

Sunday, August 6, 2017  
9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

## **INTRODUCTION**

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.

## **PRELUDE**

**"Antiphon"**

Georg Muffat

## **\*GATHERING SONG**

**"All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly"**

**ELW 461**

**All who hunger gather gladly;  
holy manna is our bread.  
Come from wilderness and wand'ring.  
Here in truth we will be fed.  
You that yearn for days of fullness,  
all around us is our food.  
Taste and see the grace eternal.  
Taste and see that God is good.**

**All who hunger, never strangers;  
seeker, be a welcome guest.  
Come from restlessness and roaming.  
Here in joy we keep the feast.  
We that once were lost and scattered  
in communion's love have stood.  
Taste and see the grace eternal.  
Taste and see that God is good.**

**All who hunger, sing together,  
Jesus Christ is living bread.  
Come from loneliness and longing.  
Here in peace we have been fed.  
Blest are those who from this table  
live their days in gratitude.  
Taste and see the grace eternal.  
Taste and see that God is good.**

## **\*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**      **"Praise and Thanksgiving" vv 1&4**      **ELW 689**

**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.**

**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.**

**\*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!**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**"Ave Maria"**

Schubert

Aaron Schmidt, violin

**FIRST 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 the people, with promises that previously had been limited to the line of kings. As David was a witness to the nations, these nations shall now acknowledge the ways in which God has glorified Israel.*

<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.

### **Reflection**

We encounter in this text a different economy than the one we are used to. I am one of the fortunate ones—when I go to the grocery store, put in my cart what I need (and not a few times what I really don't need), and then head for the checkout line, I know I have enough money in my pocket (or on my credit card) that I don't have to worry about how to pay for the food we eat. But I have been in line with people who need to carefully count out their change to make sure they can pay for everything they need, and sometimes they have to put something back, because they don't have the money for it. In God's economy, there is enough for everyone, and in fact, Isaiah invites especially those who have no money, "Come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price." (verse 1) Everyone is invited, even those of us who have money. What are we invited to? A delightful banquet of rich food—food that will satisfy, not make us sick. (verse 2) And this delightful banquet is a metaphor for what God promises, which is God's everlasting covenant. How does God's covenant extend beyond David? (verses 3-5) Is this a trick? We get a delightful banquet, but now we have to go out and get other people to come in, sort of like a Tupperware party? What is God's invitation to us? (verse 5) The banquet is a feast of love, which changes us from people who suffer from spiritual poverty to those who know where the riches are and can't wait to share the good news. As we know, we are invited to this banquet every Sunday, where we have bread and wine that fills us with spiritual riches.

### **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 up- | on 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 forev- | er and ever.**

### **Reflection**

This psalm celebrates the universal love and generosity of God. It's easy to "spiritualize" God's great offer of love and food (I sort of did that in the questions about the first reading). This psalm reminds us that God's banquet is not just for our spiritual good. Who or what is included in God's love and compassion? (verses 8-9) The psalmist mentions especially some who are included—who are they? (verse 14) I with my credit card am able to convince myself that I can take care of myself and depend on myself for what I need. But that's "fake news." What are we reminded in verses 15-16? The "all" includes those of us who kid ourselves that we've done it on our own. Whose banquet is it we feast on?

*(verse 16) What kind of Lord is this? (verse 17) The psalmist reminds us that God is on the line—we don't get a busy signal, and God is never out of touch. (Verses 18-19) And we don't have to worry that someone or something will keep us away from God. Even those parts of us that think we don't need God will be destroyed. (verse 20) This psalm is one of my favorites—I remember often my Dad would pray verses 15-16 as a table prayer. How can this psalm, and the reminders of God's goodness and love, become part of your daily life?*

## **SECOND 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.*

<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.

### **Reflection**

*In recent months, we have heard that anti-Semitism has once again raised its ugly head, not only in the Middle East, but also here in our country. In this text Paul raises questions about his own people, the Jews, especially those who do not believe in Jesus. What is Paul's prayer for them? (verses 1-3) What is their relationship to God? (verses 4-5) What, then, is their relationship to us? Why is it important that we know and understand this relationship? Are there other brothers and sisters we need to recognize? If God's promises to Israel can be broken, what about God's promises to us Gentiles? (See Romans 11:29 for what Paul finally says about this.)*

## **\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

## **"Thy Word"**

**Thy word is a lamp unto my feet  
and a light unto my path.**

**Thy word is a lamp unto my feet  
and a light unto my path.**

## **\*GOSPEL**

## **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.*

<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.

**Reflection**

*Where is Jesus when this text begins? (verse 13) He's by himself because he is grieving. See the text immediately before this, Matthew 14:1-12) He's not by himself for long—who is with him and how did they get there? Why did they follow him, and how does Jesus respond to them? (verse 14) However, the disciples soon discover a problem. What is it? (verse 15) What do they want to do? This reminds me of the passage from James 2:14-17. What good is their plan? What is Jesus' solution? (verse 16) The disciples appear to panic. (verse 17) (Why don't they just pull out their credit cards?!) Their panic is a prayer, which Jesus answers. What does he do? (verses 18-21) As you reflect on this story, think about hungry people you may know or encounter. Could Jesus' instructions to his disciples be also for us, his disciples now? How do we, as the disciples of Jesus in this time and place, carry out his instructions? As those who are hungry, how are we fed by Jesus and by one another?*

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Kris Langdon

**SERMON**

**"God's Abundance Here and Now"**

Rev. Roger Lenander

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**"Thine the Amen"**

**ELW 826**

**Thine the amen thine the praise  
alleluias angels raise  
thine the everlasting head  
thine the breaking of the bread  
thine the glory thine the story  
thine the harvest then the cup  
thine the vineyard then the cup  
is lifted up lifted up.**

**Thine the life eternally  
thine the promise let there be  
thine the vision thine the tree  
all the earth on bended knee  
gone the nailing gone the railing  
gone the pleading gone the cry  
gone the sighing gone the dying  
what was loss lifted high.**

**Thine the truly thine the yes  
thine the table we the guest  
thine the mercy all from thee  
thine the glory yet to be  
then the ringing and the singing  
then the end of all the war  
thine the living thine the loving  
evermore evermore.**

**Thine the kingdom thine the prize  
thine the wonder full surprise  
thine the banquet then the praise  
then the justice of thy ways  
thine the glory thine the story  
then the welcome to the least  
then the wonder all increasing  
at thy feast at thy feast.**

**Thine the glory in the night  
no more dying only light  
thine the river thine the tree  
then the Lamb eternally  
then the holy holy holy  
celebration jubilee  
thine the splendor thine the brightness  
only thee only thee.**

**\*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!**

**\*PRAYER SONG**      **"Seek Ye First"** v 1 before prayer; v 2 after prayer

**Seek ye first  
the kingdom of God  
and its righteousness,  
and all these things  
shall be added unto you.  
Allelu, alleluia.**

**Ask and it shall  
be given unto you;  
seek and you shall find;  
knock and the door  
shall be opened unto you.  
Allelu, alleluia.**

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Generous, compassionate God, we gather before you to pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of the covenant, strengthen and sustain Pastor Philip, that with patience and understanding he may love and care for your people. Grant the South Sudanese Congregation passion, guided by the Holy Spirit, to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of abundance who provides fields of wheat and vineyards of grapes, bless farmers and growers who furnish bread and wine for tables of abundance. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of all compassion, raise up just leaders who care for the poor and hungry. Let nations share your bounty across the world and assure that no one goes without food. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of all, fill those who are starving whether they long for food or companionship. Comfort the lonely and grieving; heal those who are sick in body, mind, or spirit *especially Lin Starks, Robert Powell, and Linda Briner.* Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God who satisfies, bless the feeding programs of this congregation and community. Be with sandwich makers and cookie bakers, with those who stock food pantry shelves and those who point out need whether in our neighborhood or half a world away. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for all the men and women of our armed forces, at home and abroad. We especially lift up to you, Jason Shields. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Bless us as we remember the saints at your everlasting feast until we join them at your bountiful table. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands we place all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, trusting in the mercy of Christ Jesus.

**Amen!**

**\*SHARING OF THE PEACE**

℟ The peace of Christ be with you always.

☩ **And also with you!**

**OFFERTORY**

**"Let Us Break Bread Together"**

arr. Mark Hayes

Praise Team

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

**"Give Thanks"**

**Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
give thanks to the Holy One,  
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.**

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

℟ *Merciful God,*

☩ **you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing.  
You have set this feast before us. Open our hands to receive it. Open  
our hearts to embrace it. Open our lives to live it. We pray this  
through Christ our Lord. Amen!**

**\*DIALOGUE**

℟ *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**

℟ *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. Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection, you pour out the fire of your Spirit, uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

**\*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**Holy, holy, holy, holy,  
holy, holy is our God,  
God, the Lord of earth and heaven.**

**Holy, holy is our God.  
Holy, holy, holy, holy,  
holy, holy is our God,  
God, the Lord of all of hist'ry.  
Holy, holy is our God.**

**\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

**P** *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**

**P** *Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.*

**G** **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**

**P** *Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread. Our Lord's body let us take together.*

**\*BLESSING**

**P** *The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.*

**G** **Amen!**

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

- Ⓟ *We give you thanks, almighty God,*  
Ⓞ **that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!**

**\*BENEDICTION**

- Ⓟ *May God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.*  
Ⓞ **Amen!**

**\*SENDING SONG**

**"Forever"**

**Give thanks to the Lord  
Our God and King  
His love endures forever  
For He is good He is above all things  
His love endures forever  
Sing praise sing praise**

**With a mighty hand  
And an outstretched arm  
His love endures forever  
For the life that's been reborn  
His love endures forever  
Sing praise sing praise**

***Refrain***

**Sing praise sing praise  
Forever God is faithful  
Forever God is strong  
Forever God is with us  
Forever forever**

**From the rising to the setting sun  
His love endures forever  
And by the grace of God  
We will carry on  
His love endures forever  
Sing praise sing praise *Refrain***