

July 25, 2021

9th Sunday after Pentecost

Introduction to the day

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.



GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW P. 116)

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.

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.**

GATHERING SONG *Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult* (ELW #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":
2. As of old Saint Andrew heard it
by the Galilean lake,
turned from home and toil and kindred,
leaving all for Jesus' sake.
3. Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us,
saying, "Christian, love me more."
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

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 (ELW p. 121)

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power, riches, wisdom and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor, 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, alleluia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray... 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

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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 145:10-18

¹⁰All 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,**

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

¹³**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages. You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.**

¹⁴The 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.**

¹⁶You 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.**

¹⁸You are near to all who call upon you, to all who call upon you faithfully.

SECOND READING: 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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 124)

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

GOSPEL: John 6:1-21

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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 the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Break Now the Bread of Life (ELW #515)*

1. Break now the bread of life, dear Lord, to me, as once you broke the loaves beside the sea. Beyond the sacred page I seek you, Lord; my spirit waits for you, O living Word.	2. Bless your own word of truth, dear Lord, to me, as when you blessed the bread by Galilee. Then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall; and I shall find my peace, my All-in-All!	3. You are the bread of life, dear Lord, to me, your holy word the truth that rescues me. Give me to eat and live with you above; teach me to love your truth, for you are love.
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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

Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

We pray for the church. Bless the ministries of our neighboring congregations Trinity Lutheran and St. Francis Catholic churches. 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. **Your mercy is great.**

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. **Your mercy is great.**

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. **Your mercy is great.**

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 (*especially*).

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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. **Your mercy is great.**

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. **Your mercy is great.**

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

PEACE~ The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

MEAL

OFFERING Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful (*ELW p. 128*)

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were
sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.

Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer now.
Grace our table with your presence,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray...**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. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE (ELW p. 129)

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.**

PREFACE (ELW p. 130)

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 130)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven 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. Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 130)

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.

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 134)

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION (ELW p. 134)

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.

COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 135)

**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.**

SONG AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 135)

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of ev'ry people: a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 136)

Let us pray... **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. Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

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

SENDING SONG *Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing* (ELW #545)

1. Lord, dismiss us with your blessing, fill our hearts with joy and peace; let us each, your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace. Oh, refresh us; oh, refresh us, trav'ling through this wilderness.	2. Thanks we give and adoration for your gospel's joyful sound. May the fruits of your salvation in our hearts and lives abound. Ever faithful, ever faithful to your truth may we be found.	3. Savior, when your love shall call us from our struggling pilgrim way, let no fear of death appall us, glad your summons to obey. May we ever, may we ever reign with you in endless day.
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DISMISSAL

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- July 25th 7:00 PM VBS Volunteer meeting at Fisher
- July 26th & 27th 9:00 AM Quilting at Fisher
- Vacation Bible School will be at Fisher Lutheran July 26-29.
- July 29th 6-7:30 PM Ice Cream Social at Fisher Lutheran
- Aug. 1st 9:00 AM Worship at Bygland with Coffee Fellowship to follow
- **A Sweet Baby Girl is on the way!** Please join us for a Baby Shower Honoring **Meredith Christiansen** on Thursday, August 12, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. at the Fisher American Legion (backroom). Everyone is Welcome!! Meredith is registered at Amazon and Target.
- Continuing education leave: Dear members of Fisher and Bygland parish, Over the past several years I have carried over four weeks of continuing education time. At their joint meeting in June, the Bygland and Fisher councils approved my taking these four weeks during the month of August. I will be spending most of that time at our lake cabin on Lake Miltona in Douglas County. So far, I am registered for the Festival of Homiletics, Boundaries Training, and a class on Hybrid Church, all online. I am also registered for an in-person class at Mt. Carmel Ministries, Alexandria, MN, entitled "Light for Daily Living from Luther." This totals three and a half weeks of classes. I will spend the remainder of

the time reading and studying. I will also take time to worship at different congregations. I do not get to sit in the pew very often and I am really looking forward to it! I am also really looking forward to this continuing education time for renewal.
Yours in Christ, Pastor Karen Young Trenne



GOSPEL MESSAGE

July 25, 2021

LECTIONARY 17

A Feast of Grace

Five loaves of bread. Two fish. Thousands of hungry people. Baskets and baskets of leftovers. Today's gospel is a story of startling juxtaposition and miraculous transformation.

It is a story in which God comes in the way God always does—in ordinary elements and imperfect circumstances. Jesus gathers up perceived scarcity, holds questions and fears of inadequacy, and turns meager offerings into a feast of grace for all. And there is enough—enough for everyone to have as much as they could ever want, with plenty to spare. It's a feast that meets physical needs and nourishes physical bodies, and through the mystery of faith also unites the feasters with God and one another.

As we hear these words from John, we too are invited to this ordinary and holy feast. It's a feast that crosses time and space to welcome us in and to send us out. We too get to rejoice in the transformation that happens when we show up to worship, with hands open to receive and a deep hunger for new life.

We recognize our hunger in confession and prayer. We feast on the promises of God's word. We taste God's abundance at the communion table. We are drenched in God's generous love in the waters of baptism. We are joined with the other perfectly ordinary and holy banquetgoers as we raise our voices together in song. And we extend this exuberant lovingkindness to the world when we go forth from worship, filled with hope and prepared for service in Christ's name.

With Christ as the host, there is forever enough food for all. Christ's table is one brimming with grace. All of us are invited, just as we are, with whatever meager offerings we have. For we can trust that in Christ, it is more than enough.

P.O. Box 27
Fisher, MN 56723
Pastor Karen Young Trenne

Fisher Bygland Lutheran Parish
Pastor Karen Young Trenne
209 2nd St. S. P.O. Box 127 Fisher, MN 56723
Parish Office: 218-891-4632 Pastor Karen's Cell: 701-610-3543
Messenger Editor: Jami Olson *office@fisherbygland.org*
www.fisherbygland.org