

REDEEMER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

4955 W. 158TH Street Oak Forest, IL 60452

708-687-2432

9th Sunday after Pentecost
July 25, 2021
9:30 A.M.

The cost of our Bulletin cover is donated by

McKENZIE FUNERAL HOME
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NEW MEMBER

SUNDAY

JULY 25, 2021

Rev. Soren Flessen
Organist/ Piano~ Amy Ogarek
Office Administrator~ Deb Frawley
Music Coordinator~ Jan Strojny
Ministers- The People of Redeemer's

LECTOR 9:30am Bonnie Trella



*Are given by Carol Schaafsma
who is celebrating
her birthday!*

Prayer after Communion

P: Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

Blessing

P: The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ✠ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

***Sending Song:* “We are Marching in the Light of God”**

1 We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, (marching, we are marching, marching,) we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, (marching, we are marching, marching,) we are marching in the light of God.

2 We are dancing . . .

3 We are praying . . .

4 We are singing . . .

Announcements & Sharing

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

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 our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutarywe praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, God of might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer: To Be Sung

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil, for the kingdom, the pow'r and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

Invitation to Holy Communion

P: Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

(Please remain standing)

Distribution of Holy Communion

Communion Song: "Lamb Of God"

A: Have mercy on us. **C: Have mercy on us.**

After last verse A: Grant us your peace. **C: Grant us your peace.**

Blessing after Communion

P: May the body and blood of our living, risen Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**



9th Sunday after Pentecost

Receiving of New Members

"Discovering Christ's community through building relationships"

July 25, 2021

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Today is the first of five Sundays with gospel readings from John 6, the first four of which focus on Jesus as bread of life. Today Jesus feeds thousands of people with five loaves and two fish. What we have, what we bring to Jesus' table, seems like it is not nearly enough to meet all the needs we see around us. But it is not the adequacy of our supplies or our skills that finally makes the difference: it is the power of Jesus working in the littlest and least to transform this world into the world God desires, a world where all the hungry are satisfied.

Prelude: "I Will Seek Your Face"

Welcome
(Please stand as able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **Amen.**

P: Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

C: God, our provider, help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

P: Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

Gathering Song: “Beneath the Tree of Life”
Refrain: Come and gather beneath the tree of life
Come and gather beneath the tree of life
Root of wisdom, branch of peace, fruit of healing and release.
Come and gather beneath the tree of life

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.**

Kyrie

A: In peace, let us pray to the Lord,

C: Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy, mercy on us all.

A: For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy, mercy on us all.

A: For your people here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word; let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy, mercy on us all.

A: Help, save and defend us, O God.

C: Amen (*Congregation sings refrain*)

The Prayer of the Day

C: 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. Amen.

(Please be seated)

The First Reading is from the 4th Chapter of 2 Kings

First Reading: 2 Kings 4:42-44

Today's reading is part of a larger section of 2 Kings that describes the miracles of Elisha, the successor to Elijah. Here the prophet gives food to a hungry crowd. Though there is not enough food to go around, Elisha trusts God, who provides enough and even more to satisfy the need.

We pray for creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought and come to the aid of those enduring sweltering heat. Nurture wheat and barley crops grown for the nourishment of your people and conserve aquatic habitats and fish populations. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for those who govern. Cast out arrogance, selfishness, and corruption and instruct those who lead to practice compassion and humility. Inspire them with a vision of the common good and a commitment to ensure that all who hunger are fed. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for those bowed down by heavy burdens: those who are unemployed or underemployed, those unable to find affordable housing, and those without health insurance. Console those who grieve and hear the cries of those who call to you for healing (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for this assembly. Deepen our resolve to use what we have to serve those in need. When we worry that we do not have enough resources for ministry, assure us of your abundance. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give thanks for those who have died. As you sustained them through all their days, so dwell in our hearts, that we may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Offertory Prayer

C: Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. Amen.

(Please stand as able)

(Please stand as able)

Sermon Hymn: “Here is Bread”

- 1) **Here is bread, here is wine, Christ is with us, he is with us.
Break the bread, taste the wine, Christ is with us here.**
- 2) **Here is grace, here is peace, Christ is with us, he is with us.
Know his grace, find his peace, feast on Jesus here.**

**Refrain: In this bread there is healing, in this cup is life forever.
In this moment, by the Spirit, Christ is with us here.**

- 3) **Here we are, joined in one, Christ is with us, he is with us.
We’ll proclaim til he comes Jesus crucified.
Refrain**

Apostle’s 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

(Please be seated)

Prayers of Intercession

Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

We pray for the church. Bless the ministries of our neighboring congregations. Empower churches throughout the world and encourage missionaries who accompany global neighbors. Kindle in us a spirit of collaboration, that all people may know your loving works. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

⁴²A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing food from the first fruits to Elisha, 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.” ⁴³But 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.’” ⁴⁴He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the LORD.

P: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Song: “Family Song”

**Here we are, gathered together as a family;
Bound as one, lifting up our voices to the King of Kings.
We cry Abba, Father, worthy is Your name.
Abba Father, worthy is Your name.**

The Second Reading is from the 3rd Chapter of Ephesians
Second Reading: Ephesians 3:14-21

We have been rooted and grounded in the love of Christ, which surpasses all human knowledge. Because Christ dwells in our hearts, our lives are continuously strengthened and empowered by the ongoing presence of the Spirit.

¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. ¹⁶I 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, ¹⁷and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. ¹⁸I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

P: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as able)

Gospel Acclamation**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia***Cantor sings verse**The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 6th Chapter***C: Glory to you, O Lord**

Holy Gospel: John 6:1-21

In John's gospel, the miracles of Jesus are called "signs," because they reveal the true character of God. As such, they remain within the mystery of God and cannot be brought under human control.

¹Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. ²A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. ³Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. ⁴Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. ⁵When 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?" ⁶He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. ⁷Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." ⁸One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, ⁹"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" ¹⁰Jesus 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. ¹¹Then 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. ¹²When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." ¹³So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. ¹⁴When 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."

¹⁵When 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.

¹⁶When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, ¹⁷got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. ¹⁸The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. ¹⁹When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. ²⁰But he

said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." ²¹Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

P: The Gospel of the Lord!

C: Praise to you, O Christ!*(Please be seated)**Sermon**Receiving New Members:*

P: Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and that through our baptism we are made one in the body of Christ. Today we rejoice as we also welcome (*Names*), into the life and ministry of this congregation.

P: (*Names*), in baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

And so I ask you, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism and to grow in faith and love for God in this community of faith?

R: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P: People of God, do you promise to support and pray for (*Names*), in their life in Christ?

C: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

P: We rejoice with you that you desire to live out your covenant of baptism in this community of faith. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

C: Amen.

P: Let us pray: We give you thanks for our newest sister and brothers in Christ, (*Names*), whom you have drawn to yourself by the love of Jesus Christ and whom we have welcomed into this household of faith through baptism and affirmation of faith. Keep us close together in your Spirit, in the breaking of bread and prayers, and in service to others.

C: Amen.*Welcome of our new members (Applause follows)*