

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, August 2, 2020



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
745 Front Street S., Issaquah, WA 98027
425-392-4169

SERVICE OF THE WORD

GATHERING: THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS US TOGETHER AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

CALL TO WORSHIP

We Come to the Hungry Feast — Ray Makeever

Jan Hazelton, Scott Hafso

WELCOME

Pastor Jim Kruse

GREETING

PM: 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

PM: Let us pray. Glorious God,

C: 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.

WORD: GOD SPEAKS TO US IN SCRIPTURE READING, PREACHING AND SONG.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:1-5

¹Ho, 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. ²Why 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. ³Incline 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. ⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵See, 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.

AM: Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Celtic Alleluia — Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 14:13-21

¹³Now 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. ¹⁴When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵When 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.”¹⁶ Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.”¹⁷ They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.”¹⁸ And he said, “Bring them here to me.”¹⁹ 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.²⁰ And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full.²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

PM: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

You Feed Them!

Pastor Jim Kruse

Most of us can still remember the first car we ever owned. And most of the time it was a car that was on its last legs. My first car was a 1968 Plymouth Valiant that I bought in 1975 for less than \$1,000. Buying that car cleaned out my whole savings; I had nothing left for repairs. And so I always changed the oil myself. I put in a new alternator. I changed some break lines myself. And I even ran with a hole in my muffler for a couple of months so I could save up for the new one. Mostly I remember praying real hard every time I took it to a mechanic that the repair bill would be under \$100. And it usually was.

But more than anything else, I remember the day, as a seminary student, that I was driving on I-170 in St. Louis when the engine made a series of loud “clunks” and died. I coasted to the side of the road and walked to find a telephone, where I called my roommate to come and pick me up. To this day I don’t remember where I got the money to pay for that repair, but I will never forget the sinking feeling in my stomach when I thought that my life as the owner of an automobile was over.

When I hear about the situation described in today’s Gospel lesson, I realize how long ago in my life that really was. It has been a long time since I have had to worry about where my next meal is going to come from. It has been a long time since I have had to worry about if I had enough money to pay the electric bill, or put gas in the car, or milk in the refrigerator. And I suspect that it has been a long time since most of you have worried about these basic necessities of life.

At the same time, I also suspect that just about everyone who will hear this service has experienced this situation at one time or another. And I also suspect that someone listening to this service is struggling to meeting their daily needs. So I suspect that all of us can at least understand the place where this Gospel lesson begins.

It is a scary feeling you get when you don’t have the resources to pay for the things you need in order to keep living. None of us would choose to live that way. But as hard as these times are, they are also important times for learning about the power and presence of God in this world. This learning visits Jesus and his disciples in the Gospel lesson for today when come they come face to face with a huge crowd of people (more than 5,000 by just counting the men) who have chased them down in the wilderness, seeking help.

It is the disciples who first realize that they are in trouble. It has been a busy day of teaching, healing, and seeking spiritual renewal. Now it is late in the day. And suddenly the disciples realize that people are hungry and there are no resources around for food.

But the situation is even worse than that for Jesus. The Gospel reading begins by saying, “Now when Jesus heard about the death of John the Baptist,” ... but then it does not go on to explain the importance of that event. What Jesus has just heard is that his cousin, John the Baptist, who had been arrested by Herod, the Jewish ruler in Jerusalem, had been arbitrarily and brutally murdered. Jesus and John were men of God, men who had the same purpose in life. It was their job to teach and preach who God was and what God was about in the world.

Jesus must have been aware of the opposition that was growing among the authorities of his day. After John was arrested, he was keenly aware of the danger of this work. With the news of John’s death, he was shaken. He needs space to think. He needs space to pray. He needs space to grieve. He needs to be alone. But none of that happens. Instead, the crowds won’t let him get away. And still, Jesus has compassion on them, and heals their illnesses.

All of this is what has been going on just before the disciples discover that there is nothing for the people to eat. Jesus is tired. Jesus is hurting. Jesus is frustrated with the world, with the crowds, and with his disciples. And he ends up in this crazy conversation with them about who is going to feed the people. “The people need something to eat,” the disciples tell Jesus. “Send them off to town to buy food!”

And Jesus, in his exhaustion says, “No, you feed them. You give them something to eat.”

“But we have nothing!” they say. And the words are important here. “We have nothing—not a thing to give them.”

And as though Jesus is thinking, “What are you talking about?” when he says to his friends, “give me what you can find and I will show you how very much it really is.” ... “You have God with you. You have me with you. You have each other to draw on. And you have the resources of the crowds themselves.” And by the time Jesus is finished the crowds are “full,” the story tells us. All ate their fill. And then they filled up twelve baskets with what was left over.

Over the years people have speculated as to how Jesus pulled off this miracle. Some people have suggested that, in fact, most people in the crowd did have little pieces of food stashed away. They were hoarding their share, this theory goes, until they saw the compassion of Jesus giving away the little he had. Then they join in.

Others have speculated that the actual physical hunger of the crowd was not as great as the disciples thought it was. It was only one meal, and it did not take much food to satisfy them once they were filled with the assurance of God’s love. And that may also be true.

But where the food came from is not really the point. The point is that there is always enough, there is always more than enough. We were created out of nothing, and we come into this world with nothing. God knows and understands this. In fact having nothing to begin with is part of the design. From the very beginning, everything is provided to us. Under the guidance of God’s love, and with the help of loving relationships with parents and caregivers, we mature. We grow up and become fully functioning, mature adults. But the relationship with God remains. And the trust that God will provide also remains intact.

Once we understand our dependency on the God who made us and put us into the world, we begin to see that our lives are awash in the abundance of what we need. And the opposite is also true, there is never enough if we think that we alone must muster the power and ability to get it.

The invitation to the disciples was to feed the crowds out of these God's all-pervasive resources. They missed their chance at it before they come asking Jesus to send the crowd packing. But by the end of the story, they get it.

We receive this same invitation every day. If we are going to trust in God to deal with us in the big things, if we are going to trust in God to save us from the grave for instance. Or if we are going to trust God to heal us when we are sick, and patch us back together when we are broken apart by the loss of friends and family. Then why do we stop trusting God with the simple basics of life? If you can trust God with your life, then you can trust God for the money it takes to live your life, you can trust God for food, you trust God for health, you trust God for a caring community, and you trust God for a future that is good.

The truly exciting part is that we can go out into the world with the same invitation, "Now you feed them." You feed them out of the daily provisions you have received here. You take care of the hungry. You take care of the sick. And you take care of those without clothes or shelter.

If we could ever do that in full confidence that God will provide, a miracle would happen. All would be filled. And there will be baskets and baskets left over.

HYMN OF THE DAY

I Received the Living God — Text & Music: Anonymous

I received the living God, and my heart is full of joy.
I received the living God, and my heart is full of joy.

Jesus said: I am the bread, kneaded long to give you life;
You who will partake of me need not ever fear to die.

Jesus said: I am the way, and my Father longs for you;
So I come to bring you home to be one with us anew.

Jesus said: I am the truth; come and follow close to me.
You will know me in your heart, and my word shall make you free.

Jesus said: I am the life, far from whom no thing can grow,
But receive this living bread, and my Spirit you shall know.

OFFERING

Please take a moment to give thanks to God for all that you have received in life, and remember your generous financial support of the ongoing ministry obligations of OSLC.

OFFERING PRAYER

PM: Merciful God,

As grains of wheat scattered upon the hills
were gathered together to become one bread,
so let your church be gathered together
from the end of the earth into your kingdom,
for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever.

C: Amen.

OFFERING SONG *Praise to You, O God of Mercy* — Text & music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Praise to you, O God of mercy: thanks be to you forever!
Raising high the weak and lowly: thanks be to you forever!
From of old you loved and sought us: thanks be to you forever!
Truth and justice you have taught us: thanks be to you forever!

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

“Baptism is not simply plain water. Instead, it is water used according to God’s command and connected with God’s word. With the word of God, it is a grace-filled water of life and a ‘bath of the new birth in the Holy Spirit.’ It brings about forgiveness of sins, redeems from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe it.” -*Luther’s Small Catechism*

AM: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God’s mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.
We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.
By water and your word you claim us as daughters and sons,
Making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.
We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Adapted from the NW Washington Synod “Weekly Prayer Message” ...

God of life and breath, you are our source of hope.

+ We give thanks for your precious gift of life; embrace us in your love; sustain us when we are feeling broken or frightened; open our hearts to hear your word and call; strengthen us to seek justice for our neighbors; grant us creativity to joyfully share your Good News.

We give thanks for your creation.

+ Enable us to be educated to be better stewards of your world. We give thanks for our partners at [Earth Ministry](#) and [Lutherans Restoring Creation](#).

We pray for our world, nation, and local communities.

+ We lift up people for whom insecurity and violence are the norm. Help us to bring healing and safety to all.

+ God of Mercy, guide us to awareness of our prejudices and empower us to act to eliminate racism in our church and community. O God, help us to behold one another as you behold us. Help us to be more firmly rooted in the practices of the gospel—so that the way we live will make real your beloved community within and among us.

+ We pray for all in the wake of natural disasters, including recent tropical storms on the east coast and Gulf of Mexico. Grant strength to those affected as they recover and rebuild.

+ We lift up all in our community who provide emergency services: medical workers, firefighters, and police. Grant them strength, endurance, and safety.

We pray for all who are in need of healing and strength:

+ We pray for those who are facing ongoing challenges and health concerns: Dee, Marlene, Jeremy, Henrik & Patty, Vern, Mike, communities across the country, Mike, Pattie, Paul, Lyle, Dave, Emily, Guests of the Community Meals Program, Sonja, Nicole, Josee and Jeannie.

+ We continue to pray for those affected by the COVID-19 crisis: grant peace to the families of those who have died from the corona virus; provide healing for those diagnosed; protect and sustain care providers and chaplains; guide work to improve testing and work toward a vaccine; sustain those unable to work and facing financial uncertainty; and help us to be wise when we go out in public and catch up with friends.

+ We pray for our neighbors who are fearful or in danger in their relationships. We lift up the work of those who protect, support, and advocate for people who are experiencing domestic violence.

+ We lift up those experiencing anxiety, depression, and other mental health challenges. Empower us to reach out to those who need care and support. For those who are in despair, remember you are loved. You are never beyond God's mercy, grace and love.

We pray for those who are grieving:

+ Loving God, wrap your arms of love and hope around all who are experiencing any kind of loss, disconnection, or brokenness. We lift up the family and friends of Sheila, Dick, Germaine, Bob, Fran, Joe and Don.

We pray for your church:

+ We give thanks for the leaders and members of ministries of our congregation. Grant them creativity for their work; give them grace to rest when needed.

+ We pray for the residents, staff, and families of nursing homes and care facilities, including those ministries that are part of our synod: Josephine Caring Community, Foss Home, Columbia Lutheran Home, Norse Home, Bethany of the Northwest, and Hearthstone Community.

+ We pray for congregations in the call process. Grant them wisdom and patience as they discern where it is that you are leading them. We lift up transition teams, call committees, transition pastors, congregation staff and lay leaders, and synod staff.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

+ Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Trusting in your mercy and grace, we lift our prayers to you.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BLESSING

PM: God of all grace,
who has called you to life in Christ,
restore, support, protect, strengthen, and bless you
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG

The Summons — Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949; Music: Scottish traditional
Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

POSTLUDE

How can I Keep from Singing? — Tom Birchwood Jiyoung Lee

Commemorations for the Week

Dominic, founder of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), died 1221, Saturday, August 8

Dominic was a Spanish priest who saw the wealth of the clergy as a stumbling block for the church, so he formed a movement, the Order of Preachers (commonly called Dominicans) devoted to itinerant preaching and living in poverty.

Serving in Worship:

Worship Leader: Pastor Jim Kruse
Assisting Minister: Mary Ann Hult
Song Leaders: Alice Lewis, Marc Montague
Flute: Jan Hazelton
Videographer: Elizabeth Waltzer
Banner: Elaine Stamm
Flowers provided by: Dianne Tanner
Bulletin Cover: Craig Gillin

Readings for Next Sunday: 1 Kings 19:9-18; Matthew 14:22-33

Acknowledgements: Liturgy reprinted from SundaysandSeasons.com, copyright © 2019, Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under **Media 1517 License #32992**. Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. Reprinted by permission under **OneLicense.net License #A-706795: I Received the Living God**.

Our Savior Lutheran Church Staff

Rev. James R. Kruse, *Transition Pastor*
Shari Lundberg, *Parish Administrator*
Dr. Jiyoung Lee, *Parish Organist*

Scott Hafso, *Director of Worship & Music*
Kate Gagnon, *Lay Visitation Minister*



Flowers for this service provided by: Dianne Tanner.

Additional worship resources:

Readings: Psalm 145: 8-9, 14-21; Romans 9: 1-5

Suggested Hymn for Listening: *Break Now the Bread of Life*
(Text: Mary A. Lathbury, 1841-1913; Music: William F. Sherwin, 1826-1888)

Prayer is putting our faith into action. We invite you to include these people in your daily prayers. You can make prayer requests via email at office@oslccissaquah.org. All written requests will remain on this list for 4 weeks.

Delores Bakamus “Dee” strength and healing while at Swedish Hospital for pneumonia and heart condition. (Dar Boni)

Marlene Braun peace and comfort in hospice care. (sister to Cheryl Neeb)

Jeremy healing broken legs after a motorcycle accident. (brother to Diane Murff)

Henrik & Patty Christopherson comfort and support after experiencing a house fire. (Dianne Tanner)

Vern Lindquist peace and comfort.

Safety and peace for communities being torn apart during these difficult times. (Karen Hansen)

Mike Golick continued recovery and safe travel to an assisted living facility in Anchorage, Alaska. (brother-in-law to Patty Gerde)

Mike special ops military unexpectedly called up. (nephew of Dave and Marilyn Carlson)

Pattie Rutten, peace and strength as she recovers from a broken femur and the loss of her husband. (aunt of Mark Howe)

Paul Salazar continued recovery from a heart attack. (step-father to Cheryl Hauser)

Lyle Bentley successful radiation treatment. (Don Robertson)

Dave Carlson continued strength, healing and comfort following kidney transplant surgery.

Emily Gacek acquired COVID19 from a caregiver, healing and strength. (Connie Fletcher)

Guests of the Community Meals Program safety, health and peace of mind. (Connie Fletcher)

Sonja 3 years old undergoing treatment for cancer. (granddaughter of Henrik & Patty Christopherson)

Nicole DeCamp healing and strength. (Ken DeCamp and Cheryl Leiter)

Josee Jordan peace of mind as she faces health challenges. (Dianne Tanner)

Jeannie Lindquist continued healing and strength.

Healing and peace of mind: Evy Sneva (Karen Hansen), **Marian James; Douglas Mandt** (brother of Mary Ann Hult and Lorna Robertson); **Gregory** (nephew of Joanne Suttmeier); **Doug Patur; Katie Moeller; Margot Inman; Ken Acker** (son of Lucy Acker); **Marilyn Carlson; Taufik Hidayut** (Ken Konigsmark); **Don Wilkinson** (husband of Gwynn

Wilkinson); **Rebecca Thomas; Tanisha Foote** (Marilyn Carlson); **Dorothy Soland; Randi Strom; Jeanne Kuipers; Talton Johnson; John Pass; Florence Kinnune; Carol Harbolt; Sandy Aldworth; Jen Winslow; Larry Pruitt.**

Undergoing cancer treatment: **Amy Aldworth** (daughter-in-law of Sandy Aldworth) **Les Carlson** (father of Dave Carlson); **Harold Mandt** (brother of Mary Ann Hult and Lorna Robertson); **Chris Howe** (brother of Mark Howe); **Peggy Scalise** (cousin of Mark Howe); **Eileen Letts** (cousin of Mark Howe); **Keith DeCamp** (brother of Ken DeCamp); **Barbara Jones** (mother of Ron Sordahl); **Doug McVety** (Helen Nychay); **Al Batt** (Connie Fletcher); **Larry Harbolt** (Ray Harbolt); **Gerald Welch** (Vern and Jeannie Lindquist); **Joe Martin** (father of Stacy Smith); **Christy Williams** (Bill Bergsma); **Diane Powis** (Paul Tolo); **Dana Mancini** (Jan Setterlund); **Greg Petersen** (Wes Collum); **Barry Donker** (Joan Parish); **Germaine Korum** (Lyle and Alice Lewis); **Kathryn Aitcheson** (Gerrie Hendrickson); **Yuko Takiguchi** (Teiko Soland); **Barb** (Janette Singley)

Living with cancer: **Liz Kidd** (Bob Beck); **Duane Jacobson; Mary Lewis** (sister-in-law of Lyle and Alice Lewis); **Mark Becker** (uncle of Paula Seeger); **Barbara Krogh Jarvis** (sister of Steve Krogh); **Suzanne Lewis** (daughter-in-law of Lyle & Alice Lewis); **Mira Bergsma**

Mourning the death of loved ones: For peace and comfort during this time of grieving for the family and friends of: **Richard “Dick” Birdsall** (Dianne Tanner); **Germaine Korum** (Lyle & Alice Lewis); **Bob Gray** (Doug & Dianne Tanner); **Fran Hildebrand** (Karen Hansen); **Joe Rutten** (uncle of Mark Howe); **Don Brannon** [former member of OSLC] (Rowan Hinds); **Don McWhirter** (Rowan Hinds); **Tim Teodoro** (Janet Heck); **Karen Miley** (Doug & Dianne Tanner)

Members and friends serving in the military; fire & police departments, & emergency rooms.

Global Missions and Missionaries: For peace in Hong Kong. (Global Missions). Congregations in Chiclayo, Peru: **Pepe** at Las Brisas, **Merci** in San Antonio and **Harold** at Las Lomas. **MaaSae Girls Lutheran Secondary School** in Tanzania.

