippians 4:11-13

And he tells Timothy and also us these words of wisdom:

“6 Now godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.” 1 Timothy 6:6-8

When I was at the LCMS national convention, a man at the hotel who recognized that I was a pastor, sat down and we started talking. He was very successful in his work and well off and told me he was a Christian. Then he asked me simply, “what can I do about greed?” It bothered him that he wanted more and more and saw ways that he could get more and more. I reminded him of the true riches that last forever, the riches of knowing Jesus as your Lord and Savior. That changes our eternal perspective of life and what’s important. I told him this passage from Proverbs 30.

“Give me neither poverty nor riches—Feed me with the food allotted to me; 9 Lest I be full and deny You, And say, “Who is the Lord?” Or lest I be poor and steal, And profane the name of my God.” Proverbs 30:8-9

Matthew 6:33

“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

There’s no need to worry about tomorrow. He who multiplied fish and bread for 5000 and then 4000 can surely care for your daily needs. And He promises that He will.

However, some of the 5000 who were fed were not satisfied with Jesus’ promises. John 6:15 tells us: **“15 Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone.”**

They wanted to capture Jesus and have Him be their king who could give them their hearts desire whenever they wanted. Jesus didn’t come to make His kingdom of this

world. He didn't want to leave everyone in this sinful world where evil, greed, envy and dissatisfaction never end. Jesus came to establish His eternal Kingdom, a new earth and new heavens where righteousness dwells. So He departed to be alone, as He sometimes did to pray. To pray for those whose hearts were hardened. The next day He spoke to them again.

“26 Jesus answered them and said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. 27 Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.” 28 Then they said to Him, “What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?” 29 Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.” John 6:26-29

“My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

34 Then they said to Him, “Lord, give us this bread always.”

35 And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

Jesus is true food for the soul. Food that satisfies the soul because Jesus gives Himself, His sacrifice to you, for you, that gives you full pardon, full salvation, full righteousness, fullness of life now and for eternity. He gives this to you through the gift of faith. Your eating and drinking of Jesus the bread of life, the living water is by faith. And where there is this eating and drinking of soul, there is no more hunger!

Yet, the people did not see Jesus as the Son of God come down from heaven, the Savior of the world.

“42 And they said, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How is it then that He says, ‘I have come down from heaven’?”

51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.”

So Jesus tells them and us exactly how we will live forever! It took the sacrifice of Jesus flesh on the cross to give us life, for you and for all people! For the world. Jesus death and resurrection satisfies the entire world with exactly what the world needs! Not another

Snickers bar, but life – eternal life! His resurrection guarantees that you who trust in Jesus will live forever. Satisfaction guaranteed!

Jesus had to become a true man just like us to take on our sins, the world's sins! Why? To satisfy the wrath of God against sinful man, against us! Yes, there was satisfaction at the cross! Jesus satisfied His Father on our behalf. Jesus poured out His blood on our behalf to reconcile the world to God! It is finished! Said Jesus! Full satisfaction made!

When do you receive what Jesus won? When does your soul receive this complete and full satisfaction? You are receiving it now as the Holy Spirit brings it to your souls through His living Word. You have received it at your baptism and Eleia will receive this full satisfaction for her soul in moment. For your baptism unites you with Jesus death and resurrection! His life is connected to your life. His righteousness is yours. Full righteousness, full pardon, full salvation, heir of the kingdom of heaven! Satisfaction guaranteed!

What God does with simple water and His life giving Word is regenerate the soul that was never content, never satisfied, always wanting, always searching.

Listen to Titus 3:

“3 For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.”

In a word – unsatisfied! Deceived into thinking that anything in this world could satisfy you! So what did God do? He stopped your searching and gave you exactly what you need – gave the world what it needed – His Son.

Paul continues in Titus:

“4 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us,”

Jesus, true Man, true God, showed His kindness, love and mercy by His saving work on the cross. And in our baptism, gives us this gift to our soul “the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit”. So that Jesus' righteousness becomes your righteousness through faith. What does Paul conclude?

“that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

Hope that cannot disappoint because it is based on God's promise to you. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved! Satisfaction guaranteed!

And when a baptized believer has grown in the faith, and studied God's Word and has been confirmed in the teachings of God's Word, then Jesus offers another gift to satisfy the soul. For the Christian who has been taught to examine oneself and repent of one's sins, Jesus offers another gift that requires one to trust His Word and believe what He says is true.

For Jesus takes simple bread and says, "This is My Body" and simple wine, and says "This is My blood". Take and eat. Take and drink for the forgiveness of your sins. Satisfaction guaranteed!

How He offers His very body and very blood in with and under the bread and wine, we do not know or are able to understand. How did Jesus multiply 5 pieces of bread and 2 fish and feed 5000 fully and still have 12 baskets left over?

Jesus does not ask us to understand the how, but only believe that He is the Son of God who laid out the earth above the waters, created the moon and stars, brought quail and bread from heaven to satisfy the Israelites, made water gush out of a rock, and so many more miracles.

God invites you and I to hear His Word and believe that Jesus is the Living Bread, the Savior of the World and believing have life in His name.

He does all this out of great compassion for us that we would see Him not as the Bread King but the King of Kings. Not look to Him only to supply our daily needs, which He graciously does for all people, but to look to Him to supply our greatest need, the full satisfaction of our souls by His redeeming blood.

**"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled."
Matthew 5:6**

And having our souls completely filled, Jesus promises us that He will add all these things that we need for our daily lives! Satisfaction guaranteed!

Amen.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Amen. (Philippians 4:7)