



**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

OF SOUTH BURNABY, BC

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA

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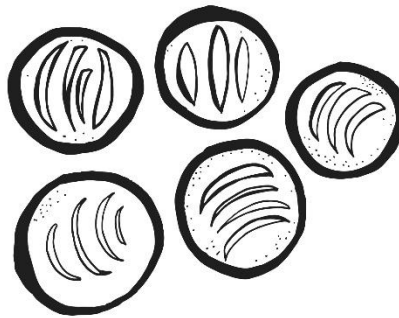
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## **Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**July 28, 2024**

### **WOV Holy Communion, Setting Five: Bread of Life**

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 at Grace Lutheran Church strive to reflect and proclaim the love of God shown to us by Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit by providing an inclusive and supportive environment through loving care and community service.*

A warm welcome to all who are worshipping with us in person or online! We appreciate your contribution to the community today: with your voice, your presence, and just the blessing that you are. May you be nurtured by God's Word, empowered by the love of Christ, and stirred by the wisdom of the Holy Spirit in this service this day, for the sake of God's mission in the world.

Grace Lutheran Church worships, prays, and serves on the traditional and unceded lands and territories of the hə́nqəmíṇəm (Musqueam) and Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) speaking peoples.

## GATHERING

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather this day in faith to worship and sing praises to our Lord, whose glorious kingdom speaks power and splendor as it is everlasting and endures throughout the ages. For the Lord is faithful in mercy and providence, and our hearts are opened by the generosity that feeds and satisfies the needs of all living creatures. Let us then, in our worship, call on the name of the Lord, who is righteous and whose love is more than enough to fill our hearts, our souls, our cups of blessing, through the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

**GATHERING HYMN:** All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly (#461)

#### GREETING

The satisfying grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the nourishing love of God, and the fulfilling fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE:** Glory to God (WOV p. 29)

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Generous God, you bless us abundantly satisfy our needs in due season. Strengthen our hearts and minds by your Spirit, that our faith might increase to open our eyes to all that you have done, are doing, and will continue to do in and around our lives and this world, all that is far more than we could ask or imagine, through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

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

A reading from 2 Kings.

*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.*

<sup>42</sup> 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." <sup>43</sup> 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.'" <sup>44</sup> He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### PSALM: Psalm 145:10-19

<sup>10</sup> All your works praise you, O LORD,  
and your faithful servants bless you.

<sup>11</sup> **They make known the glory of your kingdom  
and speak of your power;**

<sup>12</sup> that the peoples may know of your power  
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

<sup>13</sup> **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom;  
your dominion endures throughout all ages.**

<sup>14</sup> The LORD is faithful in all his words  
and merciful in all his deeds.

<sup>15</sup> **The LORD upholds all those who fall;  
he lifts up those who are bowed down.**

<sup>16</sup> The eyes of all wait upon you, O LORD,  
and you give them their food in due season.

<sup>17</sup> **You open wide your hand  
and satisfy the needs of every living creature.**

<sup>18</sup> The LORD is righteous in all his ways  
and loving in all his works.

<sup>19</sup> **The LORD is near to those who call upon him,  
to all who call upon him faithfully.**

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

A reading from Ephesians.

*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.*

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

<sup>20</sup> 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, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (WOV p. 31)**

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

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*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.*

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

<sup>15</sup> 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.

<sup>16</sup> When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, <sup>17</sup> got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. <sup>18</sup> The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." <sup>21</sup> 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.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **SERMON**

Holy God, by your Spirit, may we be empowered to see your love in our lives, sustaining us and supporting us, through Jesus our Lord. Amen.

So it's been another one of those weeks for me, both personally and professionally. And I know what you might be thinking, "You're having a tough week professionally? Isn't today your Monday and Friday?" Because you know, pastors only work on Sundays. But be that as it may, there was a lot of things going on for me the past 7 calendar days, so much so that I'm really looking forward to my holidays. Not because I want to get away from all of you, don't get me wrong on that, it's just that life has been difficult as of late, and it'll be nice to have a bit of time just to catch my breath.

But still, it can't be that bad, can it? I still have my health, my family, and a pretty sweet car outside, so shouldn't I just count my lucky stars? But that's the thing, I fully recognize and acknowledge how lucky I am for so many reasons. Like living where I do, having a job that pays much more than just a living wage, and this body that is in tip top shape and has no problem moving heavy objects without getting hurt (much). I know I'm lucky in so many respects, and that there are people who have it way way way worse than I do. And honestly, that is kind of the problem for me.

I mean, I see those who do have it so much worse than I do, and to be honest, I feel bad.

I feel bad for the climbing number of friends and family who are currently going through health crises. I feel bad for the increasingly more frequent deaths that are happening in our circles. I feel bad for the people around the world who face disaster after disaster, hardship after hardship, wildfire after wildfire. I look at my own privilege and fortune and I feel bad that there are so many out there that don't and can't share in them.

Like I feel so bad for all these difficulties I see around me, that all I want to do is help. I want to wave some magic wand that I don't have and make it all better. I want to offer everything I can to alleviate all this pain and brokenness. But who am I kidding? What can I even do or offer?

I'm not a doctor. I'm not a firefighter. I'm not even really rich enough to donate enough money to make any kind of difference. I just don't have a lot to offer.

And maybe you know what I mean. Not just in the "I don't have much to offer" part, but maybe you too, see the hurt and pain around us and you want to do something. Maybe you see the injustices of the world and you want to stand up for what is right. Maybe your heart breaks when you see the destruction and devastation that war and natural disasters bring and you just wish you could do more... but can't. For whatever reason, we just can't. And that might make us feel bad. Or at least, maybe it does now.

And so we might want to give up. Turn a blind eye. Sweep it under the rug and say this is someone else's problem, in hopes that will alleviate our guilt.

Truth be told, I wouldn't blame you for thinking this, because I think this way more often than I'd like to admit. I don't like it, but that's just what comes to my mind. With so many disasters that happen, it's hard to keep up and so it's easy to feel overwhelmed by it all. We don't have enough to help. We aren't enough to do anything meaningful. We aren't capable enough to make any difference. We think so, at least.

And I guess we wouldn't be the only ones.

Not just us in this room, but we see this kind of thinking with the disciples in the story we get from today's gospel reading. This isn't an unfamiliar story whatsoever, probably because we get like 6 versions of it in our 4 gospels. So I guess it's a pretty important story.

Depending on the version of the story, the people urgently followed Jesus out and away from civilization, where there would be enough field space to set up comfortably. But they were in such a rush that perhaps they didn't have the chance to properly plan and prepare for a day out. So they might not have enough to eat. Might not have enough to drink. Might not have what they need to survive a day out in the hot Middle Eastern sun. And more often than not, the story has the disciples seeing this blaring need in front of them, and just want to shoo them away.

"We don't have enough to feed them" they say. "We have nothing to offer the hungry" they conclude. "We can't help or solve this situation" is what they ended up with.

They were too concerned with what they could or couldn't do. They were too worried with what they could or couldn't offer. They were totally caught up with how they could or couldn't save these people from their discomfort, their need, their scarcity. But the thing is, it isn't up to the disciples to save them.

That's Jesus' job. And Jesus does it.

Jesus sees the scarcity and provides for it. Jesus sees the need and meets it. Jesus sees the despair that we all feel, and brings us together in community.

This doesn't mean that we just wash our hands from helping in disasters. This doesn't mean that we should turn a blind eye to the need around the world. This doesn't mean that we don't bother to offer any kind of help. But it does mean that we can keep an open mind to the leading and calling of the Spirit. It does mean that we can look and see how God provides for those in need and how we can be a part of that. It does mean that we can recognise and acknowledge where we might feel like we aren't

enough, and see how God remains present with us and by grace, multiplies the blessing that can come from where we least expect: in our scarcities, in our insecurities, even in our shortcomings.

See we aren't called to save but we are called to be in community. We are called to reflect of the love of God onto all people. We are called to be compassionate, to care, and to walk alongside our siblings around the world as we together share in our need, in our brokenness, and in the solutions that are provided to us by the God who created the universe.

And that is the miracle of this story. Sure, multiplying food is pretty amazing, but so is community. Creating something out of nothing is pretty wondrous, but so is caring for others and having compassion for them. Meeting the needs of the multitudes is indeed miraculous, but so is seeing and recognising where we might be lacking and falling short, and acknowledging how God provides for us all forgiveness, redemption, and salvation.

I know this might seem like such a far off goal, but just as the disciples soon discovered after the people were fed and the pieces picked up, they can find themselves alone and scared in the middle of the vast dark ocean of life. And in their fear of where they are and where they're going, they and we can rest assured that Jesus was always with them and with us, not just leading and guiding us on where to go, but to reveal to us that we are already there.

We are there in our welcome and how we are regarded by God. We are there in our role in the body of Christ and how we can relate to others. We are there in who we are, whose we are, and as part of the great grand community of the Spirit, showing care and compassion to all those in need.

See, in our feeling inadequate and perhaps not enough to be part of any kind of solution in the world, we can trust and believe that God provides, God multiplies, and God joins us together to collectively support, actively care, and welcome each other into this wide and vast community that spans across borders, culture, and even time. The solution might not be to provide, but perhaps to just listen. It might not be for us to fix, but maybe just support. We don't have any way to magically and miraculously feed people out of our own scarcity, but we can invite, welcome, and cultivate community where love, compassion, and peace can be found.

So as we continue in this season after Pentecost and these summer months, may we see God's provision for us and those around us, that we might be joined together in our welcome and support as a church, a community, and this part of the body of Christ. Thanks be to God. Amen.

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** I Come with Joy (#482)

**CREED** (WOV p. 18)

Together with all of God's blessed people, let us confess the Christian faith with the Apostle's Creed:

**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 INTERCESSION**

Led into empowered service by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. Each petition will end with, "Lord, by your mercy," and you are all invited to respond with **hear our prayer**. Lord, by your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Lord, you are righteous in all your ways, and you feed and nourish us in our community and worship. Strengthen us to see and recognise your work in the world, that we might be empowered to serve you and neighbour in your holy name, and reflect onto all people your generous and gracious love. We pray especially for our neighbouring faith communities; those who use this building for worship, work, and play; our partners Anglican Church of Canada, and Moravian Church in Canada; and our bishops, rostered ministers, congregations, and ministries of the ELCIC. In particular, we pray for Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, their pastor Kristen Steele who is on sick leave and their current interim pastor Marlys Moen; and St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Vancouver and their pastor Indrid Cramer-Doerchel. Lord, by your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Lord, you are righteous in all your ways, and you have allowed us to live in this wondrous planet that you have filled with signs of your beauty and providence. Strengthen us in our stewardship of all that you have entrusted to us, that our relationship with you, each other, and the land be harmonious and full of respect. Lord, by your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Lord, you are righteous in all your ways, and you have given us the gift of diversity in language, tradition, and culture. Empower us to faithfully serve each other in spite of our difference, that all might know how your grace is not set behind boundaries or borders. We prayer for the continued support for those that we've sponsored to come into our country: Abraham Barhane; and Solyana Amanuel; as well as for those that have not yet arrived: Maekele Kiflu, Selam Haile, and their children; and Filimon Abraha. Lord, by your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Lord, you are righteous in all your ways, and you show us how to care for each other. Strengthen us in our communities, that we can support those among us who are sick, who mourn, or who feel lonely. We pray especially for Ron, Tess, and Mineko; Beulah; Bev and family; Bryan and Chona; Ellwood; John and Betty; Sukhwant; Bishop Kathy; Kristen; Laura; Kandie; Thomas; Will; Chris; Larry; Walter; Piet; Hwee Yang; Ephraim; Georgina; Tom; Teddy and family; and all those we name aloud or quietly in our hearts at this time...  
Lord, by your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Lord, you are righteous in all your ways, and you invite us to live in eternity with you and all the saints of all times and places. Remind us of our connection with each other, that our service to all always be a blessing. Lord, by your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the truth and grace found in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**PEACE** (WOV p. 20)

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**DIALOGUE** (WOV p. 36)

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 places give thanks and praise to you, O God, through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who calls us, provides for us strength, and joins us in community, that we might, together with all of the choirs of angels, the hosts of heaven, and the whole church on earth, praise your name with this unending hymn:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY** (WOV p. 36)

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

O Lord, the works of your hand praise you and you bless us with a faith that can see the glory of your everlasting kingdom. You provide for our every need and shower us with more than we could ask or imagine. You lift us up when we are down and you forgive us when we fall short. And in due season, you send to us your Son, Jesus, to teach us, feed us, and strengthen us.

For on the night that he was betrayed, your Son Jesus, sat with his friends for a meal, where he took bread, gave thanks, broke and shared it saying, "Take and eat, this is my body broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Then after they ate he took the cup, gave thanks, and passed it around the table for them to drink from 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."

It is in this bread and cup that you are revealed and how you save us, even as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Your hands are open wide and you satisfy our souls with your love. May your righteousness be evident in this meal, your love proclaimed in our community, and your providence be seen and felt by all, with Christ, in Christ, and through Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit we pray to you, almighty and holy God, now and forever. **Amen.**



## **LORD'S PRAYER (WOV p. 25)**

Brought into one body 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**

Taste and see the provision and love of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **COMMUNION**

**COMMUNION HYMNS:** Lamb of God (WOV p. 39)

Here is Bread (#483)

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

We rejoice in all that you give us, O God, and for feeding us with the bread and cup of life. Instill your Spirit in us now, that we may be empowered to do more than we could ever ask or imagine, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

God our Creator bless you and strengthen you,  
God the Christ lift you up and show you love,  
God our Companion fulfill your shortcomings and grant you peace, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN:** For the Bread Which You Have Broken (#494)

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, connected to and empowered by community.

**Thanks be to God.**