

## WELCOME!

We are glad to welcome you today as we gather together to worship God! Please be sure you complete the salmon insert inside your bulletin and turn it in to the usher at the time of communion.

This bulletin will assist you in participating in worship. All parts spoken by the congregation are listed in **bold print and preceded by "C:"**

There are also instructions printed in *italics* that will indicate other helpful descriptions of the service. Large Print Hymns are available. Please see an usher.

Thank you for turning off your cell phones or putting them on "silent" during the service.



*We are committed to **invite** and **welcome** all to Jesus Christ, to **equip** all with an active faith that works in real life, and together go into the world to **serve** in Jesus' name.*

*Please stand*

**HYMN 858 "Praise To The Lord The Almighty"**

**INVOCATION**

P: In the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

P: Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

**C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**APOSTOLIC GREETING**

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

**C: And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

## **FIRST READING: 2 Kings 4:42-44**

A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing food from the first fruits to 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." But 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.'" He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the Lord.

R: The Word of our Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:14-21**

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I 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, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

R: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

S205a



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

P: The Holy Gospel according to the sixth chapter of John.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

### HOLY GOSPEL: **John 6:1-21**

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When 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?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" Jesus 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. Then 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. When they were satisfied, he told his

disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When 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." When 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. When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **HYMN 810 "O Jesus I have Promised"**

**SERMON**

Pastor Seth Jersild

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 CHURCH

*Response:*

P: ...Lord in your mercy,    **C: Hear our prayer.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

P. The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy.....  
...and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY. HOLY. HOLY

S207



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,    God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**C: 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.**

## **DISTRIBUTION**

Please follow the instructions from the pastor for distribution.

*Believing in the real presence of Christ's body and blood in the bread and wine of  
the Holy Communion for the forgiveness of sin, we practice Eucharistic hospitality.  
All baptized persons are welcomed to the Lord's Table.*

## **BLESSING, PRAYER and BENEDICTION**

### **HYMN 547 "Sent Forth By God's Blessing"**

## **DISMISSAL**

**P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.**

**C: Thanks be to God!**

## **ORGAN POSTLUDE Toccata in E Minor**

**Johann Pachelbel**

JULY 25, 2021  
NINTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST



*Jesus has a power people long to follow.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>John 6:1-21</b>	<b>Jesus feeds the five thousand</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>2 Kings 4:42-44</b>	<b>Elisha feeds one hundred</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Ephesians 3:14-21</b>	<b>Christ's love for us</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Titus 3:1-11</b>	<b>Maintain good deeds</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>1 Peter 1:8-17</b>	<b>Suffering for doing right</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Ephesians 2:1-10</b>	<b>From death to life</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalm 145:10-18</b>	<b>The Lord is kind and merciful</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>John 6:24-35</b>	<b>Christ, the bread of life</b>

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. **John 6:2 (NRSV)***

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Almighty and living God, we thank you for the way you feed us, heal us, and care for us through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Just as you fed the five thousand on a hillside, we thank you for feeding us and caring for us today. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the God of abundance bless you with more than you can imagine. (Ephesians 3:20)



**JULY 25, 2021**

**HYMN OF THE WEEK**

*There Is a Wideness in  
God's Mercy*



**taking†  
faith  
home**

**WEEKLY MILESTONES**

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

**CARING CONVERSATIONS**



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Tell or think about a time you have been glad to be part of a crowd.
- Have you ever been afraid when you were part of a large crowd? Explain.
- What are some reasons you like being part of the crowd that follows Jesus?

**DEVOTIONS**



*Read:* John 6:1-21.

By the beginning of John 6, Jesus had taught, turned water into wine, healed, and challenged Jewish authorities. The throngs are growing and five thousand have followed him to a hillside. Jesus looks at them, sits them down on a large grassy area, and feeds them like a shepherd tending his flock. His actions remind people of what Elisha (2 Kings 4:42-44) did when he fed large crowds. Jesus being on a mountain side and having powers over the waters of the Sea of Galilee (v.19) reminds others of a role like Moses. It is clear that people are attracted to Jesus and he cares for them with a power that people long to see, long to touch, long to be with. That is the power that has been given to the church to speak and work for people today in Christ's name. Christ's power continues to be present today so that others may follow in the footsteps of the one who brings us healing, hope, and salvation. What have you experienced that makes you want to be a follower of Jesus?

*Pray:* Dear Jesus, we thank you for coming into our world and our lives to care for us and to feed us with your love. Amen.

**SERVICE**



Jesus fed the five thousand from just five small loaves and two fish. We know that today in the world many people live with limited food and constant hunger. Give money or volunteer time at your local food bank or other organizations that help those in need of food. Make a list of ways you can support people who do not have enough food.

**RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**



Paul prays for the people, *"I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name"* (Ephesians 3:14-15). Prayer is a way to practice our faith. Think or talk about different ways to pray (standing, sitting, folded hands, kneeling). This week practice kneeling for prayer.

*Pray:* Dear God, I ask to be filled with your presence and to know the love of Christ that he may dwell in my heart forever and ever. Amen.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)

## FINISHING COMMUNION AT HOME AFTER CHURCH St. John's Lutheran Church, Grove City OH

For your safety and comfort, we are distributing pre-packaged communion kits to members during worship for everyone to take home, rather than eating and drinking in the church building.

The bread and wine will be consecrated with the Words of Jesus during worship, and will be ready to consume afterwards. However, since it is important to have the words of Jesus fresh in our ears before taking the sacrament, we strongly encourage you to use the following order of service once you get home.

First, unpeel the wafer(s) from the top of the package. Next, unseal the juice and place the wafer and juice before you on a table, so they are ready to be consumed.

Then, say the following aloud (or have someone in your group say it for everyone): *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."*

Now, partake of the wine and bread, trusting that the resurrected Lord Jesus is truly present in the sacrament **for you**, giving you the fullness of his forgiveness, life, and salvation.

After eating and drinking, we suggest saying the following prayer aloud (or have someone in your group say it for everyone): *We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy, you would strengthen us through this gift, in faith towards you and in fervent love for one another. In Jesus' name. Amen.*



# Listening for the Promise

## Weekly Devotional

### Nineth Sunday after Pentecost – July 25, 2021

*“...for all they saw him and were terrified.” (Mark 6:50)*

The story of Jesus walking on the water is not only about a miracle, but also about human beings. It is about ordinary people, amateurs who are called out by Jesus himself. The disciples find their little lives caught up in miracles of seeing five thousand people fed with five loaves of bread and two fish and then only a little while later, witnessing the same miracle worker walking on a very windy sea.

This passage reminds us that we are all amateurs at life and in the ways of following Jesus. We are terrified (vs. 50), utterly astounded, have little understanding, and have hardened hearts (vs. 51). When it comes to being a disciple, to following Jesus, there is no training other than what he says to us, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid” (vs. 50). The main thing that authorizes and grants us power is Jesus’ call to, “Follow me.” Your talents, no matter how great, are not what makes you a disciple. It is the call of Jesus to you that makes you a disciple.

Furthermore, none of us yet have successfully acquired the skills or knowledge to be anything other than an amateur when it comes to following Jesus. We constantly get it wrong and we seem to always be “making headway painfully” (vs. 48). Sure, we have good intentions, but many times we find out that our intentions are not as “good” as we had thought. Perhaps that is one reason why on most Sundays we begin worship with confession of sin followed by absolution (forgiveness).

The Gospels frequently portray Jesus’ first twelve disciples as a bunch of people who lack understanding and appear incompetent. There is not one single disciple of whom it can be said, “He really gets it.” Even Simon Peter, the “rock”, the one upon whom Christ built the church, is constantly getting it wrong, all the way to the end when he betrays Jesus by denying he even knows him.

This is a mystery at the heart of the gospel. This is the strange way God works in us and through us. Jesus offers salvation, redemption, and forgiveness in the kingdom of God to a bunch of amateurs, people like us. And yet, here we are, amateurs stumbling along behind Jesus. He would have it no other way because of his great love for us. Amen.