



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Brenda Wicklund

August 2, 2020-Nineth Sunday after Pentecost

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

“We are called by God to grow in faith together, sharing Christ’s love with each other and our community”



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.

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Reconciling God,

C: 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 in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.

L: 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.

C: Amen.

Special Music “Everything Is Beautiful”

Joanne Richards and Elaine Jensen

Jesus loves the little children, all the little children of the world. Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in his sight. Jesus loves the little children of the world

Everything is beautiful in its own way. Like a starry summer night or a snow covered winter's day. Everybody's beautiful in their own way. Under God's heaven, the world's gonna find a way.

There is none so blind as he who will not see. We must not close our minds, we must let our thoughts be free. For every hour that passes by, you know the world gets a little bit older. It's time to realize that beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder

Everything is beautiful in its own way. Like a starry summer night or a snow covered winter's day. Ah, sing it children. Everybody’s beautiful in their own.

Greeting

Red Worship Book pg. 203

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Kyrie

Red Worship Book pg. 203

C: Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer. We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.

Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin. Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.

Have mercy on us, Lord, make sin and shame depart. Renew us with your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts!

Canticle of Praise

Red Worship Book pg. 204

C: Come, let us join our cheerful songs with angels round the throne; ten thousand thousand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.

“Worthy the Lamb that died,” they cry, “to be exalted thus!” “Worthy the Lamb,” our lips reply, “for he was slain for us!”

Jesus is worthy to receive honor and pow'r divine; and blessings, more than we can give, be, Lord, forever thine.

Let all creation join in one to bless the sacred name of God who sits upon the throne, and to adore the Lamb.

Prayer of the Day

L: 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.

C: Amen.

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.

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.

Psalms 145:8-9, 14-21

L: The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,

C: slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

L: LORD, you are good to all,

C: and your compassion is over all your works.

L: The Lord upholds all those who fall

C: and lifts up those who are bowed down.

L: The eyes of all wait upon you, O LORD,

C: and you give them their food in due season.

L: You open wide your hand

C: and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

L: You are righteous in all your ways

C: and loving in all your works.

L: You are near to all who call upon you,

C: to all who call upon you faithfully.

L: You fulfill the desire of those who fear you;

C: you hear their cry and save them.

L: You watch over all those who love you,

C: but all the wicked you shall destroy.

L: My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD;

C: let all flesh bless God's holy name forever and ever.

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

Second Lesson: 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. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Red Worship Book pg. 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.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew

Red Worship Book pg. 206

C: Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

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

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.

"The Gospel of Our Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

Red Worship Book pg. 206

Sermon

"Compassion, It Is A Miracle"

Pastor Brenda Wicklund

Matthew 14:13-21

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

I love teaching the First Communion Classes to the kids in the parishes that I have served, the younger the better. I love teaching Confirmation classes yet the kids are a little bigger. If I am teaching first through third graders, they are full of lots of energy and wit, but they are willing to hear me and it is exciting to them. They have compassion for each other and they are so excited to receive the bread and the wine the body and blood of Jesus Christ. They love baking bread. They have no problem believing in miracles, especially when it comes to this lesson. One of the lessons I love the most is when we read the story of Jesus Christ in the Feeding of the 5000 (5000 men, plus women and children).

You see, they are right in line with the love and compassion of Jesus Christ. Jesus has just gotten word that the fiasco of John the Baptists death (Matthew 14:1-12) saddened, I am certain. He withdrew we are told to a boat to a deserted place by himself. Might have been to cry, pray, get angry who knows, but he went away. Nevertheless, the problem was, he had healed, loved, forgiven and just had such a following that he could not go far. They were following him on foot. He noticed a large crowd. He had compassion on them. He took action. He healed the sick. (Matthew 14:13-14).

Certainly, a very large crowd. No large crowds allowed right now. However, think of the last time you were with a plus of 5000. The disciples know they are hungry, they know they have a long way to go before they get home, and they know they do not have the means or the quantity to feed these people. They knew they have a problem. Some problems you just know you cannot solve. I would agree.

Although, they did have some food. Jesus said, "Do not send them away. YOU give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here, but five loaves and two fish." Jesus said, "Bring them here to me." Everyone sat down on the ground. Imagine the excitement, the anticipation. He looked up, imagine to God, and blessed and broke the loaves, and handed them to the disciples and the disciples gave them to crowds. All ate and were full. With leftovers. Everyone full. Happy. Fed. By Jesus. (Matthew 14:13-21).

A miracle to say the least, yet picture the compassionate Lord that drove him to action for all people. Sympathy literally moves Jesus. He is compelled to act. The disciples are not wrong, they did not have enough to feed them, maybe they could not imagine feeding and healing all these people like Jesus did and does. However, how many times for us and maybe them, we have compassion on others, yet we do not move to action.

Jesus moves to action. The disciples were not being hard-hearted they were being practical. It might be that Jesus wondered why, if they had some, they were sending them away?

Besides the miracle, Jennifer t. Kaalund (Working Preacher) says this: *it is a wonder he did not order them away, instead of commanding them to leave, he commands them to sit on the grass. He then gets to work doing what he has come to do-curing every disease and sickness among the people. The multiplication of the loaves of bread and the fish harkens to the previous parable that speaks to the crowd concerning the mustard seed. The Kingdom of heaven produces a plentiful harvest from the smallest of seeds.*

Jesus gets to work on both their spiritual needs and the physical needs. He is concerned for the sick and the hungry, the down and out and the joyful, those with needs and those that have who can provide and give to others.

We have people with needs in our community and world. Spiritually drained with the stress and anxiety of the world some people just need a break. They need food in the real sense. They need a step up, some examples, and real items behind the words. They need Jesus Christ to reveal himself in each one of us to address the needs and go forward in action as if he did and still moves us to a miracle for someone.

Even though we cannot have most of our activities that we usually have done in the past, we can still look for ways to help in our own homes and our workplace. The church is all of us. The church is not closed. Jesus Christ and the church needs you to get some miracles for someone.

Starts with compassion. Ends with action. Miracles are still happening for each of us in ways we would never have thought of, even in some bread and wine.

The First Communion children come excited, come jumping, come in awe of the miracle that we partake in when God fed the Israelites and us (Exodus 16:4-8) and Jesus with his miracle of bread and fish, and now in the bread and then wine, the body and blood of Jesus Christ. They know the story and relish in the act of love for them, and Jesus taking care of them.

We can do no other. We share in this excitement and compassion for all. Go forward, go ahead, and experience the Kingdom of God and all the miracles that go along with this loving, forgiving, and grace filled life in Jesus Christ.

Be as excited and jump around just as if it is your First Communion. Amen.

Song- "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

HOD

Nicene Creed

Red Worship Book pg. 104

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Offering Prayer

L: God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Water and word, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.

C: Amen

Prayers of Intercession

L: Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence

L: You take resources that appear to be meager, bless them, and there is enough. May your church trust that what you bless and ask us to share with the world is abundantly sufficient. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Your bountiful creation offers sustenance and life for all creatures. Protect this abundance for the well-being of all. Reverse the damage we have caused your creation. Replenish ground water supplies, provide needed rains in places of drought, and protect forests from wildfires. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: You offer yourself to all the nations and peoples of the earth, inviting everyone to abundant life. Bring the prophetic vision to fullness, that all nations will run to you and that nations who do not know you will find their joy in you. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: You open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. Hear the anguish of tender hearts who cry to you in suffering and satisfy their deepest needs. Bring wholeness and healing to those who suffer in body, heart, soul, and mind. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: You offer freely the fullness of salvation. Give our congregation such a welcoming heart, that our words and actions may extend your free and abundant hospitality to all whom we encounter. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: You gather your saints as one, united in the body of Jesus. Bring us with all your saints to the heavenly banquet. We remember with love and thanksgiving the saints we have known. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

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

C: Amen.

Words of Institution

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.

The Lord's Prayer

Red Worship Book pg. 208

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.

Song- "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness" Red Worship Book 843

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

the worship is ended ... let the service begin...



Forgiveness, Prayer of Day, Offertory Prayer, Prayer of Church and Dismissal.
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Rick Bicking, Treasurer-Monday/Tuesday or 320-237-0256

Donna Martin, Secretary- Tuesday-Thursday. 9 am-3 pm

Kathy Thompson, Financial Secretary-Wednesday and Thursday

You have 4 options for Sunday Worship Services:

1. In-person Limited Worship in the Sanctuary at 9:30 am.
2. “Live” at 9:30 am on Facebook (firstlutheranhinckleyelca) or watch later on Facebook.
3. “Live” 9:30 am on YouTube (goggle First Lutheran Church Hinckley, MN) then play **or** watch it on our webpage (flchinckley.org) under events, YouTube.
4. You can come to the Church parking lot at 9:30 am, sit in your car, tune into 90.7 FM on your radio and listen to the Service live.

Please feel free to choose any of the following options.

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