



And those who ate were
about five thousand men,
besides women and children.

Matthew 14: 21

Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer (ELCA)

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Worship

Prelude

“Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”

ELW #712, LBW #423

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Ringing of Chimes

Welcome

Gathering

Call to Worship

Psalm 145: 8-9, 14-21

The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹ The LORD is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.

The LORD upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down.

¹⁵ The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season.

¹⁶ You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing.

¹⁷ The LORD is just in all his ways, and kind in all his doings.

¹⁸ The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

¹⁹ He fulfills the desire of all who fear him; he also hears their cry, and saves them.

²⁰ The LORD watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.

²¹ My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, and all flesh will bless his holy name forever and ever.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting,
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. **Amen**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God,

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

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. **Amen**

Hymn

“Praise and Thanksgiving”

ELW #689, LBW #409, vs. 1 & 2

Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer for all things living, you have made good;
harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard, hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.

God bless the labor we bring to serve you, that with our neighbor we may be fed.
sowing or tilling, we would work with you, harvesting, milling for daily bread.

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Greeting

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

Prayer of the Day

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 Christ, our Lord. Amen

The Word**Old Testament Reading***Isaiah 55: 1-5*

Ho, 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.

² Why 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.

³ **Incline 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.

⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵ **See, 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.**

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

Gospel Acclamation*"Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil"**ELW # 512*

Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your word. Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Where love can grow and peace is understood. When my heart is hard, break the stone away.

When my heart is cold, warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

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The Gospel according to Matthew: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel*Matthew 14: 13 - 21*

¹³ Now when Jesus heard this, 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.** ¹⁴ **When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick.** ¹⁵ When 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."

¹⁶ Jesus said to them, "**They need not go away; you give them something to eat.**" ¹⁷ They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." ¹⁸ And he said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹ Then 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.** ²⁰ And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

The Gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon*Rev. Diane M. Goulson*

Grace and peace to you, from our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. Amen

Have you been on a few picnics this summer? Enjoyed your favorite summer foods, the sunshine and a breeze? Picnics take some work. Organizing what foods can be taken, how they need to be stored to stay fresh and safe, and then fixing them. Some picnic foods are best if made in advance like potato salad or baked beans. What are your favorite picnic foods?

Our Gospel today is about a group of people who followed Jesus clear around a lake, as he crossed the lake in a boat, so they could listen to him speak. As it neared evening Jesus told his disciples to feed the people. Please note, we know there were 5000 men, and some versions of the story indicate that family members came with, indicating that there could have been up to 20,000! Note the women and children would have sat separately from the men as they were not allowed to eat together. That is a lot of people!

Jesus took the position as the host of the gathering and the meal. After all the people had come to hear him preach and teach. They had been persistent. He had compassion for them. He healed their sick. We know this gathering, and this meal, this picnic, was a big deal because all four of the Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and even John tell this miracle story. It is the only miracle told of in all four Gospels. Obviously, to scripture writers, it had unusual importance.

And being who we are, people of the Enlightenment, we want to ask was it really a miracle, what really happened? Some say that the disciples, or the little boy as told in John, offered what little they had, 5 loaves of bread and two fish thereby encouraging others to bring out of hiding what they had brought along and soon there was plenty for all. Thus, the miracle is the softening of the people's hearts to share what they had with the strangers around them that evening.

Others say that the meal was merely symbolic, and so that each was allowed a small morsel of bread and fish, and though not satisfying physically, the meal filled a spiritual hunger felt by the gathered group. And then it is compared to Holy Communion. And yet, to limit this event so that it can be "explained" in ways that make us comfortable, limits the purpose of the story and limits God.

The writer of Matthew does not show this to be a big fancy feast to make us think of the "feast to come". This is no banquet with fancy foods. There are no cooked dishes, or fancy fruits, and no wine! Rather, the people are presented with the basics, the bare necessities, bread and fish. And note, again Jesus is not tempted to turn the rocks into bread, as he had been tempted by the devil in the wilderness, but rather, he uses the gifts, the simple things that the disciples have to offer. Bread and fish. Jesus is focused on meeting the physical needs of the people in Matthew's version. Bread and fish.

This is about Jesus, the Christ, the Messiah, caring and providing for his people. He sees their need and he meets it. Though the resources seem small, through the power of God there is enough, with some left over.

This story reminds us of the story of Elisha in 2 Kings where 20 loaves of barley bread are fed to 100 men, and they had some to spare. God had told Elisha "They shall eat and have some left." The Jewish people knew this story and saw God working through Jesus now at their picnic.

In Elisha's story his servant handed the bread out to the men. Note, that at the lakeshore, Jesus has his disciples deliver the food. Jesus takes it, blesses it, breaks it, and gives it to the disciples to disperse out to the crowds. The disciples learn from this and so do we that we are a necessary part of God's ministry to people. We are his instruments of service. In the Greek, the sentence is meant to be emphatic, with force, "**You** give the food to them to eat!" Think about it. Even in the Lord's Prayer, "Give us this day our daily bread" requires active participation from those who wish to see the prayer answered.

And the bounty. From 5 loaves and two fish, possibly 20,000 people were fed. Yes, possibly 20,000 people were fed and yet, 12 baskets of leftovers were gathered. One for each disciple to carry. Nothing was wasted. Sounds like a lot, and yet, 12 baskets of leftovers is miniscule when compared to the amount that was needed and eaten. Perhaps we learn that God provides what is needed with little to share, so there must be no greed or waste, or some will go hungry.

Think of the waste in our lives, especially of food in our society. Think of the newly unemployed, the hungry, the homeless. We pray that God will help them. God calls us into service to make those prayers come true. And with God's help they will. Thanks be to God. Amen

Blessing May the peace of God that passes all understanding,
keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, our Lord. **Amen**

Hymn *“Praise and Thanksgiving”* ELW #689, LBW #409, vs. 3 & 4

Father, providing food for your children, by Wisdom’s guiding teach us to share
one with another, so that rejoicing with us, all others may know your care.

Then will your blessing reach ev’ry people, freely confessing your gracious hand.
Where you are reigning, no one will hunger; your love sustaining showers the land.

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We Respond to the Word

Offering Gathered *Prepare your offering to be mailed to church or bring it to your communion appointment.*

Offering Music *“Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”* ELW #712, LBW #423, vs. 3

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Prayers of Intercession

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.

Though resources may appear to be meager, you bless them, and there is enough. Help the Church
trust that what you bless and ask us to share with the world is abundantly sufficient. Hear us, O God. **Your
mercy is great.**

Your bounty offers sustenance and life for all creatures. Heal the damage we have caused. Replenish
groundwater, bring needed rains, and protect forests. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You offer yourself to all the nations and invite 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 yet will find their joy in you. Hear
us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. Hear the anguish of the suffering and
satisfy their needs. Bring wholeness and healing to those who suffer in body, heart, soul and mind. Hear us, O
God. **Your mercy is great.**

You offer freely the fullness of salvation. Give our congregation a welcoming heart, so our words and
actions extend your free and abundant hospitality to all whom we meet, especially the marginalized and
vulnerable. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You gather your saints as one in the body of Jesus. Bring us with all your saints to the heavenly
banquet. We remember with love the saints we have known. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

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

Blessing

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. God, the creator, + Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love.

Amen

Hymn

“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness ”

ELW #843, vs. 1 & 3

Praise the One who breaks the darkness with a liberating light;
Praise the One who frees the pris'ners, turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the gospel,
healing ev'ry dread disease,
Calming storms and feeding thousands with the very bread of peace.

Praise the one true love incarnate: Christ, who suffered in our place;
Jesus died and rose for many that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done.
Praise the one redeeming glory; praise the One who makes us one.

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Announcements

Dismissal

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

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God's Work, Our Hands

LS Food Shelf T & Th. 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm; 2nd T 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm
BP Food Shelf Wed. 5 - 7 pm; Sat. 9 - noon
NP Peace Center M, W, & F, 9 am - 12:30 pm; Th. 4:30 - 6:30 pm
Hend. FoodShare 3rd Thurs. 4:30 - 5:30 pm

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Prayers *Health Issues* Jim L., Cindy K., Kody D., Robert G.

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Mowing Please contact Larry to help with church lawn care.

Communion Call Pastor Diane at 952.807.3292 to make an appointment to receive Communion at church, Sunday 8/9 or 8/16.

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Calendar at a Glance

Sunday, Aug. 2 9:30 am Worship on FB and Website

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Sundays, Aug. 9 & 16 9:30 am Worship on FB and Website
10:30 am Communion at Church - appt. Needed

Monday, Aug. 10 7:00 pm Church Council Mtg: Zoom

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Sundays, Aug. 23 & 30 9:30 am Worship on FB and Website

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Sunday, Sept. 6 9:30 am Worship on FB and Website

Wed., Sept. 9 6:30 pm Confirmation: tbd

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Pastor Diane will be on vacation August 24 - Sept. 7.

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Offering **July 26** \$ 1,750 *Thank you! Thanks be to God!*

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Now Collecting School Supplies

Crayons 24 pack, washable markers - 8 pack, unsharpened # 2 pencils, wide-ruled spiral bound notebooks, single subject notebooks wide or college ruled, rulers with cm and inch marks, glue sticks, box of tissues, Fiskars blunt-tip scissors or point-tip scissors, pocket folders, pencil cases, pink erasers, rulers, colored pencils, blue, black or red pens (no gel ink), highlighters, calculators, anything school, and \$\$ of course always helps, etc.

Whether school is in person or online, supplies are needed!

Thank you!