



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Brenda Wicklund

July 25, 2021, Ninth 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”

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Today is the first of five Sundays with gospel readings from John 6, the first four of which focus on Jesus as bread of life. Today Jesus feeds thousands of people with five loaves and two fish. What we have, what we bring to Jesus’ table, seems like it is not nearly enough to meet all the needs we see around us. But it is not the adequacy of our supplies or our skills that finally makes the difference: it is the power of Jesus working in the littlest and least to transform this world into the world God desires, a world where all the hungry are satisfied.

Prelude

Pat Anderson

Welcome to Worship this morning. We will be sharing Holy Communion, Communion will be given two ways, you can either come up front and receive from Pastor or you can pick up the convenient cup/wafer before the service and receive at your seat.

Confession and Forgiveness

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

C: Amen.

L: Drawn to Christ and seeking God’s abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: God, our provider,

C: 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 words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

L: 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.

C: Amen.

Hymn “Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult” (vs. 1, 4 &5)

Red Worship Book 696

- 1 Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea, day by day his clear voice sounding, saying, Christian, follow me”:
- 4 In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and pleasures, "Christian, love me more than these."
- 5 Jesus calls us! By your mercy, Savior, may we hear your call, give our hearts to your obedience, serve and love you best of all.

Greeting

Red Worship Book pg. 147

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. 147-148

L: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

Canticle of Praise

Red Worship Book pg. 149-150

L: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

C: Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.

Alleluia

Prayer of the Day

L Gracious God, you have placed 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.

C: Amen.

Welcome New Members- Affirmation by Assembly

Red Worship Book pg. 237

L; You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

- to live among God's faithful people,
- to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
- to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
- to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
- and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

The assembly makes affirmation:

C: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The minister addresses the assembly.

L: People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

C: do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

The presiding minister prays for God's blessing.

L: us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence both now and forever.

C: Amen.

Today's reading is part of a larger section of 2 Kings that describes the miracles of Elisha, the successor to Elijah. Here the prophet gives food to a hungry crowd. Though there is not enough food to go around, Elisha trusts God, who provides enough and even more to satisfy the need.

First Reading: 2 Kings 4:42-44

⁴²A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing food from the first fruits to [Elisha,] 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." ⁴³But 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.'" ⁴⁴He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the LORD.

Psalm: Psalm 145:10-18

L: All your works shall praise you, O LORD,

C: and your faithful ones shall bless you.

L: They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom

C: and speak of your power,

L: that all people may know of your power

C: and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

L: Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures through-out all ages.

C: You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in 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.

We have been rooted and grounded in the love of Christ, which surpasses all human knowledge. Because Christ dwells in our hearts, our lives are continuously strengthened and empowered by the ongoing presence of the Spirit.

Second Lesson: Ephesians 3:14-21

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

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

Gospel Acclamation

Red Worship Book pg. 151

C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John

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

Red Worship Book pg. 151

In John's gospel, the miracles of Jesus are called "signs," because they reveal the true character of God. As such, they remain within the mystery of God and cannot be brought under human control.

Gospel: John 6:1-21

¹Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. ²A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. ³Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. ⁴Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. ⁵When 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?" ⁶He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. ⁷Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." ⁸One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, ⁹"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" ¹⁰Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. ¹¹Then 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. ¹²When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." ¹³So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. ¹⁴When 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."

¹⁵When 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.

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

The Gospel of Our Lord

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

Red Worship Book pg. 151

Children's Sermon

Sermon: John 6: 1-21-Fed for the Kingdom

Pastor Brenda Wicklund

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. Amen.

These last couple of weeks I have had a chance to take my Kayak out on Grindstone Lake. One of the first times, it was so windy, and along with a few boats, I actually got wet and waves came in my Kayak. Last week it was so calm I just sailed through. It was beautiful and lovely, yet it can get a bit scary at times. That can happen on the lake.

As we turn to the Gospel of John for the next few Sundays we wrap our head around the signs that Jesus Christ is giving his disciples and the people that are following him as he shows him who he is. He had many people following him and he went to the mountain and sat down with his disciples. The Passover was near we are told. Jesus would have been there to celebrate the freedom from slavery the God had given the Israelites, how he protected them, and rained down food, manna from heaven, fed.

Now a large crowd was approaching. This is typical; crowds followed Jesus all the time. What comes next are Jesus' words. "Jesus said to Phillip, 'Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?'" Jesus was testing Phillip, or waiting for an answer. Unlike the other Gospels, where the disciples are telling them to go home and worried about the people eating, Jesus is starting the conversation. Well, they could not feed them if they had six-month wages, yet Andrew told Jesus had a boy with two fish, dried fish, and five barley loaves of bread, a poor person's bread. Jesus invited them to sit down on the green grass and Jesus gave thanks for what they had,

and Jesus distributed the bread and fish. They all had what they needed, with some left for dinner later. The people thought this man a prophet. A prophet spoke for God and performed signs. A prophet provided a miracle, with Jesus at the center. Only this man is the Messiah. Jesus provides for him.

Jesus Christ is feeding and giving of himself completely and showing them the Kingdom. The new kingdom where if they are in a boat, in the storm, in the heartache and fear, Jesus even walks on water in the darkness, Jesus says, “It is I, (I, I am, God) do not be afraid(John 6: 20).” I have this. Do not fear. God fed through the manna in the desert and they still celebrate the Passover, Jesus grants provision and liberation in this passage. People need food, yet they also need to hear and see Jesus and his signs.

Certainly, this shows and tells us how to feed those in need. We have many opportunities to share in this giving for our neighbor in need, reminded of this at our New Member meal. Locally in our community, our area and the world. Opportunities abound; A Place for You, Food Shelf, Blessing Box, Community Meal, Homeless packets, mission trips, ELCA World Hunger, Faith in Action and Confirmation, the list goes on and we feed and share. We look at the church and our own lives and live in abundance more than in scarcity. We believe and trust that God will provide.

Then we come to the table. The table where we know that our Lord suffered and died, but overcame death so that we might live, and live in abundance. Where we eat the bread, Christ’s body, and drink the wine, Christ’s blood so that we are reminded of the strength we get from him, the grace and love we receive, and the love of a life eternally with him, yet always walking in the Kingdom of God’s, sharing, giving and proclaiming for all to hear.

Jesus is giving more than food. Look and see the signs all around you. We are in the boat, in fear and chaos much of the time, yet he is with us, not just for a fill up, but a banquet of an abundant forgiven life. We have had winds and waves, sorrow and upheaval, chaos, yet calm and peace, yet we come to the one that gave himself just for us.

Take and experience, Jesus sitting on the grass or in the boat when it is windy, or calm. Jesus is giving of himself, so in all that you do and is not going anywhere. Fix your eyes on Jesus, in the darkness or the light. Amen.

Hymn “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ” Red Worship Book 674

1 Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy: bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Refrain: Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound! Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!

2 Christ is able to make us one, at the table he sets the tone, teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express. *Refrain*

3 Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt, gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) ev’rywhere! *Refrain*

Offering Prayer –You may leave your offering as you exit the church, table with offering plates are there.

L: Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. **C: Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

L: Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

L: We pray for the church. Bless the ministries of our neighboring congregations. Empower churches throughout the world and encourage missionaries who accompany global neighbors. Kindle in us a spirit of collaboration, that all people may know your loving works. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: We pray for creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought and come to the aid of those enduring sweltering heat. Nurture wheat and barley crops grown for the nourishment of your people and conserve aquatic habitats and fish populations. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: We pray for those who govern. Cast out arrogance, selfishness, and corruption and instruct those who lead to practice compassion and humility. Inspire them with a vision of the common good and a commitment to ensure that all who hunger are fed. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: We pray for those bowed down by heavy burdens: those who are unemployed or underemployed, those unable to find affordable housing, and those without health insurance. Console those who grieve and hear the cries of those who call to you for healing. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: We pray for this assembly. Deepen our resolve to use what we have to serve those in need. When we worry that we do not have enough resources for ministry, assure us of your abundance. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: We give thanks for those who have died. As you sustained them through all their days, so dwell in our hearts, that we may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

Red Worship Book pg. 152

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy, Holy, Holy

Red Worship Book pg. 153

L: Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

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.

Words of Institution

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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. 154

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.

Lamb of God

Red Worship Book pg. 154

L: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymn

“Bread of Life from Heaven”

Red Worship Book 474

Refrain: Bread of life from heaven, your blood and body given, we eat this bread and drink this cup until you come again.

- 1 Break now the bread of Christ's sacrifice; giving thanks, hungry ones, gather round. Eat, all of you, and be satisfied; in Christ's presence the loaves will abound. *Refrain*
- 2 Seek not the food that will pass away; set your hearts on the food that endures. Come, learn the true and the living way, that the fullness of life may be yours. *Refrain*
- 3 Love as the one who, in love for you, gave himself for the life of the world. Come to the one who is food for you, that your hunger and thirst be no more. *Refrain*
- 4 Dwell in the one who now dwells in you; make your home in the lifegiving Word. Know only Christ, Holy One of God, and believe in the truth you have heard. *Refrain*
- 5 Drink of this cup and declare his death; eat this bread and believe Easter morn; trust his return and, with ev'ry breath, praise the one in whom you are reborn. *Refrain*

Prayer after Communion

L: Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. **C: Amen.**

Blessing

L: The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ✚ be upon you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Hymn

“Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing”

Red Worship Book 544

- 1 Praise the Lord, rise up rejoicing, worship, thanks, devotion voicing: glory be to God on high! Christ, your cross and passion sharing, by this eucharist declaring yours the final victory.
- 2 Scattered flock, one shepherd sharing, lost and lonely, one voice hearing, ears attentive to your word; by your blood new life receiving, in your body, firm believing, we are yours, and you the Lord.
- 3 Sins forgiven, wrongs forgiving, we go forth alert and living in your Spirit, strong and free. Partners in your new creation, seeking peace in ev'ry nation, may we faithful foll'wers be.

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

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





****The Noisy offering this month is for Foster Child Bags, there will be a bowl as you exit the church.**

Next Week's Readings and Psalm

First Reading

Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

Second Reading

Ephesians 4:1-16

Psalm

Psalm 78:23-29

Gospel

John 6:24-35

Sunday Filming

**** Just a reminder that in-gathering Worship, is being filmed "LIVE."**



Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."

Romans 15:7

We welcomed the following new members at Worship today:

Don and Shirley Terhell as Associate Members. Sponsors are Virgil and Joyce Seegebarth.

Tom and Donna Wachsmuth. Sponsors are Jack and Christy Koch.

Nate, Angie and Luna Ramirez. Sponsor is Elaine Garaghty.

Susan Skalicky. Sponsor is Kathryn Souer.



We express our Christian sympathy to the families of Robert (brother-in-law of Peggy Smith) and Patricia Sandin (mother of Wendy Reamer-Johnson.) May they know the consolation of your love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord and give them peace.

Announcements/Calendar

Sun. 8:30 am Coffee Fellowship; 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion/Receive New Members.

Mon. 3-5 pm Holy Communion Introduction.

Tues. 9:30 am Women's Bible Study; 3-5 pm Holy Communion Introduction.

Wed. Off-site memorial for Earl Johnson.

Thurs. 7 am Men's Text Study.

Sat. 8 pm AA mtg.

Sun. 8:30 am Coffee Fellowship; 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion/First Communion.



Holy Communion instruction training , is being offered at First Lutheran Church for any child that has not had their training in Holy Communion.

Age requirement is 1st grade and up. These classes are the beginning of our learning about Holy Communion and no matter the age, we grow and learn more about this every time we worship and hear the words of Institution.

We will be meeting Mon., July 26- Tues., July 27th from 3-5 pm at church. Please call Pastor Brenda or the church office to sign-up.

First Communion will be on Sun., August 1st during the 9:30 am Worship Service.



Prayer Concerns and Sympathy ~Don Storlie (father of Jeremy Storlie), Brie Timms (sister-in-law of Peggy Smith), Kim Reisig (sister-in-law of Amy Tvedt), Carol Winson (Marina Vork's daughter), Tyler (son of Jan Peura), Jeremy (friend of Sheila Jensen), Marsha Skoog (friend of Patty Sweeny), Pearl Anderson (sister of Joyce Seegebarth), and John Bassett.

For our members in care facilities ~ Ruta Kalnins, Freida Pfahl and Dorothy Svendsen.

For firefighters, EMT's, those who serve to protect Policemen and women and military.

For world peace. For our companion synods.

For our missionaries: Jacqueline and Patrick Bencke

Upcoming Events

Monday & Tuesday, July 26th & 27th, Holy Communion Instruction Training (3- 5:00 pm)

Sunday, August 1st-First Communion during Worship

Tuesday, August 3rd-10 am-9 pm- Feed My Starving Children/Bunker Beach Water Park

Tuesday, August 3rd -5-6:30 pm Community Meal.

Members,

We are in for a change! Those that have been/are using VANCO's "Give Plus Mobile Application" for giving on their phones or tablets, will soon have an even easier/better way to give. **Starting September 1st**, we have a new application called "VANCO Mobile". Attached, you will find a form that will help "walk" you through this new process. Any questions, please feel free to call me Wednesdays or Thursdays, at the church office. This information will also be on our WEB page, for those that need it.

Thank you,

Kathy Thompson

Financial Secretary