



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
 Wilton, WI  
 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
 August 2, 2020  
**Inviting People to Journey with Christ's  
 Family in Spreading God's Love and Mercy**

*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.*

**Gathering**  
*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God\**

**Come, All You People**  
*Uyaimose*

 <i>U - ya - i - mo - se,</i> 1 Come, all you peo - ple, 2 Come, all you peo - ple, 3 Come, all you peo - ple,	 <i>ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri;</i> come and praise the Most High; come and praise the Sav - ior; come and praise the Spir - it;
 <i>u - ya - i - mo - se,</i> come, all you peo - ple, come, all you peo - ple, come, all you peo - ple,	 <i>ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri;</i> come and praise the Most High; come and praise the Sav - ior; come and praise the Spir - it;
 <i>u - ya - i - mo - se,</i> come, all you peo - ple. come, all you peo - ple, come, all you peo - ple,	 <i>ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri;</i> come and praise the Most High; come and praise the Sav - ior; come and praise the Spir - it;
 <i>u - ya - i - mo - se</i>	 <i>Zvi - no.</i> come now and wor - ship the Lord. come now and wor - ship the Lord. come now and wor - ship the Lord.

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## 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 your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### Word

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

## FIRST READING

*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.*

### Isaiah 55:1-5

- <sup>1</sup>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.
- <sup>2</sup>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.
- <sup>3</sup>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.
- <sup>4</sup>See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.
- <sup>5</sup>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.

P: The word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21

- <sup>8</sup>The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

<sup>9</sup>LORD, you are good to all,  
and your compassion is over all your works.  
<sup>14</sup>The Lord upholds all those who fall  
and lifts up those who are bowed down.  
<sup>15</sup>The eyes of all wait upon you, O LORD,  
and you give them their food in due season.  
<sup>16</sup>You open wide your hand  
and satisfy the desire of every living thing.  
<sup>17</sup>You are righteous in all your ways  
and loving in all your works.  
<sup>18</sup>You are near to all who call upon you,  
to all who call upon you faithfully.  
<sup>19</sup>You fulfill the desire of those who fear you;  
you hear their cry and save them.  
<sup>20</sup>You watch over all those who love you,  
but all the wicked you shall destroy.  
<sup>21</sup>My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD;  
let all flesh bless God's holy name forever and ever.

## **SECOND READING**

*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.*

### **Romans 9:1-5**

<sup>1</sup>I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit—<sup>2</sup>I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. <sup>3</sup>For 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. <sup>4</sup>They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; <sup>5</sup>to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

P: The word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel**

*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 gospel according to Matthew 14:13-21**

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup>Now 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. <sup>14</sup>When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. <sup>15</sup>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." <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." <sup>17</sup>They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." <sup>18</sup>And he said, "Bring them here to me." <sup>19</sup>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. <sup>20</sup>And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. <sup>21</sup>And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

P: The gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

### Sermon

During this time of the Coronavirus Pandemic, we have experienced many changes in our daily lives. There were no Wood Turtle Days events, yesterday. People cannot gather at this time in large crowds, due to health guidelines and other restrictions. There are few concerts, sporting events, graduations, or other assemblies. Many events have been cancelled. Some events are taking place with only the participants. If people are allowed to watch, they are often separated by social distance in the arenas, stadiums, or other venues. Instead of thousands and thousands of fans gathering in-person, people are gathering in lesser numbers, viewing online or watching on television. While all of these things are understandable and necessary for our well-being, many of us are missing the sense of community that comes from gathering together.

How different things are now than 2,000 years ago in the setting described in Matthew 14. In our gospel passage for today, Jesus has heard the news that Herod has killed John the Baptist. Jesus has left in a boat seeking a place of quiet and solitude. But the crowds heard where he was, and they went to him. When Jesus came upon the place of intended quiet by the sea, many, many persons were already there waiting for him; some hoping to feel his healing touch, some perhaps waiting to see Jesus, whom they had heard so much about; and others wanting to hear Jesus' words or see him perform a miracle.

The first members of the crowd were most likely faithful followers of Jesus and/or those wishing to be healed. Perhaps they brought friends with them, wanting them to know Jesus, too. Friends who perhaps had only heard about Jesus through stories. Rather than to try to explain who Jesus was, perhaps the Jesus followers encouraged their friends to find out on their own. They could use their senses of sight, smell, hearing, touch and taste. In this way, they could take in all that they could on that day, when thousands and thousands of persons gathered with Jesus

Jesus healed and comforted many persons on that day. But there was more to come. It was getting late, and many of the people were getting hungry. Per Warren Carter, "the first century Roman Empire was marked by significant inequalities concerning food access. Many people knew food insecurity and struggled on a daily and seasonal basis for adequate food and nutrition. The empire

was very hierarchical in its social structure with a small group of ruling elites who enjoyed abundant variety and good quality food. But most of the population lived around, at, or below subsistence level with inadequate calorific and nutritional intake." (Working Preacher).

The disciples were talking amongst themselves about sending the crowd to the villages to get their own food. Then Jesus asked the disciples to give him what little food they had; 2 fish and 5 loaves of bread. Jesus took the bread, blessed and broke it, and the meager fish and bread miraculously became enough food to feed the entire crowd. And after all had been fed, 12 baskets of leftover pieces, remained. All the people were full. All were satisfied. What had begun with a request from Jesus, became a small gift of food from the disciples. This was something that the disciples, who often lived through the generosity of others, could provide. This was something that the disciples could contribute. A small gift from the disciples to the thousands of hungry people, that through Jesus' words and blessing, became a miracle.

Our gospel passage may remind us of the miracle of the manna that God gave to the Hebrew people in the wilderness. It reminds us of God's blessings of food in other times of need. It contains a message of both physical food and spiritual food. It may remind us too, of other passages from the Gospel of Matthew, such as the Lord's Prayer, when Jesus teaches us to say, "...Give us this day our daily bread" (Matthew 6:11) and God's provision in the words, "So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?'" (Matthew 6:31), and from Jesus' temptation by the evil one in the desert, when Jesus says, "Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4).

Daniel Erlander, in his book Manna and Mercy, describes what God hoped to teach the Israelite people by providing them food in the wilderness. He states, God gives manna for all:

1. God provided the manna each day.[Ex 16:4, Hos 13:4-6]—The lesson: All food is God's. In fact, everything is God's. We own nothing. We can trust God for daily bread.
2. The people gathered manna each day for their clan [Ex 16:17, 21]—The lesson: Work is the dignified activity of helping God meet the needs of all people.
3. Larger clans gathered more, and smaller clans gathered less. All had enough, and no one had too much.—The lesson: God gives daily food, so hoarding is unnecessary. Food is for all, not just the big deals or the deserving. God gives enough; all can therefore live in sufficiency—with neither too much nor too little. (p. 7)

This is a message of community. Jesus knew how to feed the thousands of people, as God did with the manna in the wilderness. Jesus provided a miracle of provision, and a blessing of the food. The blessing was not unlike the blessing and breaking of the bread at the Lord's Supper. All the people were full and all were satisfied. All had enough.

So, what is the message from the feeding of the 5,000+ people? Perhaps some people thought of it only as another sign or another miracle. But one message, as with other Biblical food miracles, is that we as God's followers are to accept God's gift of food, to thank God for what God has given us, and to share our food, God's provision, with others. God sought and continues to seek, a world of balance and peace, where people live in community, where people will not be oppressed and live without daily food, where those with power will not use it against those who are weak; a world of balance and peace in which brothers and sisters demonstrate care and concern for one another.

Per Erlander, Jesus “called the people back to the covenant life of breadsharing, back to the lessons learned in the wilderness...back to the days of manna when all had enough and no one had too much. “Jesus’ act of feeding the five thousand was a clear demonstration of God’s plan...” The lesson: “all received from God. All shared. All had more than enough. All were satisfied. The meal was indeed a clear picture of how a restored partner people would live together.”

This is community; living together one with another. For on that day, the people experienced Jesus through their senses. They saw Jesus. They saw thousands of people gathered in his name. They saw Jesus' healings, his compassion, and the miracle of the fish and loaves. They heard Jesus' words and his blessing of the bread. Those who were healed, perhaps felt his touch. All who partook of the bread and fish, smelled and tasted it's goodness. All experienced something new; a feeling of community, a feeling of God's grace, love and compassion for them. For the parable of the loaves and fish is more than a sign or a miracle. It describes a way in which God calls us to live a life of balance, a life of empowerment of others. It describes a way of life lived in community.

We too receive the physical bread, the daily bread that God provides, which God asks us to share with others. We too receive the spiritual bread that God provides, that leads us to listen, follow God’s word in our daily lives, and share God’s word with others. For Jesus loved us so much that he died on the cross, so that we might have forgiveness of sins and new life in him. This is God's grace, God's compassion, God's love for us. Let us give thanks for all that God has done for us and continues to do for us. Thanks be to God. Amen.

## **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 INTERCESSION**

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

You take resources that appear to be meager, bless them, and there is enough. May your church trust that what you bless and ask us to share with the world is abundantly sufficient. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Your bountiful creation offers sustenance and life for all creatures. Protect this abundance for the well-being of all. Reverse the damage we have caused your creation. Replenish ground water supplies, provide needed rains in places of drought, and protect forests from wildfires. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You offer yourself to all the nations and peoples of the earth, inviting 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 will find their joy in you. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. Hear the anguish of tender hearts who cry to you in suffering and satisfy their deepest needs. Bring wholeness and healing to those who suffer in body, heart, soul, and mind especially Katie, Bill, Dakota, Carla, Ruth, Judy, Alrita, Dick, Donna, Brad, Lisa, Pam, Jim, Geena, and all those we name aloud and in our hearts. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of the seasons, in the midst of summer, give us refreshment, renewal, and new opportunities. We pray for the safety of those who travel. We pray for those who are at home, who have been affected by hurricanes and flooding. We pray for those who cannot take the rest they need. We pray for those affected by the Coronavirus. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of life, those who have died in you shine like the sun in your endless kingdom. We remember with thanksgiving the saints of all times and places and saints close to us. Gather us with them on the day of salvation. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

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

**SENDING**

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

# There's a Wideness in God's Mercy



- 1 There's a wide-ness
- 2 There is wel-come
- 3 For the love of
- 4 'Tis not all we



in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness of the sea;  
 for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;  
 God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;  
 owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice which is more than  
 there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing  
 and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der -  
 great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy



lib - er - ty. There is no place where earth's sor - rows  
 in his blood. There is grace e - nough for thou - sands  
 ful - ly kind. But we make this love too nar - row  
 through the fall. Make our love, O God, more faith - ful;



are more felt than up in heav'n. There is no place  
 of new worlds as great as this; there is room for  
 by false lim - its of our own; and we mag - ni -  
 let us take you at your word, and our lives will



where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.  
 fresh ere - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.  
 fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.  
 be thanks-giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

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P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
 C: **Thanks be to God.**

## IN OUR PRAYERS

Katie Wallace, Bill Collar, Dakota Holiday, Carla Von Haden, Ruth Johnson, Judy Bever, Alrita Ornes, Dick Krause, Donna Welch, Brad Bever, Lisa Rhodes, Jim Bender, Pam Liefke, Curt Brueggen

## **IN THE MILITARY**

Jacob Picha, Todd Nofsinger, Dylan Dougherty, Danelle Dougherty, Seth Tormoen, Robert Cale.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BLOOD DRIVE**

The Wilton Community Blood Drive will be held on Saturday, August 8, 7:00 AM – 11:30 AM. If you are eligible to donate, please do. If you know of someone who will make a donation, bring them along. There is a severe shortage of blood with well over 75,000 blood drives having been cancelled to date. Please help out if you can.

### **CHICKEN DINNER**

We are having a chicken dinner fundraiser on September 13, 2020, to help reduce the effect of the pandemic on our finances. The meal will cost \$10.00 and will consist of ½ barbeque chicken, potato salad, beans, cranberry relish, dinner roll, and 8 oz. water. All meals will be take-out with serving time from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM. We are asking for your help in selling tickets. All tickets must be sold in advance to allow for precise ordering. Lori Brueggen or Nalani Bever will be contacting you. Thanks for supporting this project.

### **PART-TIME OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR WANTED**

The La Crosse Area Synod is seeking a Part-Time Office Administrator to work approximately 20 hours/week (hours negotiable). Responsibilities include: working with the bishop and the assistant to the bishop in securing pastors for congregations and guiding candidates through seminary, greeting visitors and answering telephone; updating databases, various forms and website; and other general duties. Needing a self-starter with skills in social media and online messaging, and the ability to multitask. Confidentiality is required. If interested, please contact the synod office by August 16: [office@lacrosseareasynd.org](mailto:office@lacrosseareasynd.org) or 608-788-5000.

### **LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY – UW LA CROSSE**

The most important way you can support the ministry of Common Ground is by praying for us. The church is going through one of its hardest seasons yet, and the generation we work with is the most resistant to anything that seems religious. Jesus told us that if our faith was like a mustard seed we could move mountains. Campus Ministry is a bit like mountain moving but we know we have the support of so many.

This ministry is possible because everyday people like you choose to give. We are grateful for every gift, no matter the size. We use your gifts to show up on our campuses with the love of God, to proclaim boldly that ALL students are loved, and to see lives transformed by love.

You may support this vital ministry in a number of ways. You may designate your church offering to Common Ground, or mail a donation to Lutheran Campus Ministry at Common Ground, 1334 Pine Street, La Crosse, WI 54601, or go to their website [www.laxcg.org](http://www.laxcg.org) and click on support.

Thank you for your prayers and financial support of Campus Ministry.

## SPARE KITCHEN ITEMS

Our friends, Ella and Dan Yoder are hosting their church service on Sunday, August 16. They need a little help with some items to host a fairly large crowd. Would you be willing to donate any of the following items?:

- Glasses (any size)
- Silverware (any odds and ends you might have)
- Hand towels
- Dish towels

Ella is also running low on old jeans for her sewing project so, if you have any of those, please bring them as well..

Thank you.

## SCHOOL SUPPLIES

We'll be packing school supplies in again this year in support of Lutheran World Relief. The following are items for the school kits:

- ONE 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- ONE pencil sharpener
- ONE pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- ONE box of 16 or 24 crayons
- ONE 2 ½" eraser
- FOUR 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10 ½"; no loose leaf paper
- FIVE unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
- FIVE black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band

Please bring the items with you to drive-in church or call Nalani (608-387-2311) and she will make arrangements to get them from you.

Thank you.

## CONTACTS DURING CORONAVIRUS CLOSURE

In case of emergency, contact Pastor Cathleen, via text, 608-865-1074, Justin Arndt (608-435-6336) (414-587-6642) or Nalani Bever (608-387-2311).

To activate the prayer chain, please contact Nalani or Louise Buchholz (608-435-6435).

Additional Contact Information:

Pastor Cathleen: [cathleenmorris@go.mccormick.edu](mailto:cathleenmorris@go.mccormick.edu)

Justin Arndt: [arndt.now@gmail.com](mailto:arndt.now@gmail.com)

Church: [wiltonchurch@gmail.com](mailto:wiltonchurch@gmail.com)

Nalani Bever: [nalanib@gmail.com](mailto:nalanib@gmail.com)

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FACEBOOK!! Home page: St. Paul's Lutheran Church Wilton WI

\*The Sunday Assembly, Lorraine S. Brugh, Gordon W. Lathrop, Augsburg Fortress, 2008

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This past week, I was reading an article in "The County Line," (online), regarding the scavenger hunt group called, "N-O-W Rocks." For those who have not heard of this group, they search for special rocks. The rocks are painted, then placed in public places throughout Norwalk, Ontario and Wilton, so people can look for them. This activity leads people to seek out new and interesting places to explore in our local area. What a fun way to get out of the house, get some exercise, and see the N-O-W area in a new way!

The idea of painting rocks brought to my mind Conne Smith, a woman I knew from my home church. She was a very artistic person, spending many years as a director of community children's theatre productions. One of her hobbies was painting palm-sized stones. People she knew, would go out searching for stones for her. They would look for flat, shiny, smooth stones in ponds, lakes or streams. In this way, they were able to contribute to her hobby, get some exercise, and do something for her that in her later years, was difficult for her to do herself.

Her stone paintings evolved like this--She would take a stone, and on one side, paint a picture of the person who was to receive her gift. On the other side, she would paint the words of a short scripture passage. She might give someone a stone, because she was thinking about them, because they had had a death in the family and were grieving, because she was praying for them, or simply because she wanted them to know that they were special to her. I still have me personalized stone, and enjoy thinking of this kindness that Conne shared with me and others, so many years ago.

Today, we will be hearing the message of the feeding of 5,000 (plus women and children). The 5 loaves and 2 fish given by the disciples to Jesus, might have been seen as something small and almost meaningless. How could these few pieces of food be of any use in feeding a crowd of so many people! But when we think of the 2 fish and 5 loaves as the beginning, as the "seeds" for more food, we realize that even small things, everyday things, can become much more when coupled with God's word. Like our scripture passage from last week of the mustard seed, something with small beginnings can grow and flourish.

This is how our sharing a portion of who we are, and what we have, can become so much more. A kind word, a card, a phone call or a small gift; a sharing of one's talents, a sharing of one's food, a sharing of one's resources, a sharing of one's self with others, can grow to be something much larger. When our small gifts come from a heart filled with God's love, the ordinary can become extraordinary. Thanks be to God.

Peace,

Pastor Cathy