

## **Home Worship August 2<sup>nd</sup> Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

### **Announcements**

The August newsletter has been delivered.

We will be meeting in the parking lot August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> with individual communion packages.

We celebrate communion on line today so please have bread, wine or juice ready.

Thank you for your offerings also and to everyone who has continued to send offerings! Thank you for the food brought for the food pantry. We will have a cart out for the pantry each week. Bread, flour and sugar are especially needed.

### **Children's Moment**

The people from St. Mark's are collecting food for people who need it. Some people don't have very much money and some people do not have jobs to pay them so they can buy bread for sandwiches. Today's story is about Jesus feeding 5000 people with only enough food for a few fish sandwiches. It's a miracle story. This story tells us that God can do anything. This story tells us that God is always giving us food and love. That's why we say prayers when we eat. Jesus told his friends to go and feed the people. Since we follow Jesus we should go and feed people also. If you think someone needs help, tell your family or tell me and the church will help them because Jesus wants' us to.

### **Confession**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. Amen.

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Reconciling God, we confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.

### **Forgiveness**

Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through ✠ Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.

Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **Prayer of the Day**

Glorious God, 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.

### **First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-5**

*God invites Israel to a great feast at which both food and drink are free. God also promises to make an everlasting covenant with all peoples, with promises that previously had been limited to Israel. As David was a witness to the nations, these nations shall now acknowledge the ways in which God has glorified Israel.*

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

### **Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21**

<sup>8</sup>The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

<sup>9</sup>**LORD, you are good to all, and your compassion is over all your works.**

<sup>14</sup>The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up those who are bowed down.

<sup>15</sup>**The eyes of all wait upon you, O LORD, and you give them their food in due season.**

<sup>16</sup>You open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

<sup>17</sup>**You are righteous in all your ways and loving in all your works.**

<sup>18</sup>You are near to all who call upon you, to all who call upon you faithfully.

<sup>19</sup>**You fulfill the desire of those who fear you; you hear their cry and save them.**

<sup>20</sup>You watch over all those who love you, but all the wicked you shall destroy.

<sup>21</sup>**My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD; let all flesh bless God's holy name forever and ever.**

### **Romans 9:1-5**

*This begins a new section in Paul's letter in which he will deal with the place of Israel in God's saving plan. He opens by highlighting how Israel's heritage and legacy include being God's children, having God's covenants, being given God's law, participating in worship of God, and receiving divine promises.*

<sup>1</sup>I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit—<sup>2</sup>I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. <sup>3</sup>For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup>They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; <sup>5</sup>to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

## The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 14:13-21

*After John the Baptist is murdered, Jesus desires a time of solitude. Still, his compassion for others will not allow him to dismiss those who need him, and he is moved to perform one of his greatest miracles.*

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

## Sermon

As I read the Gospel for this week one sentence stood out to me. Verse 14 “**Jesus saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them.**” Jesus shows great emotion, captured in the details of this reading.

The reading begins when Jesus hears the news of John the Baptist’s be-heading, his cousin, the one that baptized him. **John was beheaded** at the **Royal Banquet of King Herod** at the order of Herodias, his brother’s wife and her daughter. **John’s head was displayed on a platter** and [John’s] disciples came and took the body and buried it; then they told Jesus who then went to a deserted place to be alone. In the passage Herods’ banquet, Jesus had returned to his hometown, **where he was rejected**. Grief and rejection are strong emotions. “When Jesus came ashore, *“he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them.”* The **Greek verb** here is normally translated as “*had compassion*,” yet interpreters say **it really refers** to a gut-wrenching, intestinal-twisting, **instinctive emotion of care**. In the Gospels, it is **never** simply an emotion; it is a **deep emotion** that moves Jesus or another to **saving action**.

Since I am home so much lately I have **witnessed a lot of compassion in the news**. Peaceful protests continue throughout the world **because of compassion**. I see compassion for **fair housing**, **fair voting** and for **human rights**. Compassion **lived out** in the life of Congressman John Lewis and compassion **displayed** by doctors, nurses and healthcare workers for people struck down by the coronavirus. Millions of stories of compassion **for us to witness to**.

In this story, the **deep compassion that Jesus has on the great crowd** moves him first to heal their sick, and then to feed the crowd. Jesus **multiplied the small amount** of food that his disciples could gather. The disciples wanted to send the crowd away. Jesus’ responded: “They don’t have to go away. You feed them.” The disciples are outraged. **“We’ve got nothing” they cry out**. Jesus **went on** and multiplied the food. Jesus took the bread and fish,

looked up to heaven, blessed and broke the loaves, then fed the multitude, with plenty of left overs. We must remember that in the time of Jesus most people were never full. Food was not abundant. Healing and hunger were a constant condition. It is no mistake that Matthew places the stories of Herod's royal banquet with abundant food, and John's head on a platter, immediately before the next story of a large crowd in need of food .

Jesus provided an abundance of food, healing the sick, and giving hope and compassion is a **stark contrast to the indulgences of Herod**. The words of the prophet Isaiah are also paired with Matthew. "You that have no money, come, buy and eat with out money, without price. Isaiah continues "I will make with you and everlasting covenant." God promises to always be with you so listen so that you may live."

What emotions are you feeling **these days**? Are you feeling grief, rejection, loneliness, depression, frustration or irritation? How about **imitation**? We **need to imitate** the gut-wrenching emotions of Jesus. What if our compassion is so gut-wrenching that St. Mark's acted out to help others even more? What if the church became filled with compassion to fill the pantry carts **again and again**? What if church members **checked in** on those who are **single parenting to offer help**, send cards or made phone calls to those who are **not leaving their homes**? We are the disciples that Jesus commanded **"you give them something to eat!"**

While St. Mark's grieves at not being in the sanctuary for worship, the parking place is **the perfect place to BE church, outside of the walls, into the street, like peaceful protesters looking tending to those in need. Many people are** out of work and need help. There is a lot we can do even while staying a safe distance because of the virus spread.

**In the middle of this global pandemic we may all feel like, "I've got nothing—or next to nothing to give. Giving feels difficult to do when we are so concerned about what's next. But even in uncertainty, we can give the world something to eat. We are called to give the promise of God's presence. The disciples said "I've got nothing- or next to nothing." Next to nothing is Jesus' favorite thing to work with. Jesus can turn next to nothing into more than enough with gut-wrenching compassion.** Amen

### **Prayers of Intercession**

*The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.*

Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *A brief silence.*

You take resources that appear to be meager, bless them, and there is enough. May your church trust that what you bless and ask us to share with the world is abundantly sufficient.

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

Your bountiful creation offers sustenance and life for all creatures. Protect this abundance for the well-being of all. Reverse the damage we have caused your creation (**especially the Rock and Mississippi Rivers**). Replenish ground water supplies, provide needed rains in places of drought, and protect forests from wildfires. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You offer yourself to all the nations and peoples of the earth, inviting everyone to abundant life. Bring the prophetic vision to fullness that all nations will run to you and that nations who do not know you will find their joy in you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. Hear the anguish of tender hearts who cry to you in suffering and satisfy their deepest needs. Bring an end to the coronavirus spread. Be with scientists and laboratories seeking a vaccine, be with doctors and all hospital workers caring for your people, we with our culture to assist is preventing the spread. Bring wholeness and healing to those who suffer in body, heart, soul, and mind **(especially of Karla Gipe and Brent Shippert and those preparing for surgery and recovering from surgery and illness. for those in care facilities: Sibyl, Barb, Lois, Tammy, Trudy, Jessica, Hazel, Jeanne and Linda. We pray for those in military service: Logan t, JJ, Kevin Jr., Bryan, Dustin, Brad and Travis)** Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You offer freely the fullness of salvation. Give our congregation *(St. Mark's)* such a welcoming heart, that our words and actions may extend your free and abundant hospitality to all whom we encounter. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You gather your saints as one, united in the body of Jesus. Bring us with all your saints to the heavenly banquet. We remember with love and thanksgiving the saints we have known *(especially those we have loved).* Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**  
In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **The Lords Prayer**

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.

### **Holy Communion Together**

Friends of Jesus, come to the table. Receive nourishment for your journey.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God. You reveal your glory as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal glory.

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. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

### **Prayer after Communion**

God of the welcome table, in this meal we have feasted on your goodness and have been united by your presence among us. Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts so that we may share your neighborly love with all, through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life. **Amen.**

### **Blessing**

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. God, the creator, ✠ Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love. **Amen.**

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.                      **Thanks be to God.**