

Salem Lutheran Church

115 N. Washington Ave., Albert Lea

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

July 28, 2024

Gathering

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

***Confession and Forgiveness**

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the God of manna,
the God of miracles,
the God of mercy.

Amen.

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider,

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.

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.

Amen.

***HYMN**

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

#461

***GREETING**

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

***Canticle of Praise**

Glory to God in the Highest

pp. 148-149

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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. **Amen.**

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: 2 Kings 4:42-44

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.

⁴² A 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." ⁴³ But 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.'" ⁴⁴ He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 145:10-18

You open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. (Ps. 145:16)

¹⁰ All your works shall praise | you, O LORD,
and your faithful | ones shall bless you.

¹¹ **They shall tell of the glory | of your kingdom
and speak | of your power,**

¹² that all people may know | of your power
and the glorious splendor | of your kingdom.

¹³ **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures through- | out
all ages.**

You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in | all your works. R

¹⁴ The Lord upholds all | those who fall
and lifts up those who | are bowed down.

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

¹⁶ You open | wide your hand
and satisfy the desire of every | living thing.

¹⁷ **You are righteous in | all your ways
and loving in | all your works.**

¹⁸ You are near to all who | call upon you,
to all who call up- | on you faithfully. **R**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:14-21

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.

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

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

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation (ELW #172 – Halle, Halle, Hallelujah)**

***GOSPEL READING: John 6:1-21**

The holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

¹ Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. ² A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. ³ Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. ⁴ Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. ⁵ When 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?" ⁶ He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. ⁷ Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." ⁸ One 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?" ¹⁰ Jesus 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. ¹¹ Then 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. ¹² When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." ¹³ So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. ¹⁴ When 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."

¹⁵ When 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.

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

The gospel of the Lord,
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Mark Boorsma

***HYMN**

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

ELW #674

***APOSTLE'S 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**

One in the communion of saints and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we join our voices in prayer.

A brief silence.

God of generations, you work in us far more than we can ask or imagine. Bless the church you have called into being across time and space, and fill it with the power of the Spirit for loving service.

In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of field and forest, streams and seas, you are the fullness of all things. As grains of wheat grow upon the earth and fish swim in the waters, sustain your creation. Protect harvests and give every person food in due season.

In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God beyond borders, you rule all in all. Bless the work of humanitarians and peacekeepers, shield those who live, work, or serve in harm's way, and bring an end to war and conflict.

In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of healing, you open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. We remember any who are sick or suffering especially Larry, Woody, Dean, Mary, Pat, Kermit, Terry and all others on our hearts and minds this day. Families in our community who endure hunger, those who seek asylum or citizenship, and our beloved for whom death is near.

In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of grace, you root us and ground us in love. As you inspired our ancestors in this place in their ministry, sustain us also in new endeavors, that your glory may be made known, and your lovingkindness shared anew.

In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of all, your love in Christ surpasses all knowledge. We give thanks for the departed who have come to know the fullness of your grace. Join our voices with theirs and all the saints in singing your praises.

In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Holy God, holy and merciful: into your outstretched arms we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

***Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Thanksgiving

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

We very much appreciate your continued giving and generosity at this time.

Offering can be placed in the offering plate at the door.

***OFFERTORY**

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

ELW #184

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Merciful God,

We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us — ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love.

Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us,

Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray . . .

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.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

***Blessing**

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

Amen.

***HYMN**

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

#547

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 150

¹Praise the LORD!

Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty firmament!

²Praise him for his mighty deeds;
praise him according to his surpassing greatness!

³Praise him with trumpet sound;
praise him with lute and harp!

⁴Praise him with tambourine and dance;
praise him with strings and pipe!

⁵Praise him with clanging cymbals;
praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

⁶Let everything that breathes praise the LORD!
Praise the LORD!

Assisting in Worship

Lector: Donna Werner

Coffee: Barb Scheib & Shari Budach

Ushers: Mark & Marcia Gayken

Thank you to Bev Lombardi for the beautiful music this morning.

The flowers near the altar are given by Jack & Donna Werner in memory of our son, Cory Lee on his heavenly birthday.

Our prayers are with the family and friends of Thomas Eustis.

We will be receiving new members on Sunday, August 11th. If you know of anyone interested in membership, please contact Pr. Mark Boorsma or the church office.

Pastor Joel Erickson will be offering GriefShare for 13 weeks starting Sept. 19 at Grace Lutheran Church (his previous 13-week session finished on July 11). There are a lot of people suffering from unprocessed grief. Grief never fully goes away but there is a world of difference when people can process the emotions and thoughts in a safe place where others listen. The half hour videos for each session are excellent. You can sign up via the GriefShare.org website.

Noisy Offering for the months of July and August will go to the Salem Roof Fund. Please be generous.

This Week at Salem

Tuesday, July 30: 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

Friday, August 2: 6:30 a.m. Friday Morning Bible Study (at Bancroft Creek)

Sunday, August 4: 9:00 a.m. Coffee hour

10:00 a.m. Worship Service