

ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆Bethany ◆Immanuel ◆Lunder ◆Silver Lake ◆Winnebago



Pentecost 9

August 2, 2020

One in Christ Lutheran Parish

Ministers

Every member of the Parish

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Nineth Sunday after Pentecost

August 2, 2020

COME, HOLY SPIRIT!

We joyfully welcome all guests who are worshipping with us this morning.

We celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit, who excites us with the mission of the church - to be witnesses and share the "good news" to all people.

EMPOWER AND SEND US!

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

✠ GATHERING ✠

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the People of God

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Merciful God, the story of Jacob shows your willingness to enter into the messiness of our human struggles - into fractured relationships, family differences, difficult situations with people we care about. You would think that we would welcome you with open arms, yet we confess that too often our fists are clenched because we do not want to loosen our grip on our possessions and our selfish desires.

We fear that our very lives will be dislocated by the steady impress upon them of your kingdom values of justice, mercy and peace.

Help us to wrestle with the conflicting values, desires and pressures that confront us daily so that we can unclench our hands and open ourselves to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. Only then can we fully embrace others in their pain - and be embraced

In the name of Christ. Amen.

EEXPERIENCING GOD'S GRACE – THE GOOD NEWS

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see everything has become new! All this is from God, to whom we have been reconciled through Christ... in whom we are blessed and forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

OPENING SONG *“One Bread, One Body”*

Refrain

*One bread, one body, one Lord of all;
one cup of blessing which we bless,
and we, though many throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.*

*Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
woman or man, no more. Refrain*

*Many the gifts, many the works,
one in the Lord of all. Refrain*

*Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,
gathered to one for all. Refrain*

APOSTOLIC 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.

SHARING THE PEACE – *Give somebody a call today.*

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Amen.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE *“Glory to God...”*

*Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God’s people on earth.*

*Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.*

*Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God’s people on earth.*

*Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.*

*Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.*

*For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the
Father. Amen.*

*Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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. Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

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

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.

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 55:1-5

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.

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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 9:1-5

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.

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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 14:13-21

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.

The holy gospel according to Matthew. Glory to you, O Lord.

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

CHILDREN SERMON

SERMON

Pastor Bill Peters

SONG OF THE DAY *“I Am the Bread of Life”*

*I am the Bread of life.
You who come to me shall not hunger,
and who believe in me shall not thirst.
No one can come to me unless the Father beckons.*

Refrain

*And I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up on the last day.*

*The bread that I will give
is my flesh for the life of the world,
and if you eat of this bread,
you shall live forever, you shall live forever.*

Refrain

*And I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up on the last day.*

*Unless you eat
of the flesh of the Son of Man
and drink of his blood,
and drink of his blood,
you shall not have life within you. Refrain*

*I am the resurrection,
I am the life.
If you believe in me,
even though you die, you shall live forever. Refrain*

*Yes, Lord, I believe
that you are the Christ,
the Son of God,
who have come into the world. Refrain*

APOSTLES' 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 THE COMMUNITY

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

...Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

✠ SENDING ✠

God blesses us and sends us in mission in the world

BLESSING THREE-FOLD AMEN

SENDING SONG *“Let Us Break Bread Together”*

*Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us break bread together on our knees.*

Refrain

*When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.*

*Let us drink wine together on our knees;
let us drink wine together on our knees. Refrain*

*Let us praise God together on our knees;
let us praise God together on our knees. Refrain*

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

✠ THANKSGIVING ✠

God invites us to respond to His grace

OFFERING

*Please place your gifts in box, send them to the parish office, or use Tithe.ly
(electronic giving).*

Postlude

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UNREASONABLE LOVE

Imagine throwing an impromptu dinner party for thousands of people. Looking out at the huge crowd, would you think, “Yeah, we can do this. It’ll be fun!”? Or would you look in your fridge, cupboards, and freezer and become absolutely certain there was not enough to go around?

It is normal and human to look at the supplies available and make a judgment about whether or not something can be accomplished. It’s reasonable, even! But God’s kingdom is not reasonable. God’s kingdom defies all of our human expectations.

It is not reasonable that the last shall be first. It is not reasonable that God would pour forgiveness on us when we hardly know how to confess. It is not reasonable that the disciples could feed thousands of people with just a few loaves and fishes.

Thanks be to God for the unreasonable, unexpected grace we find in the kingdom! May we brim with gratitude that where we see limits, God knows what is possible. When we stare in shock at the Son of God nailed to the cross, we are sure it’s the end of the story, but God knows differently: love and life are unreasonably more abundant than hatred and death.

When we bring whatever “loaves and fishes” we have in our cupboards to God, God blesses them and makes of them enough. At the Lord’s table, we find the mystery of Christ’s abundant presence in the bread and the wine. At the font, we are joined to the immeasurable, eternal covenant of being God’s beloved through the profuse waters of baptism. It’s preposterous, really, how lavishly, how unreasonably God loves the world! Let us rejoice in God’s unreasonable love and mercy, and join the feast.