

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church
1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213

July 25th, 2021

8:30 & 10:15 a.m. Services

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

Theme: Five Thousand Fed

Introduction for the Day: 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.

We welcome Michael Batcho who is sharing his talents at the Organ and Piano today while John is away. Please make him feel welcome.

Gathering

Prelude

Michael Batcho

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Jim Holmberg

(Please stand as you are able)

Call to Worship

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad!

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

“I am the Bread of Life,” says Jesus Christ. “Whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.”

If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Prepare to be invited to the banquet of the Lord.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you in our thinking, in our speaking, and in our doing. We have put aside your Word and ignored those who proclaim it. We hunger and thirst for righteousness. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive our sins that we may be empowered to become messengers of your grace in all that we undertake.

Like bread broken to be shared, Jesus Christ was given to die for you. For his sake your sins are forgiven. He will raise you up on the last day, and you will live forever.

Lord, give us this bread always! Amen.

Gathering Song

#836 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

1. *Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love! Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, praising thee, their sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away. Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.*
2. *All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heav'n reflect thy rays, stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise. Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea, chanting bird, and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.*
3. *Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest, wellspring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest! Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine; teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine!*

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852-1922. Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827, adapt. Tune: Hymn to Joy, 87 87 D.

Litany for “Five Thousand Fed” Sunday

When you fed five thousand on a hillside, O Lord, you gave them all they needed with twelve baskets to spare.

Throughout our lives you give us all that we need with plenty to spare.

You know the needs of your people, O God.

Your ear is attentive to our needs. You listen and you act.

Open our hearts to love you. Open our minds to know your will.

Then your goodness will be made manifest in us in great abundance-- twelve baskets full.

Apostolic 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.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. 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.

Word

(Please be seated)

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.

A reading from 2nd Kings, Chapter 4.

A 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." 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 145:10-18

You open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. (Ps. 145:16)

Let us read responsively from Psalm 145.

All your works shall praise you, O LORD, and your faithful ones shall bless you.

They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your power, that all people may know of your power and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages. You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.

The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up those who are bowed down.

The eyes of all wait upon you, O LORD, and you give them their food in due season.

You open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

You are righteous in all your ways and loving in all your works.

You are near to all who call upon you, to all who call upon you faithfully.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

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.

A reading from Ephesians, Chapter 3.

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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as you are able)

Gospel Acclamation

#515 Break Now the Bread of Life [Stanza 1]

*Break now the bread of life, dear Lord, to me, as once you broke the loaves
beside the sea.*

Beyond the sacred page I seek you, Lord; my spirit waits for you, O living Word.

Text: Mary A. Lathbury, 1841-1913, alt. William F. Sherwin, 1826-1888. Tune: Bread of Life, 64 64D.

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.

The holy gospel according to John, the 6th chapter.

Glory to You O Lord.

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.

The Gospel of the Lord for you this day.

Praise to You, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

Sermon

Pastor Jim Holmberg

(Please stand as you are able)

Hymn of the Day

#661 I Love to Tell the Story

(Congregation will sing this from the Hymnal)

(Prayer Cards will be collected during the hymn of the day)

1. I love to tell the story of unseen things above, of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love. I love to tell the story, because I know it's true; it satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.

Refrain: *I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.*

2. I love to tell the story: how pleasant to repeat what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet! I love to tell the story, for some have never heard the message of salvation from God's own holy word. Refrain

3. I love to tell the story, for those who know it best seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest. And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song, I'll sing the old, old story that I have loved so long. Refrain

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911. Music: William E. Fischer, 1849-1936. Tune: Hankey.

Profession of Faith

The 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.**

Prayers of Intercession

Filled with the Holy Spirit, we join with the church in every place, praying for the world and the church, and all people in need.

... Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

By the sure guidance of your Holy Spirit, O God, we lift up our prayers in trust and thanksgiving, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Farewell & Godspeed Pr. Jim Holmberg

Address

Pamela Stokke-Ceci, Congregational President

Pastor Jim Holmberg, as you leave our community of faith, St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church, we wish to bid you farewell.

Pastor Jim, last November you came to the community of St. Matthew's be interim pastor in this place: to proclaim God's word, to baptize and teach, to announce God's forgiveness, and to preside at the Lord's table. With the gospel you have been with us in times of sickness and trouble, and at the death of our loved ones. Sharing our joys and sorrows, you have been important to our life together in the church of Jesus Christ, in our service to this community, and in God's mission to the whole world. As you now enter retirement and leave this community of faith, we say farewell, and we pray for God's blessing.

Thanksgiving and Sending

Pastor Sheila Rawn

Almighty God, through your Son Jesus Christ you gave the holy apostles many gifts and commanded them to feed your flock. You equip your people with abilities that differ according to the grace given to them, and you call them to various avenues of service. We give you thanks for the ministry of Pastor Jim among the people of God in this place.

Bless us all at this time of ending and beginning. You surround your people in every time and place: keep us close in your love. Help Pastor Jim and his family and all of us to live with courage and gladness in the future you give to us. As he has been a blessing to us, so now send him forth to be a blessing to others; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Blessing

Pastor Ann Williams

Gracious God, we thank you for the work and witness of your servant Pastor Jim Holmberg. Now bless and preserve him at this time of transition. Day by day, guide him, and his family, in what is needed, friends to cheer his way, and a clear vision of that to which you are now calling him. As he been a blessing to us, so now send him forth to be a blessing to others; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The congregation responds in thanksgiving with a round of applause.

Words and Blessing from Pastor Jim

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.

Please stand as you are able

Sharing the Peace of Christ

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.*Meal*

(Please be seated)

Musical Offering

Michael Batcho

(Please stand as you are able)

Offertory Response

#884 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711. Music: Louis Bourgeois, 1510-1561. Tune: Old Hundredth, LM.

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. Creator, you feed us, feed us in great abundance. To you we offer these signs of our love; may they abundantly multiply. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

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.

Eucharistic Prayer

Lord's Prayer

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

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 power,

and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

As once you fed a multitude with bread and fish, so we are filled with the rich food you provide at your table. Never let us be greedy of it, for we know you provide food in abundance for all who would sit at your table.

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

Please be seated

Please take your belongings with you to communion.

Communion Music

Michael Batcho

A Healing Service will be held in the Sanctuary after all receive Communion. Should you wish to participate in this liturgy, please remain in the church and Communion will be distributed to you as part of the healing Liturgy.